

Council holds hearings

On June 15, 2011, the Committee of the Whole began discussions on zoning reform, meeting the Charter Amendment requirement that City Council commence public hearings within 45 days of when the Zoning Code Commission submits its Preliminary Report. Speakers representing local businesses, community organizations, and individual interests provided nearly two and a half hours of testimony.

Hearings continued on September 14. Speakers were clear that the status quo of keeping a 50-year old code is not an option, but many requested numerous small changes to the text and asked Council and the ZCC to reconsider their position on some issues. After more than six hours, City Council President Anna Verna recessed the hearing until September 27.

After another hour and a half of testimony on September 27, the first round of public hearings on the draft zoning code was closed. City Council may make written recommendations to the ZCC in response, but must do so within 30 days of the close of the hearings.