

STAFF REPORT

Department of Metropolitan Development
Division of Planning
Current Planning Section

Case Number: 2023-ZON-024 / 2023-VAR-001
Address: 2802 South Holt Road (*Approximate Address*)
Location: Wayne Township, Council District #16
Petitioner: Maninder Singh
Request: Rezoning of 0.36 acre from the D-5 (FF) district to the C-4 (FF) district to provide for an automobile body repair shop.

Variance of Use and Development Standards of the Consolidated Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance to provide for:

- a. A six-foot tall perimeter chain link fence with barbed wire (fence height limited to 3.5 feet in front yards, chain link not permitted within front yards in Commercial Districts, chain link within side yards must be coated in vinyl within Commercial Districts, barbed wire prohibited);
- b. Outdoor Storage and Operations associated with automobile repair (not permitted);
- c. The permanent location of a portable storage structure (limited to 30 consecutive days);
- d. Two sliding gates within the clear sight triangles of the vehicular access drives along Farnsworth Street and Holt Road (encroachment of clear sight triangles not permitted); and
- e. Lack of hard surfaced parking area (hard surfaced parking areas required).

JUNE 29, 2023

At the May 25, 2023, hearing, the petitioner requested a for cause continuance to the June 29, 2023, hearing, in order to provide a more descriptive site plan for review. At the time of publication, an amended site plan has not been provided. The petitioner has indicated they intended to request an additional continuance in order to produce one. Subsequently, Staff continues to **recommend approval** of the rezoning and **denial** of the filed variances.

May 25, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff **recommends approval** of the rezoning but **recommends denial** of the variances.

(Continued)

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LAND USE ISSUES

- ◇ This 0.36-acre site is split zoned C-4 (FF) and D-5 (FF). The site is improved with a gravel parking area, a portable storage structure and six-foot tall chain-link perimeter fence topped with barbed wire. North of the subject site is a commercial structure housing a tobacco shop and a barber shop, within the C-4 District. West of the subject site are single-family dwellings within both the C-4 and D-5 Districts. To the south is a recreational playground and religious use facility within the D-5 District. East of the site is an automobile fueling station within the I-3 District.
- ◇ This site is recommended for Community Commercial development by the Comprehensive Plan and is located within its Environmentally Sensitive overlay.
- ◇ According to aerial images and Google Maps Street View, the site was previously improved with a small commercial walk-up eating establishment, including a carport structure for the associated parking. This structure was demolished around 2017.

REZONING

- ◇ The request would uniformly zone the property C-4. Currently, only a portion of the northernmost tract is zoned C-4, with the remainder of the property zoned D-5.
- ◇ The C-4 District is the Community-Regional Commercial District under the Ordinance and provides for medium-intense commercial uses intended to serve the broader community rather than a specific neighborhood. Uses permitted within this district typically generate substantial traffic and rely on access to major thoroughfares and are typically characterized by indoor operations with limited outdoor activities.
- ◇ The comprehensive plan's Community Commercial recommendation is generally reflective of the C-4 District. Specifically, it is intended to provide for low-intensity commercial and office uses that serve nearby neighborhoods through freestanding buildings or small integrated centers.
- ◇ This site is also within the Environmentally Sensitive overlay of the comprehensive plan. This overlay is intended to preserve high quality woodlands, wetlands or other natural resources and mitigate damage to such resources by development. This overlay specifically indicates which land uses may not be appropriate within it. The proposed use, on a site of this size, is not excluded from the recommendation. Therefore, the rezoning request would align with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation.
- ◇ As filed, the request would provide for the operation of an automobile body repair shop, which is permitted within the C-4 District. This use requires that all servicing, motor repair, or body repair be conducted within an enclosed building. Within the C-4 District, vehicles awaiting repair may not be stored outdoors for longer than 24 hours, as outdoor storage and operations begin to be permitted within the C-5 District.

(Continued)

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VARIANCES

- ◇ As proposed, the site would utilize the existing portable storage structure for the storage of tools associated with automobile repair, and the construction of a shed for the storage of automobile parts and other accessories related to the business. Such structures are not permitted in order to promote an orderly aesthetic. Repairs would be conducted outdoors until a permanent structure can be constructed.
- ◇ There is currently a six-foot tall chain link perimeter fence, including gated access to Farnsworth Street and Holt Road, with barbed wire on the site. Given the lack of a building on the site, a six-foot tall fence would not be permitted on the site. Barbed wire fences are prohibited by the zoning ordinance except for facilities associated with public safety or prisons and jails. The vehicle gates are also within the access drive clear sight triangles.
- ◇ Fence height limitations are intended to promote an orderly aesthetic and uniform streetscape as fences of such height can appear industrial in nature. The clear sight triangle is intended to preserve visibility and promote safety by reducing the risk for vehicular-pedestrian collisions.
- ◇ The request also would allow for the use of a gravel parking area. All commercial districts require hardscaped surfaces for parking areas, in order to avoid the circulation of dust particulate and ensure predictable drainage.
- ◇ Staff believes that the proper, orderly development of the site, including construction of a freestanding building is not only appropriate in the context of the district, but would eliminate any practical difficulty. In Staff's opinion, any practical difficulty associated with the site is self-imposed due to the reluctance to develop this vacant site in compliance with minimum expectations associated with the C-4 District.

(Continued)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USE

C-4, D-5	Commercial structure, vacant
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SURROUNDING ZONING AND LAND USE

North -	C-4	Tobacco Shop and Barber Shop
South -	D-5	Playground
East -	I-3	Automobile Fueling Station
West -	C-4, D-5	Single-family dwellings

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

The Land Use Pattern Book (2019) recommends
Community Commercial development.

THOROUGHFARE PLAN

This portion of Farnsworth Street is classified as a Local
Street with an existing and proposed 58-foot right-of-way.
This portion of Holt Road is classified as a Primary Arterial
with an existing and proposed 95-foot right-of-way.

CONTEXT AREA

This site is located within the Compact Context Area.

SITE PLAN

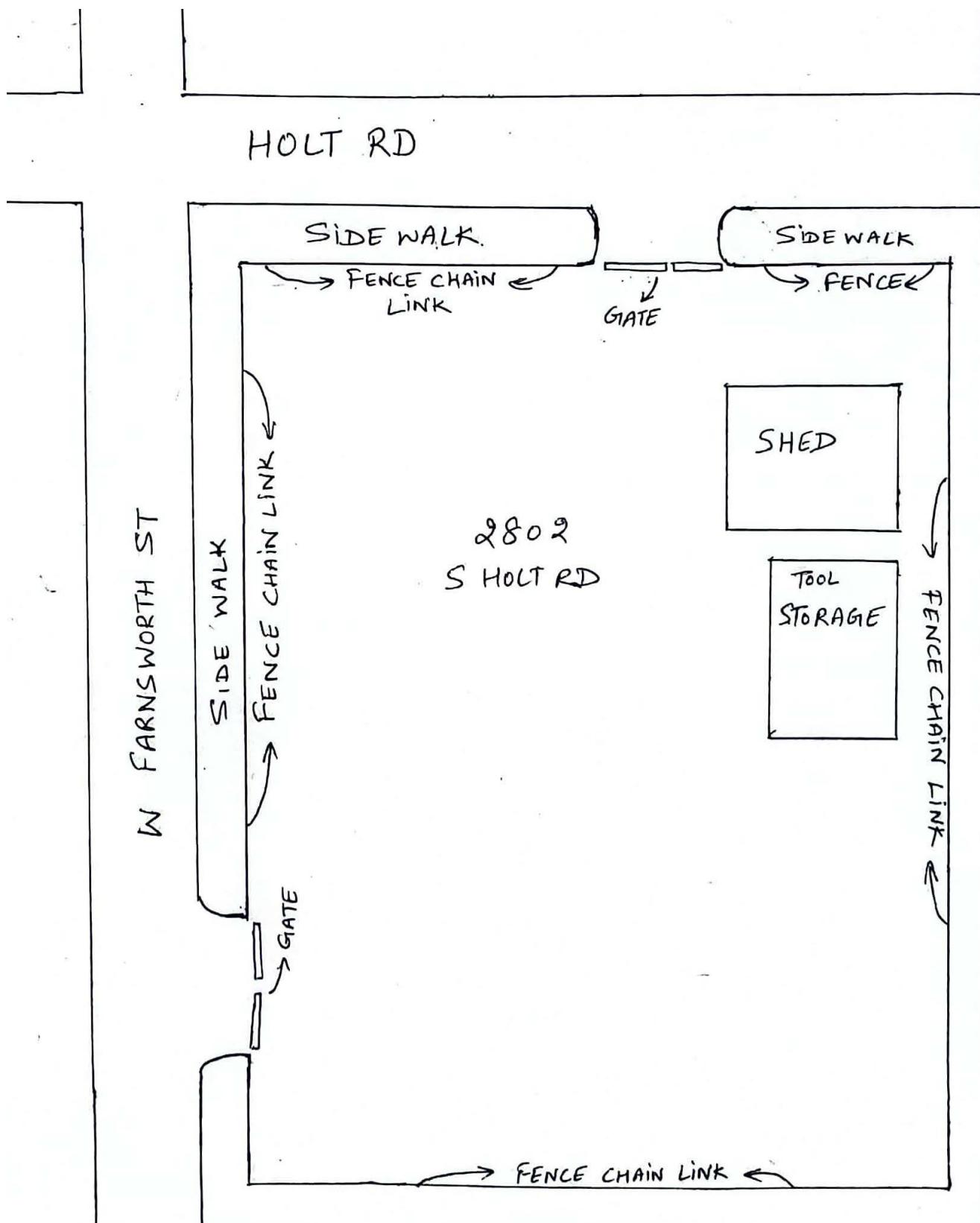
File-dated April 28, 2023.

ZONING HISTORY

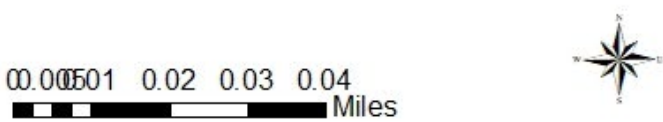
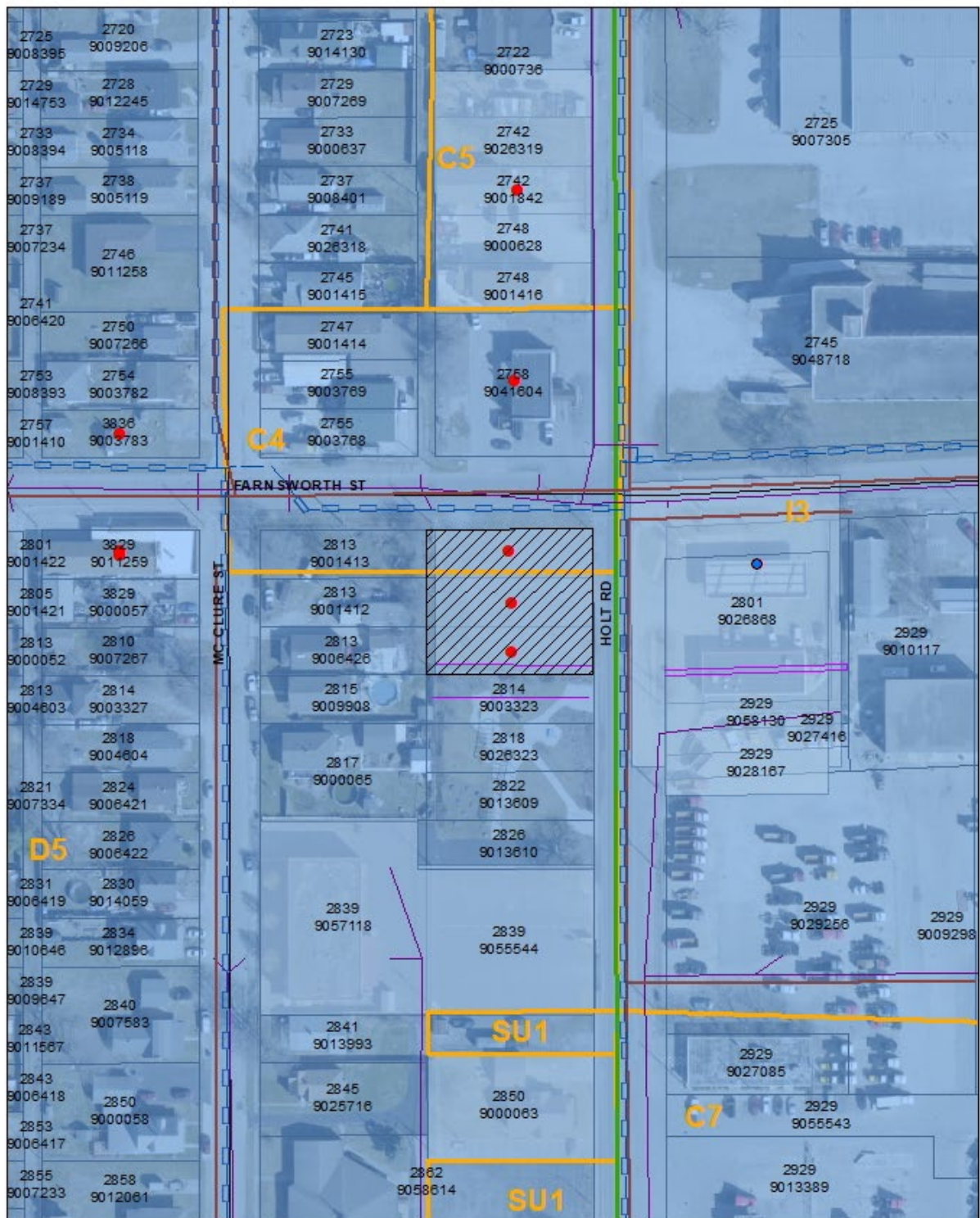
None.

EDH

Site Plan (April 28, 2023):



Vicinity Map:



Photographs:



Photo One: Facing North along Holt Road.



Photo Two: Facing West South along Holt Road. Automobile fueling station on left.



Photo Three: Facing West along Farnsworth Street, subject site on left.



Photo Four: Facing West across Holt Road towards subject site.



Photo Five: Facing South along Holt Road. Subject site on right.



Photo Six: Vehicle Gate along Farnsworth Street, with barbed wire.



Photo Seven: Southern lot along abutting playground.



Photo Eight: Western lot line, adjacent to single-family dwellings.