

# REPORT TO COMMON COUNCIL

**Common Council Public Hearing & Meeting Date:** June 17, 2020

**Item:** Rezoning #2-20 – Viola Street

Case Manager: Jessica Titel

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Owner/Applicant:** CaMPSbuilt, LLC c/o Carl Romenesko – Romenesko Developments

Address/Parcel #: N. Viola Street (Tax Id #31-1-2865-00)

**Petitioner's Request:** The applicant is requesting a zoning change from C-2 General Commercial District to M-2 General Industrial District to facilitate the construction of a future building planned for general industrial (light manufacturing/warehouse) use.

#### **BACKGROUND**

This item would typically go to Plan Commission for review and a recommendation. However, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, Plan Commission will not meet and Common Council will conduct business as Committee of the Whole.

Historically the property contained a warehouse facility that was located in the southern portion of the property (fronting on Wisconsin Avenue) and two single-family homes in the northern portion. The warehouse facility was razed in approximately 1984. In 1995, existing parcels were combined (via Tax ID only, no CSM was recorded) to create the current lot configuration. The property currently contains a surface parking lot that has been used for Appvion employee parking, but has been recently sold to the current owner for redevelopment.

The northern portion of the property was rezoned in 1994 from R-1B Single Family District to P Parking District. The entire property was rezoned from C-2 General Commercial District and P Parking District to C-2 General Commercial District in 2008. This was part of a City-wide zoning map correction/adjustment to address single lots that contained more than one zoning district. The rezoning established a single zoning district classification for each of these lots eliminating potential land use conflicts that a split zoning condition can present.

# STAFF ANALYSIS

**Existing Conditions:** The subject parcel is approximately 46,909 square feet in size and is located on the northwest corner of East Wisconsin Avenue and North Viola Street. Wisconsin Avenue is classified as an arterial street and Viola Street is classified as a local street on the City's Arterial/Collector Plan. The parcel currently contains a surface parking lot.

## **Surrounding Zoning Classification and Land Uses:**

North: R-1B Single-Family District. The adjacent land use to the north is currently single-family residential.

South: M-2 General Industrial District. The adjacent land use to the south is currently a manufacturing facility (Appvion Paper Mill).

East: R-1B Single-Family District. The adjacent land uses to the east are currently single-family residential.

West: R-1B Single-Family District. The adjacent land use to the west is currently a cemetery.

**Proposed Zoning Classification:** The purpose of the M-2 General Industrial District is to preserve and secure areas already established with industrial type or related uses or for new uses that meet the purposes of this district. The M-2 district is also intended to apply standards for existing uses that will minimize their effect on any adjacent residential or commercial land uses. Per Section 23-132(h) of the Municipal Code, the development standards for the M-2 District are listed below:

- 1) *Minimum lot area*. Eight thousand (8,000) square feet.
- 2) *Maximum lot coverage*. Ninety percent (90%).
- 3) Minimum lot width. Fifty (50) feet.
- 4) Minimum front yard. None.
- 5) Minimum rear yard. None; Fifty (50) feet if abutting a residentially zoned district.
- 6) *Minimum side yard.* None; Fifty (50) feet if abutting a residentially zoned district.
- 7) *Maximum building height.* Eighty (80) feet.

**Zoning Ordinance Review Criteria:** The request is being made to facilitate the construction of a future building planned for general industrial (light manufacturing/warehouse) use. The parcel is currently zoned C-2 General Commercial District, which may not allow for some of the potential uses. The M-2 zoning district will also eliminate the need to apply for multiple Special Use Permits for potential future uses. Therefore, a rezoning is necessary to accommodate the anticipated uses.

A light manufacturing/warehouse use is a permitted use in the M-2 General Industrial District. Any future development would need to conform to the M-2 District zoning regulations listed above and other sections of the Zoning Ordinance. Ultimately, Site Plan review and approval would be required, pursuant to Section 23-570 of the Municipal Code, prior to the issuance of a building permit by the Inspections Division.

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**Appleton Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030:** The City of Appleton 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan Map identifies this parcel for future Industrial land uses. The proposed M-2 General Industrial District rezoning is consistent with the Future Land Use Map. Listed below are related excerpts from the City's *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030*.

Goal 1 – Community Growth: Appleton will continue to provide opportunities for residential, commercial, and industrial growth, including appropriate redevelopment sites within the downtown and existing neighborhoods, and greenfield development sites at the City's edge.

# Policy 9.5.1 Economic Development:

Ensure a continued adequate supply of industrial and commercial land to sustain new business development.

#### OBJECTIVE 10.1 Land Use:

Provide an adequate supply of suitable land meeting the demand for development of various land uses.

#### OBJECTIVE 10.2 Land Use:

Encourage redevelopment to meet the demand for a significant share of future growth, and to enhance the quality of existing neighborhoods.

### OBJECTIVE 10.5 Land Use:

Support the continued redevelopment and revitalization of land uses adjacent to Appleton's key transportation corridors and downtown.

#### Chapter 15: Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Plan

This parcel is located within the area identified as "Service Commercial" land use within the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor – This land use category is recommended for the area extending from Meade Street east to the city limits. It is made up of future uses including commercial, service and repair, and limited light industry, such as might be found in "flex" commercial buildings in a business park.

**Standards for Zoning Map Amendments:** Per Section 23-65(d)(3) of the Municipal Code, all recommendations for Official Zoning Map amendments shall be consistent with the adopted plans, goals, and policies of the City and with the intent of the Zoning Ordinance. It would appear the criteria established by Section 23-65(d)(3) Zoning Amendments has been satisfied.

Related excerpts are listed below.

- a. Prior to making a recommendation on a proposed rezoning, the Plan Commission shall make a finding to determine if the following conditions exist. No rezoning of land shall be approved prior to finding at least one of the following:
  - 1. The request for a zone change is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Appleton. The rezoning request is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030 objectives and policies stated above and the Future Land Use map, which identifies this property as future Industrial land use.

- 2. A study submitted by the applicant that indicates that there has been an increase in the demand for land in the requested zoning district, and as a result, the supply of land within the City mapped as such on the Official Zoning Map is inadequate to meet the demands for such development.
- 3. Proposed amendments cannot be accommodated by sites already zoned in the City due to lack of transportation, utilities or other development constraints, or the market to be served by the proposed use cannot be effectively served by the location of the existing zoning district(s).
- 4. There is an error in the code text or zoning map as enacted.
- b. In addition to the findings required to be made by subsection (a), findings shall be made by the Plan Commission on each of the following matters based on the evidence presented:
  - 1. The adequacy of public facilities such as transportation, utilities and other required public services to serve the proposed site. *The subject area is served by existing infrastructure, and the transportation network should be able to accommodate the proposed rezoning.*
  - 2. The effect of the proposed rezoning on surrounding uses. Industrial land uses are already present to the south of the subject site. The rezoning request is being made to accommodate a future general industrial (light manufacturing/warehouse) use. Site Plan review is required prior to issuance of building permits for future development on this site. Conformance with the M-2 District zoning regulations and other sections of the Zoning Ordinance, including the buffering and screening requirements, will be required prior to issuance of Site Plan approval. Therefore, the proposed rezoning request is unlikely to create adverse impacts on the surrounding uses.

**Technical Review Group Report (TRG):** This item appeared on the May 19, 2020 Technical Review Group agenda. No negative comments were received from participating departments.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends, based upon the standards for map amendments as required by Section 23-65(d)(3) of the Zoning Ordinance, that Rezoning Application #2-20 to rezone the subject parcel (Tax Id #31-1-2865-00) from C-2 General Commercial District to M-2 General Industrial District, including all of the adjacent one-half right-of-way of East Wisconsin Avenue and North Viola Street, as shown on the attached maps, **BE APPROVED**.





