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Worcester council want more time to collect information on gambling

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WORCESTER - City councilors have rescheduled a second meeting on a proposed slots parlor off Kelley Square.

A joint meeting of the city council's Economic Development and Public Safety committees will be held at 7 p.m. April 24 at City Hall. It had been scheduled for April 17.

A meeting of the two committees Monday drew an audience of more than 100 that featured two hours of overwhelming opposition to the \$240 million proposal.

District 5 Councilor William J. Eddy, chairman of the Public Safety Committee, said the administration asked for more time to gather requested information.

The committee wanted reports from department heads on other communities' experiences with gambling facilities. Mr. Eddy said.

"The simple explanation for pushing back seven days is that the reports are not ready and the administration asked for another week," Mr. Eddy said.

The full council has scheduled an April 23 vote on authorizing City Manager Michael V. O'Brien to negotiate a host agreement with the slots parlor developer. Ten of the 11 city councilors are in support of the motion. Mayor Joseph M. Petty, one of the 10, said authorizing the negotiation does not necessarily mean councilors endorse the slots proposal.

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