



## City of Hamtramck Meeting

Department of Community and Economic Development

Plan Commission Meeting

February 3, 2021

6:30 P.M.

Zoom/Facebook Live

313.800.5233

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### Minutes

1. **Call to Order**- the meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**- all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance
3. **Roll Call**- Present: Scott Collins, Thomas Habitz, Galaan Dafa, Councilman Alsomiri, Mayor Majewski, Farhana Islam, Staff: Mara Braciszewski and Grace Stamper, Translating: Nasr Hussain
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - January 6, 2020
  - Dafa motioned and Collins seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Public Comment** (2 Minutes per Person)
  - Sam Alasri - many want driveway because it will be convenient for them. If they have space, it should be okay. Driveway from streets would be safer than alley. Supports Mohammad.
  - Anwar Ba-Alawi- needs to know what the meeting is about. Doesn't see an issue with curb cuts. Solve some of the issues with parking and one way streets. Every house has at least three vehicles. Some garages are old. Using driveways is the best idea.
  - Luqman Saleh- personally agrees to allow curb cuts for people who are qualified. Will help community to use side and back yard for issues with parking in front of the house.
  - Younis albarmarki- support for people of Hamtramck and good for the neighbors.
  - Jason Friedman- opposed to idea of allowing curb cuts in residential district. Understand where people are coming from and the individual benefits, but it makes it difficult for everyone else on the block. Driveway would cause loss in parking. Would make it more difficult to rely on street parking.
  - Bill Meyer- make sure Alsomiri is understood. Glad curb cuts are allowed for his personal driveways. In past city allowed curb cuts. Concern here: citizens have a lot that they purchased or owned that has nothing in it. They are asking if they can park their cars and get off the streets. Curb cuts could be dangerous, but he hasn't hit anyone. Driveways require caution. Support for curb cuts to get cars across the street and free up parking. Might lose one parking spot, but would make up for it in taking cars off the street. It could help the city. Public needs to remain in the zoom.
  - Nasr Hussain- all cities in America have curb cuts. Even New York. Nothing dangerous happens. When was the last time someone was hit? Not recently.
6. **Old Business**

- Discussion of Councilman Alsomiri's potential zoning ordinance amendment to allow new curb cuts for driveways in residential zoning
  - Braciszewski and Stamper walk the PC through the informational document.
  - Dafa wants to know whether it can be a case by case decision.
  - Collins asks whether a driveway could be accessed from the alley in the current ordinance.
  - Alsomiri- a driveway saves street parking for neighbors.
  - Habitz is concerned about having a walkable community. A variance should be used when necessary and the ordinance shouldn't be altered. The city needs to look at the big picture.
  - Islam is concerned about residents knowing how the regulations and ways to navigate city approvals. If there's room for a driveway, she supports it. The alleys are small and hard to navigate.
  - Mayor: She understands the concerns about the alleys. We aren't ready for a public hearing yet.
  - Collins suggests staff drafts something for PC to review that would regulate driveways and allow for them in some cases. We need clarity, Just deleting the line out of the ordinance is reckless.
  - Habitz also wants clarification and specification in the ordinance.
  - Braciszewski outlines 3 options for driveways
    1. Special land use
    2. Variance
    3. Amend the ordinance to add standards about when it's allowed
  - Alsomiri wants to vote next meeting.
  - Mayor wants more time. We need to do it well. Islam agrees.
  - Alsomiri says it's ok if it fails because then council will vote on it.
  - Habitz makes a motion to ask staff to continue to research the issue and to come up with different options to help resolve the concern that was brought forward along the lines of what Braciszewski described. Majewski seconds. In favor: Habitz, Majewski, Dafa, Collins, Islam. Opposed: Alsomiri. The motion passes.

7. **New Business-** there was none.

10. **Commission Announcements-** there were none.

11. **Staff Announcements-** Braciszewski announced a training on the Open Meetings Act for city boards, commissions, and staff on February 25 from 7-8:30pm.

12. **Adjournment-** Majewski motioned and Dafa seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm. The motion passed unanimously.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to

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