



**City of Auburn
City Council Information Sheet**

Council Workshop or Meeting Date: October 3, 2016

Order:

Author: Eric Cousens, Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development

Subject: Request to initiate consideration of a Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Light Industrial uses.

Information: There have been a couple requests over the past few years to open small machine shops in Auburn. In 2013 and again recently there has been an inquiry regarding the possibility of a machine shop in the General Business (GB) zoning district. Attached is a recommendation that we consider amending the ordinance to allow additional flexibility for this use. The request before the Council is to initiate the process to consider an ordinance amendment. If the Council initiates the process then staff and the Planning Board will vet the draft through a public process, possibly make changes and then make recommendations to the Council with the benefit of input received during the process. The Council would then hold a public hearing and two public readings and decide if a change is warranted.

Advantages: Flexibility to attract new businesses to Auburn with a review process that ensures compatibility with surrounding properties and uses.

Disadvantages: None known if ordinance ensures compatibility with surrounding areas.

City Budgetary Impacts: May bring additional taxpayers to the city or help occupy existing commercial buildings.

Staff Recommended Action: Vote to initiate the process of considering this change for the current opportunity and to be prepared for any future requests. Staff also recommends that if we consider the change in the GB district that we may also consider a change in the GB II (Minot Avenue) district. The two districts generally include our main arterial corridors, the Manley and Rodman Road area and the mall area.

Previous Meetings and History: None

Attachments: Staff Memo dated September 15, 2016, draft ordinance sections showing an option for amending the ordinance to allow the referenced use.



City of Auburn, Maine

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To: Michael Chammings, Director of Economic and Community Development

From: Eric J. Cousens, Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development

Re: Suggested Ordinance Amendment Request for Light Industrial/Machine Shop uses in General Business Zoning Districts

Date: September 15, 2016

There have been a couple requests over the past few years to open small machine shops in Auburn. In 2013 and again recently there has been an inquiry regarding the possibility of a machine shop in the General Business (GB) zoning district. Currently light industrial uses in the GB district are limited to businesses that meet the following use category: Light industrial plants whose main processes involve assembly of prefabricated parts and which will not create a nuisance by noise, vibration, smoke, odor or appearance. It is staff's opinion that the main processes involving the assembly of prefabricated parts is not an important distinction over the main processes involving the fabrication of parts, as you would have in a machine shop, as long as the proposed business can operate in a way that does not create a nuisance by noise, vibration, smoke, odor or appearance.

Staff drafted a proposed amendment in 2013 and offered to help the business with a petition to amend the ordinance if they were serious about the location. We generally recommend a petition for a proposal that benefits an individual or company so that they cover some of the expenses of the process and that expense does not fall on the general tax payers. At that time the business decided to stay where they were currently located and did not make a move. There has been a recent inquiry about a similar business that would consider occupying a building in the GB zoning district if the ordinance allowed it. When a business is looking at a property to relocate, the thought of an unfamiliar zoning amendment process prior to a site plan review can be seen as a hurdle that they would rather avoid. This has come up enough times that Staff recommends that the Council consider initiating a change to the ordinance if they are interested in expanding this use into the GB zone to allow for the retention and expansion of our tax base. Machine shops within enclosed buildings can be operated in a way that prevents impacts to abutters. Special exception uses require individual proposals to be reviewed through a public process with the Planning Board to ensure that impacts are avoided. If the Council wishes to have this considered we need a vote to initiate a change that will then go through a public hearing with the Planning Board for



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a recommendation and then back to Council for a review and public hearing. If the change passes a proposal for an individual site could be reviewed by the Planning Board.

Staff recommends that we consider this change for the current opportunity and any future requests. Staff also recommends that if we consider the change in the GB district that we also consider a change in the GB II (Minot Avenue) district. The two districts generally include our main arterial corridors, the Manley and Rodman Road area and the mall area. If that is not desirable to the Council we could also consider changing the zoning in the area of the current inquiry as it is near an existing industrial zoned area.

Sec. 60-2. - Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and terms as used herein shall have the meanings or limitations of meaning hereby defined, explained or assigned:

Industrial use, heavy, means the use of real estate, building or structure, or any portion thereof, for assembling, fabricating, manufacturing, packaging or processing operations.

Industrial use, light, means the use of real estate, building or structure, or any portion thereof, ~~the main processes of which involve the assembly of prefabricated parts and~~ which will not create a nuisance by noise, smoke, vibration, odor or appearance.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 2.2; Ord. No. 13-09062011-05, 9-6-2011; Ord. No. 12-09062011-04, 9-19-2011; Ord. No. 04-03072016, 5-16-2016)

DIVISION 12. - GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Sec. 60-498. - Purpose.

This district is intended to include commercial uses serving both the city and the region, together with normal accessory uses compatible with a cohesive and attractive shopping and office area.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 3.62A)

Sec. 60-499. - Use regulation.

(a) *Permitted uses.* The following uses are permitted:

- (1) Residential dwelling uses permitted in the Multifamily Suburban District (MFS) (division 9 of article IV of this chapter).
- (2) Grocery stores and supermarkets.
- (3) Clothing stores.
- (4) Furniture stores.
- (5) Department stores.
- (6) Specialty shops.
- (7) Hotels and motels.
- (8) Funeral homes and mortuaries.
- (9) Child day care centers.
- (10) Medical and dental clinics.
- (11) Wholesale bakeries.
- (12) Retail laundries and dry cleaners, but not plants.
- (13) Banks, business and professional offices.
- (14) Public transportation passenger offices.
- (15) Governmental offices.
- (16) Municipal, civic or public service buildings and other utility facilities.
- (17) Warehouses, wholesale offices, salesrooms and showrooms.
- (18) Restaurants, bars, dining rooms or lunchrooms, but not to include drive-in and carry-out restaurants.
- (19) Halls, private clubs and lodges, bowling alleys, ice and roller skating rinks, indoor theaters and similar places of indoor amusement or recreation.
- (20) Animal hospitals and pet shops, but no kennels.
- (21) Business equipment repair and business services.
- (22) Radio and television studios.
- (23) Printing shops, but not publishing plants.
- (24) Retail, service, office and commercial uses similar to the foregoing.

- (25) Carwashes.
- (26) Accessory uses, building and structures.
- (27) Shelters for abused persons.
- (28) Greenhouses and lawn maintenance services.
- (29) Temporary outdoor places of amusement.
- (30) Churches and temples.
- (b) *Special exception uses.* The following uses are permitted as special exceptions after approval by the planning board in accordance with division 3 of article XVI of this chapter:
 - (1) Automobile filling stations.
 - (2) Automobile repair and service stations.
 - (3) Automobile and marine sales lots and sales and service agencies.
 - (4) Automobile and marine paint and body repair shops.
 - (5) Hospitals, care homes, boardinghouses and lodginghouses.
 - (6) Research or philanthropic institutions.
 - (7) Outdoor theaters.
 - (8) Drive-in or carry-out restaurants.
 - (9) Commercial parks.
 - (10) Sales, rental and service agencies for mobile homes, farm equipment, trucks and trailers, and machine equipment.
 - (11) Light industrial plants ~~whose main processes involve assembly of prefabricated parts and~~ which will not create a nuisance by noise, vibration, smoke, odor or appearance.
 - (12) Off-street parking as a commercial or municipal use provided that such parking is limited to occupants of buildings located within 500 feet of such parking area whether or not within the same district. The planning board may impose conditions regarding fencing and screening, drainage, ingress and egress, signs and lighting, and total capacity of the parking area as it deems necessary to protect the character of the neighborhood.
 - (13) Trucking terminals and similar nonprocessing storage and distribution uses, except bulk storage of chemicals, petroleum products and other flammable, explosive or noxious materials.
 - (14) Convenience stores.
 - (15) Research, experimental and testing laboratories.
 - (16) Landscape services.
 - (17) Any new building of 5,000 square feet or more or any existing building which proposes a use permitted under subsection (a) of this section which will occupy an area of 5,000 square feet or more.
 - (18) Automotive towing and storage.
 - (19) Major retail development provided that it meets the conditions noted in section 60-45(g).
 - (20) Outpatient addiction treatment clinics.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 3.62B)

Sec. 60-500. - Dimensional regulations.

All structures in this district, except as noted, shall be subject to the following dimensional regulations:

- (1) *Minimum lot width and depth.* No building used for commercial or office uses shall be constructed on a lot having less than 10,000 square feet minimum lot area and measuring 100 feet in width. No lot shall be less than 100 feet in depth. Buildings used for residential uses shall have the same minimum lot area, width and depth as provided for buildings in the Multifamily Suburban District (MFS), section 60-307(1).
- (2) *Density.* Not more than 30 percent of the total lot area shall be covered by buildings used for commercial or office uses. The density of residential uses shall be the same as that required for buildings in the Multifamily Suburban District (MFS), section 60-30(2).
- (3) *Yard requirements.*
 - a. *Rear.* There shall be behind every building a rear yard having a minimum depth of 35 feet or 35 percent of the average depth of the lot, whichever is less.
 - b. *Side.* There shall be a distance of five feet between any side property line, plus the side yard setback shall be increased one foot for every two feet or part thereof increase in street frontage over 60 feet to a maximum of 25 feet for side yard setback.
 - c. *Front.* There shall be in front of every building a front yard having a minimum depth of 25 feet or 25 percent of the average depth of the lot, whichever is less. No front yard need to be any deeper than the average depth off front yards on the lots next thereto on either side. A vacant lot or a lot occupied by a building with a front yard more than 25 feet shall be considered as having a front yard of 25 feet.
 - d. *Principal buildings.* More than one principal building may be erected on a lot, provided that the building meet all yard setback requirements and are separated by a distance equivalent to the height of the higher building or 30 feet, whichever is greater.
 - e. *Railroad tracks.* Where the principal use requires access to a railroad, the yard requirements are disregarded for the side of the building adjacent to the railroad trackage. The engineering requisites for a safe and properly designed siding and building setback acceptable to the railroad shall take precedence.
 - f. *Open and unbuilt spaces.* Any yard, space or area required to be kept open and unbuilt on may be used, if otherwise lawful for outdoor storage and display of articles, supplies and materials. Such outdoor storage and display shall occupy no more than 20 percent of the lot with display areas not to exceed one-quarter of the total allowable area. Storage and display areas shall be clearly identified on the land in a fixed location. Storage areas shall be screened from the view of an abutting residential district or use and from the street by an evergreen tree line planted in staggered rows having the base of the trees not more than ten feet apart or by a solid fence not less than six feet in height.
- (4) *Height.* No permitted structure shall exceed four stories or 45 feet in height. Religious buildings, municipal buildings or buildings listed by the state historic preservations commis- sion may have a steeple, cupola or tower to a maximum height of 90 feet, if said structure is limited to 15 percent of the footprint of the principal building. In the airport approach zone, Federal Aviation Administration regulations shall apply. Accessory structures, including windmills, that are necessary for the operation of an allowed principal use may exceed the above maximum height requirements, provided that the front yard, rear yard and each of the side yards shall be increased by one foot for each foot in height in excess of the yard required pursuant to this section. In the airport approach zone, Federal Aviation Administration regulations shall apply.
- (5) *Off-street parking.* Off-street parking and loading spaces shall be provided in accordance with the requirements for specific uses as set forth in articles V through XI of this chapter.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 3.62C; Ord. of 3-22-2010)

Secs. 60-501—60-523. - Reserved.

DIVISION 13. - MINOT AVENUE (GBII)

Sec. 60-524. - Purpose.

This district is intended to allow commercial development to locate along the Minot Avenue corridor which is most compatible with local scale business. The corridor is also an arterial which requires that good sound access management design is incorporated into the uses consistent with the access management ordinance.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 3.63A)

Sec. 60-525. - Use regulation.

(a) *Permitted uses.* The following uses are permitted:

- (1) Residential dwelling uses permitted in the Multifamily Suburban District (MFS) (division 9 of article IV of this chapter).
- (2) Grocery stores and supermarkets.
- (3) Clothing stores.
- (4) Furniture stores.
- (5) Department stores.
- (6) Specialty shops.
- (7) Hotels and motels.
- (8) Funeral homes and mortuaries.
- (9) Child day care centers.
- (10) Medical and dental clinics.
- (11) Retail bakeries.
- (12) Retail laundries and dry cleaners.
- (13) Banks, business and professional offices.
- (14) Public transportation passenger offices.
- (15) Governmental offices.
- (16) Municipal, civic or public service buildings and other utility facilities.
- (17) Restaurants, dining rooms or lunchrooms.
- (18) Bowling alleys, ice and roller skating rinks, indoor theaters and similar places of indoor amusement or recreation.
- (19) Animal hospitals and pet shops, but not kennels.
- (20) Business equipment repair and business services.
- (21) Radio and television studios.
- (22) Printing shops, but not publishing plants.
- (23) Carwashes.

- (24) Accessory uses, buildings and structures.
 - (25) Greenhouses.
 - (26) Seasonal outdoor places of amusement.
 - (27) Churches and temples.
 - (28) Shelters for abused persons.
- (b) *Special exception uses.* The following uses are permitted as special exceptions after approval by the planning board in accordance with division 3 of article XVI of this chapter:
- (1) Commercial parks.
 - (2) Automobile repair and service stations.
 - (3) Hospitals, care homes, boardinghouses and lodginghouses.
 - (4) Research or philanthropic institutions.
 - (5) Outdoor theaters.
 - (6) Drive-in or carry-out restaurants.
 - (7) Sales, rental and service agencies for farm equipment, trucks and trailers, and construction equipment.
 - (8) Light industrial plants ~~whose main processes involve assembly of prefabricated parts and which support a retail store selling goods made on the premises and~~ will not create a nuisance by noise, vibration, smoke, odor or appearance.
 - (9) Convenience stores.
 - (10) Research, experimental and testing laboratories.
 - (11) Landscape services and lawn maintenance services.
 - (12) Halls, private clubs and lodges.
 - (13) Outpatient addiction treatment clinics.
 - (14) Any new building of 5,000 square feet or more or any existing building which proposes a use permitted under section 60-499(a) which will occupy an area of 5,000 square feet or more.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 3.63B)

Sec. 60-526. - Dimensional regulations.

All structures in this district, except as noted, shall be subject to the following dimensional regulations:

- (1) *Minimum lot width and depth.* No building used for commercial office uses shall be constructed on a lot having less than 10,000 square feet minimum lot area and measuring 100 feet in width. No lot shall be less than 100 feet in depth. Buildings used for residential uses shall have the same minimum lot area, width and depth as provided for buildings in the Multifamily Suburban (MFS) District, section 60-307(1).
- (2) *Density.* Not more than 30 percent of the total lot area shall be covered by buildings used for commercial or office uses. The density of residential uses shall be the same as that required for buildings in the Multifamily Suburban (MFS) District, section 60-307(2).
- (3) *Yard requirements.*
 - a. *Rear.* There shall be behind every building a rear yard having a minimum depth of 35 feet or 35 percent of the average depth of the lot, whichever is less.

- b. *Side.* There shall be a distance of five feet between any building and the side property line, plus the side yard setback shall be increased one foot for every two feet or part thereof increase in street frontage over 60 feet to a maximum of 25 feet for side yard setback.
 - c. *Front.* There shall be in front of every building a front yard having a minimum depth of 25 feet or 25 percent of the average depth of the lot, whichever is less.
 - d. *Principal buildings.* More than one principal building may be erected on a lot, provided that the building meet all yard setback requirements and are separated by a distance equivalent to the height of the higher building or 30 feet, whichever is greater.
 - e. *Outdoor storage.* Any yard, space or area required to be kept open and unbuilt on may be used, if otherwise lawful for outdoor storage and display of articles, supplies and materials, Such outdoor storage and display shall occupy no more than 20 percent of the lot with display areas not to exceed one-quarter of the total allowable area. Storage and display areas shall be clearly identified on the land in a fixed location. Storage areas shall be screened from the view of an abutting residential district or use and from the street by an evergreen tree line planted in staggered rows having the base of the trees not more than ten feet apart or by a solid fence not less than six feet in height.
- (4) *Height.* No permitted structure shall exceed four stories or 45 feet in height, except in the airport approach zone where Federal Aviation Administration regulations shall apply.
 - (5) *Off-street parking.* Off-street parking and loading spaces shall be provided in accordance with the requirements for specific uses as set forth in articles V through XI of this chapter.

(Ord. of 9-21-2009, § 3.63C)

Secs. 60-527—60-545. - Reserved.