



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review ***Staff Report***

Ord. No. 2022-364: To rezone the properties known as 2017 Roane Street and 2021 Roane Street from the M-1 Light Industrial District to the B-7 Mixed-Use Business District. (3rd District)

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: January 3, 2023

PETITIONER

Roane Street, LLC, represented by Markham Planning

LOCATION

2017 Roane Street and 2021 Roane Street

PURPOSE

To rezone the properties known as 2017 Roane Street and 2021 Roane Street from the M-1 Light Industrial District to the B-7 Mixed-Use Business District.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

The applicant is requesting to rezone from the M-1 Light Industrial District to the B-7 Mixed-Use Business zoning district which allows for dense, walkable transit oriented mixed use development that includes residential and commercial uses, minimal yards, and a maximum height of between five and six stories; whereas, the current M-1 Light Industrial allows primarily industrial uses with no yard requirements and a maximum building height of 45 feet, greater when set back from the property line.

Staff finds that the property is part of a row of blocks of land designated by the Richmond 300 Master Plan for Residential land use, however, the property is abutting a larger area to the west that is designated for Industrial Mixed Use land use, and an area to the east designated for Public/Open Space. As such, it would be appropriate for higher-density mixed used development to take place on the subject property rather than lower density residential uses. Lower density residential uses are potentially incompatible with higher density uses within with the Industrial Mixed Use area.

Staff finds that the proposed rezoning is consistent with changing conditions in the area, in which vacant or underutilized parcels, many of which have historically been used for industrial or warehousing purposes, continue to be redeveloped for residential and mixed-use purposes, based on market demand. The existing M-1 zoning designation of the property is not consistent with the Master Plan and development of the property according to M-1 requirements would not be appropriate for the transitioning community.

Therefore, staff recommends approval of the rezoning request.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The vacant properties consist of 1.36 acres of land. The properties are located in the Chamberlayne Industrial Center east of the intersection of Dawn and Roane Streets.

Proposed Use of the Property

Development plans have not yet been finalized. A rezoning of the properties would allow mixed-use development consistent with the B-7 District.

Master Plan

The City's Richmond 300 Master Plan designates the property for Residential Uses. Neighborhood consisting primarily of single-family houses on large or medium-sized lots more homogeneous in nature.

Development Style: Houses on medium-sized and large-sized lots in a largely auto-dependent environment. Homes are setback from the street. Future developments continue and/or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity. Future single-family housing, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and small multi-family residential buildings are built to a scale and design that is consistent with existing buildings.

Ground Floor: Not applicable

Mobility: Bicycle and pedestrian access are prioritized and accommodated. Low residential density means that it is not possible to provide frequent transit within these areas; however, frequent transit may be found at the edges of these areas within more intense future land use designations. Many homes have driveways and/or garages, which are located off an alley behind the home if an alley is present.

Intensity: Buildings are generally one to three stories. Lot sizes generally range up to 5,000 to 20,000+ sq. ft. Residential density of 2 to 10 housing units per acre.

Primary Uses: Single-family houses, accessory dwelling units, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Duplexes and small multi-family buildings (typically 3-10 units), institutional, and cultural. Secondary uses may be found along major streets

The properties located across Roane Street to the west are Plan designated for Industrial Mixed-Use. These areas are formerly traditional industrial areas that are transitioning to mixed-use because of their proximity to growing neighborhoods and changes in market conditions. These areas may still retain some light industrial use.

Zoning

The current zoning for this property is M-1 Light Industrial. The proposal is to rezone the property to the B-7 (Mixed Use Business District). No proffers are proposed with the rezoning.

The differences between the M-1 and B-7 requirements are enumerated below:

Proposed B-7 Zone

Sec. 30-457.1. - Intent of district.

Pursuant to the general purposes of this chapter, the intent of the B-7 district is to encourage a broad range of mixed land uses, including residential, commercial and compatible industrial and service uses. The district is intended to promote enhancement of the character of mixed-use areas that are undergoing revitalization and adaptive reuse by providing for alternative economic use of existing structures, while enabling continuation of existing industrial and service uses. The district regulations are intended to encourage appropriate infill development on undeveloped land, promote adaptive reuse of vacant or underutilized buildings and enable redevelopment of properties where continuation of current uses or adaptive reuse is not feasible. The district regulations are also intended to safeguard the character of adjoining properties, to maintain the predominant existing streetscape character by providing continuity of building scale and setbacks, to enhance public safety and encourage an active pedestrian environment appropriate to the mixed-use character of the district by providing for windows in building façades along street frontages. Finally, the district regulations are intended to assure adequate accessible parking and safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation, to facilitate a streetscape with minimum setbacks along principal street frontages and to provide for limited interruption by driveways and vehicular traffic across public sidewalk areas along principal street frontages. (Code 2004, § 114-446.1; Code 2015, § 30-446.1; Ord. No. 2010-19-31, § 1, 2-22-2010)

EXISTING ZONING AND USES: The current zoning district (M-1) permits many commercial uses, including manufacturing, wholesaling and distribution establishments.

PROPOSED USES: The proposed zoning district (B-7) permits a variety of residential and commercial uses, including retail, offices, personal service businesses and restaurants.

YARDS: The M-1 district has the following yard requirements for this location:

- (1) Front yard. None, unless abutting residential use
- (2) Side yards. None, unless abutting residential use
- (3) Rear yard. None, unless abutting residential use

PROPOSED SETBACKS:

(1)Front yard.

a. No front yard shall be required. In no case shall a front yard with a depth greater than ten feet be permitted, provided further that not more than ten percent of the building wall of the street level

story along the street shall be set back more than ten feet, except as may be authorized pursuant to subsections (1)b and (1)c of this section.

b. A front yard with a depth greater than permitted by application of the provisions of subsection (1)a of this section may be provided when such front yard is improved for purposes of a pedestrian plaza or outdoor dining area as permitted by Section 30-446.2 and is approved subject to a plan of development as set forth in Article X of this chapter. Except where the property is within an old and historic district, the City Urban Design Committee shall review the application and plans and submit a recommendation to the Director of Planning and Development Review prior to approval of such plan of development by the Director.

c. A building entrance feature that is set back from the street a greater distance than the primary building façade along the street and that is no greater than two times the width of the building entranceway shall be permitted, and shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection.

(2) Side yard. No side yards shall be required, except that where a side lot line abuts or is situated across an alley from property in an R or RO district there shall be a side yard of not less than ten feet in width.

(3) Rear yard. No rear yard shall be required, except that where a rear lot line abuts or is situated across an alley from property in an R or RO district there shall be a rear yard of not less than 20 feet in depth.

EXISTING HEIGHT: In the M-1 Light Industrial District, no building or structure shall exceed 45 feet in height, provided that additional height shall be permitted, except for sign structures, when all portions of a building or structure over 45 feet in height are set back from side and rear lot lines a minimum of one foot for each two feet in height in excess of 45 feet and provided, further, that no portion of a building or structure shall penetrate an inclined plane originating at the centerline of an abutting street and extending over the lot at an inclination of one foot horizontal for each three feet vertical.

PROPOSED HEIGHT: B-7 District

(1) Maximum height in general. No building shall exceed five stories in height. For purposes of this section, story height as defined in Article XII of this chapter shall be not less than ten feet and not greater than 15 feet, except that the ground floor of a building may be of greater height.

(2) Maximum height in special cases. Where there are no buildings existing on an entire block at the time of development, or where there are existing buildings to be retained and vacant land to be developed on an entire block, and where the entire block is to be developed under the same ownership or control pursuant to an overall development plan, the maximum permitted height shall be six stories.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE IN B-7:

The location of any parking areas must not be between the main building and the principal or priority street frontage, nor shall they be located closer to the principal or priority street frontage

that the main building. No new driveways are permitted on the principal or priority street frontage for each parcel. Parking decks located along the principal street frontage must be screened by another use along the entirety of the frontage with a depth of at least 20', and must be screened from other street frontages by a structural material with an opacity of not less than 45 percent.

Fenestration requirements will be applicable to principal and priority street frontages (30% for dwelling units, operable window/doors); 60% for ground floor commercial uses (30% for upper stories)

PROPOSED PARKING:

The parking requirement for uses other than dwellings is per the table in Sec. 30-710.1 (a) of the zoning ordinance, provided that in no case shall the parking requirement for uses whose requirement is determined by floor area be more than one space per 300 square feet. Multi-family dwellings require one space per unit. On-street spaces count towards meeting the off-street parking requirement and on-site spaces for dwelling uses may be shared with nondwelling uses, provided that the nondwelling use not be routinely open between 6 PM and 8 AM. The parking requirement is reduced by 50% for uses located within buildings constructed prior to July 1, 2017.

Street buffer and internal screening requirements related to parking areas will be required for new parking areas in accordance with Section 30-710.1.

Bike parking will be required for multifamily and parking deck uses.

EXISTING SIGNAGE: Signage is more limited in the B-7 district than in the M-1/M-2 district. The M-1 zoning district permits three square feet of signage for each linear foot of lot frontage along the street with a maximum of 300 square feet for each street frontage. Wall signs, projecting signs, suspended signs, awning signs, canopy signs, freestanding signs, roof signs and off-premises signs shall be permitted.

PROPOSED SIGNAGE: Unless specifically provided otherwise in this article and subject to the regulations and restrictions applicable to all districts set forth in this article, the following signs shall be permitted and the following sign regulations shall apply in the B-7 Mixed-Use Business District:

(1) Types of permitted signs. Wall signs, projecting signs, suspended signs, awning signs, canopy signs, freestanding signs and roof signs shall be permitted, subject to the restrictions set forth in this section.

(2) Permitted sign area. The aggregate area of all signs directed toward or intended to be viewed from any street frontage shall not exceed two square feet for each linear foot of lot frontage along the street nor in any case 300 square feet for each street frontage. Where more than one main building is located on a lot, the above formula for determining permitted sign area shall apply to individual buildings and building frontages along a street, rather than to lots and lot frontages.

(3) Projecting signs. No projecting sign shall be located within 25 feet of another projecting sign on the same building wall. No such sign, other than a noncommercial flag, shall project greater than five feet from the face of the building or extend above the height of the wall to which it is attached.

(4) Freestanding signs. One freestanding sign not exceeding 50 square feet in area or 15 feet in height shall be permitted along each street frontage.

(5) Roof signs. Roof signs located on buildings utilized for uses permitted by Section 30-446.2(46), when such signs are lawfully existing on the effective date of the ordinance from which this section is derived to include the property in the B-7 district, and provided that such signs shall not be included in the calculation of permitted sign area set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

Surrounding Area

The properties are located in the City's Chamberlayne Industrial Center on Roane Street south of Wickham Street. Surrounding properties are also located in the M-1 district and are used for various commercial and light industrial purposes including a brewery, hair salon, and storage. The First Tee of Greater Richmond golf facility is adjacent to the parcels to the east. Nearby properties to the south were recently rezoned to the B-7 district in 2021. New development in the area is beginning to contain residential components.

Neighborhood Participation

Staff notified area residents, property owners and the Chamberlayne Industrial Center Association. No comments of opposition or support have been received.

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