

TOWN OF GHENT  
PUBLIC HEARING  
April 7, 2016

A public hearing before the Ghent Town Board on April 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, New York 12075, for the purpose of considering the adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2016, which would amend the Code of the Town of Ghent, Chapter 190 (Zoning), as it relates primarily to business, commercial, and industrial development within the Town, and would further repeal the current moratorium on business, commercial, and industrial development within the Town. The changes are those recommended by the Commercial Zoning Review Committee ("CZRC") appointed by the Town Board. The public hearing is for the purpose of facilitating public comment with respect to the proposed Local Law and is not a question and answer session. At the beginning of the public hearing, however, members of the CZRC will make a brief presentation of the proposed changes and will also endeavor to answer any questions submitted in writing to the Town Clerk on or before March 30, 2016. Following the public hearing, the Town Board will hold a special meeting for the purpose of considering the adoption of the proposed Local Law.

Present: Supervisor Benvenuto, Councilman Nelson, Councilwoman Matheney, Councilman Mort, Councilman Wood, Attorney Matthew Cabral, Attorney Mitchell Khosvora, Jonathan Walters, Geoff French and about 20 audience members.

Supervisor Benvenuto opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 pm and read aloud the Public Hearing Notice.

Chairman of the CZRC Mitchell Khosvora highlighted the changes to the Local Law made based on the last public hearing input and the meeting held by the CZRC in March.

Written comments were submitted to the Town Board by The Village of Chatham, Koethi Zan and Carmen Nero. Attorney Khosvora briefly commented on their concerns and questions and the meeting was then opened for public comment.

Carmen Nero- reiterated the comments he submitted to the board and asked why these changes are being made. Against passing of current law as it stands.

Lael Locke- Village of Chatham- Why is the Town looking to adopt something that is not complete?

Jonathan Walters CZRC member- The CZRC has made leaps forward, it is now the time to act. The committee will continue to meet and redesign. The immediate criteria was 190.13, and to clean up the code parts at a time.

Koethi Zan- reiterated the comments submitted to the board and asked the CZRC to fix a handful of things to add clarity.

Tom Curran- Mayor of Chatham- Suggests adding wording to section 190-12D stressing the importance of protecting the Village aquifer.

Martha McMaster- Against passing of Local Law. Continue moratorium until code complete.

Mark Johnson- 6 weeks left in process, against passing.

Supervisor Benvenuto- Regarding the Village issues, these can be dealt with further down the road and will work with village on long range plans.

Rick McCagg- Do the job right and get the job done.

Michael Schrom- Suggest waiting 6 weeks, too early for a decision.

James – Wait six weeks, obligated to use the time.

Philip Persinger- Contrasting zoning with the Village between the Town to deal with growth.

Supervisor Benvenuto close the Public hearing at 7:25pm thanking all for their comments and input.