

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES
DATE: MAY 11, 2020
TIME: 7:34 P.M.
PLACE: *REMOTELY HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW G. L. C. 30A, SECTION 20 AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO WAIVE RULE 21A*

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HUGH DUNN, CHAIRMAN; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, VICE CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; DEREK BAPTISTE; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; MARIA GIESTA; SCOTT LIMA; JOSEPH LOPES; LINDA MORAD

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES

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Councillor Dunn called the Ordinance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING, on a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 9, Section 1200 Zoning by clarifying the definition of seafood processing and light manufacturing and adding a definition for seafood products (Ref'd 03/12/2020) (Duly advertised in the Standard-Times on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 and Tuesday, May 5, 2020.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1, 1a)

Attorney David Gerwatowski explained that the Planning Bard has not yet met and made a recommendation, but that the Ordinance Committee can hold the hearing, gather information, and then wait on the Planning Boards report either by continuing the hearing to a named date and time or discuss and review it if the item is referred out to the full City Council.

Attorney Michael Livingstone, representing Eastern Fisheries, explained an Ordinance such as this one would allow Eastern Fisheries along with other companies to allow certain seafood activities to take place at the Industrial Park. The current Ordinance is too restricted to permit scallop or fish processing in the Industrial Park.

Councillor Markey expressed a concern about odor and he was told there would be no odor, it is not that type of processing plant.

Councillor Morad expressed her concern that the conversation taking place appears to just be a change for one. She is in favor of Eastern Fisheries plan, she wanted to confirm that making this Ordinance change would address seafood processing across the city.

Attorney Gerwatowski confirmed that changing the definition as proposed would allow that processing can be included wherever light manufacturing takes place. It is not spot zoning.

Councillor Morad asked Tabitha Harkin, City Planner, if there is a report on which parts of the city would be affected by this Ordinance if it was changed. Ms. Harkin explained that they did not know this yet, because the Planning Board had not yet met and are not scheduled to meet until June. Councillor Morad stated that the zoning change is a concern to her; and she is interested to see what other areas in the city will be affected.

Attorney Blair Bailey stated that light manufacturing would be Industrial A, B, C and Waterfront Industry.

Councillor Dunn asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in favor of the Ordinance change; there was none.

Councillor Dunn asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in opposition of the Ordinance change; there was none.

Attorney Gerwatowski reminded the Committee that closing the hearing and moving to the Council for approval, that when they receive the Planning Board's recommendation and if they have additional questions the Council could refer this matter back to the Ordinance Committee; or the Committee could close the hearing and table this matter in Committee; or they could continue the hearing to a date specific.

Councillor Lopes made a motion to close the hearing and refer to the City Council for approval, was seconded by Councillor Lima. Councillor Morad asked that this motion be severed,

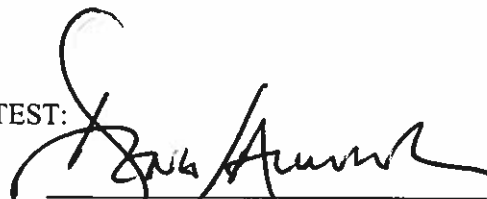
On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To close the public hearing. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 2, with Councillors Giesta and Morad opposed)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 9, Section 1200 Zoning by clarifying the definition of seafood processing and light manufacturing and adding a definition for seafood products. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 2, with Councillors Giesta and Morad opposed.

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Giesta.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees