

Minutes October 7, 2015 Citizen's Forum

Over 20 residents attended the forum on Thursday at 6PM at Mrs. Mitchell's.

**1) Public Hearing in response to citizens petitions signed by over 120 residents in opposition to a storm water fee proposed by Mayor Morse.**

The public hearing will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM in City Council chambers during the Finance Committee meeting. Individuals are encouraged to attend and voice their opinions on this issue.

**2) Review of ballot questions for November 3rd**

The ballot questions were reviewed and discussed. There will be three questions changing terms of office for Mayor, City Council and School Committee from 2 years to 4 years

There is a question decreasing the size of the City Council from 15 to 13 by eliminating two at-large positions.

There is a question that asks if the Treasurer should be appointed rather than elected by the voters.

**All of these questions are binding. If the changes are approved they will go into effect for the next election cycle.**

There is also one non-binding question asking if Holyoke should have a City Manager in place of a Mayor.

**3) Zone change petition for Atlas Copco property from IG back to IP**

The zone change has been filed since the February date has passed and no development has occurred. There is no business taking place that cannot occur under the IP zone.

**4) Update on citizens petition regarding the \$45,000 payout by Mayor Morse**

This petition will be taken up by the Finance Committee on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**5) Update on Alcohol Drug detention center**

Due to the resistance of the neighborhood in Springfield the new center will not be built on Wasson Ave. New bids are being accepted and Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield can submit bids. Mayor Morse has indicated his interest in this facility. He has not sought any input from residents on this matter.

Thanks to everyone for your interest, ideas and participation.

Submitted by,

Linda Vacon

Your Ward 5 City Councilor