

Parking Space Issue In Heated Zoning Hearing

Over 100 people—in a standing room only crowd—packed the Guilderland Town Board meeting last night in an effort to register their opposition to proposed rezoning of several pieces of property on Western Avenue in Mc-Knownville from residential to business.

Town ordinance maintains that in order for a professional office to be located in a residential area, the professional person must live in the same building in which the practice is located.

Dr. J.A. Rissacher, Dr. Anthony Mastriani and Dr. George Harff were informed by the town that they were in violation of the zoning for that area as they did not live in the same building where they practiced their profession.

LAST NIGHT, the town held public hearings on the physicians request to rezone the property from residential to business which would allow them to maintain their offices on Western Avenue.

Residents were nearly all in accord in their complaint of the traffic problem generated by the cars of the doctor's patients.

Two petitions—one of 220 signatures protesting the rezoning of Dr. Rissacher's property and that of Dr. Harff and Dr. Mastriani and a second petition of 267 signatures protesting the rezoning of 1257 and 1245 Western Avenue owned by Armand Quadrini—were submitted to the board.

The petitions indicated that traffic was one of the main reasons why the local residents protested the proposed rezoning.

In a petition submitted by John Purdy, president of the Mc-Knownville Improvement Association, residents asked that the property not be rezoned and that the doctors be made to comply with the zoning.

After a brief break in the proceedings, councilman Sal-

vatore Amato, the councilman who lives closest to the area in dispute, said he believed that to deny the request for rezoning would be immoral.

"That would leave no choice for the doctors but to move out," he noted. "If the doctors stayed, how would you like it if you called up and said you had a sick baby, and the doctor said he couldn't take you because he didn't have a parking space for you?"

DR. MASTRIANI presented a plan, surveyed by Donald Seele, which would provide more parking for his patients. The doctor, a pediatrician who practices with two other physicians, said he has made other arrangements for parking for his staff in order to help alleviate the on-street parking now done by his patients.

Dr. Mastriani admitted that he had caused some problems to the community because of the parking problem, but added that he was a great service to the town.

"I think in all honesty that I have served the community well," said the pediatrician who has been in the present location for 19 years. "I'm the cream of the crop and you people know it. All of the doctors out here are the cream of the crop and you people should realize it."

After nearly three hours of debate, Carl J. Walters, town supervisor, asked for show of hands on how many people would be in favor of establishing a special use permit for the doctors to practice on Western Avenue if suitable parking spaces could be made. The crowd agreed to this suggestion.

THE TOWN BOARD referred decision on the doctors properties and two parcels on Western Avenue owned by Armand Quadrini at 1245 Western Avenue and 1257 Western Avenue pending recommendation from the Planning Board.