

**Minutes**  
**Huntington Planning Commission**  
**July 6, 2021**

A meeting of the City of Huntington Planning Commission was held on July 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. *Mr. Gallagher* called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Sharon Pell, Stephanie Vlahos Bryant, Gerry Holley, Sarah Walling, Brian Gallagher, Ursulette Ward, Carl Eastham

Members Absent: Sean Hornbuckle

Staff Present: Janney Lockman, Planner  
Breanna Shell, Planning Director  
Ericka Hernandez, Assistant City Attorney  
Patricia Usher, Zoning Officer

*Mr. Eastham* made a motion to approve the June 7, 2021 Minutes as presented; *Ms. Walling* seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the Minutes were approved.

**PC-21-REZ-03**

A petition to rezone property to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District from R-2 Residential District. The property is located to the south of Jefferson Avenue and north of Jefferson 1/2 alley and includes all parcels beginning with 1825 Jefferson Avenue and heading west to 19th Street West.

*Petitioner:* IBEW #317 Building Corporation, 1848 Madison Avenue, Suite A, Huntington, WV 25704

Staff presented the petition.

*Mr. Gallagher* – Has staff made any conclusions about the relevant factors?

Ms. Lockman detailed the conclusion of the planning office as supportive of the petition as the property has been vacant for many years as it is currently zoned; it is located close to the IBEW offices and other commercial properties; and it would fit within the context of the neighborhood.

Tim Akers, secretary and training director for IBEW #317, informed the Commissioners that the several of the parcels have been vacant for three years and one is going on being vacant for more than twelve. He detailed the growth of their program which has led to the need for a bigger training facility. Roughly 55% of the trainees are local residents. The program is moving toward being an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program and solar technologies.

*Mr. Gallagher* – What type of work are they learning and how long is the program?

Mr. Akers informed the Commissioners the students learn electrical work over a five year period where they pay nothing to attend and earn money and college credits while they train. The school is funded by members of the organization and is not publicly funded.

*Mr. Gallagher* – Who are the members and are they employers looking for employees?

Mr. Akers stated the members consist of those in their jurisdictional area, 2 counties in Kentucky, 7 counties in West Virginia, and 11 counties in Ohio. He confirmed that some members are employers in the field.

*Ms. Walling* made a motion to forward the petition with a favorable recommendation to City Council. Motion passed to forward with a favorable recommendation by a vote of 6 Yes to 0 No.

**Planning Commission Rules and Procedures**

