



Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: May 1, 2017
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Wang School
365 West Meadow Road, Lowell, Ma.

Flood Issues SC/Neighborhoods SC May 1, 2017.

Discussion: Pawtucketville neighborhood issues; protocol for flood warnings in the Clay Pit Brook and Rosemont neighborhoods; extending Clay Pit Brook culvert; construction of dike on west bank of Beaver Brook.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were from Flood Issues SC Chairman Mercier, C. Rourke and C. Elliott. From Neighborhoods SC were Chairman Rourke, C. Leahy and C. Samaras. Also present were Michael Demaras (City Services); C. Milinazzo; Mark Young (Water/Sewer); John Gleason (Engineer); Kelly Richardson (LPD); Chief Jeff Winward (LFD); George Rose (LFD); C. Leary; Christine McCall (DPD); Sara Brown (DPD); Diane Tradd (DPD) and Patti Lucken (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Mercier called the meeting to order upon completion of the Pawtucketville Citizens Council meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Mercier commented on the agreement with Enel outlining the protocols and procedures followed and also the resources used to obtain information. C. Mercier noted that the LFD monitors the level of the river. C. Rourke outlined items if the meeting and order they would be addressed. Chief Winward noted the responsibility of Enel in the process and that there should be a notice when the level reaches fifty feet. Chief Winward commented on the how the information is forwarded to the community by all media outlets and noted that Enel sends out email notification as well. Mr. Rose commented that the notification system does not replace common sense in these situations and that personnel are performing many tasks even



before that fifty foot level is achieved. Mr. Rose identified various charts and resources used to track information. C. Elliott commented on those that are involved in social media activity. Mr. Rose outlined other means of communication with officials. Mr. Rose noted the importance of historical data when tracking flood waters. Mr. Rose outlined shelter and transportation assistance before flood crisis occurs. C. Samaras questioned Enel procedures before fifty foot level is reached. Chief Winward noted data is gathered from the same sources by all parties. Chief Winward noted that there is a protocol for a minor flood situation and another one for major flood situation, which would open the Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Rose commented on use of portable dams and the training session on their use. C. Leahy questioned the ability to lower the fifty foot threshold. C. Rourke noted that there may be some room for negotiation in that area. **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Rourke to have City Manager re-negotiate with Enel regarding lowering the fifty foot threshold in which bladder dam would be operated. Adopted per Roll Call vote of Flood Issues SC, 3 yeas. So voted. There was general discussion regarding culvert at Clay Pit Brook as well as the cooperation thus far by Enel. C. Samaras commented on legal requirements of the parties.

C. Mercier introduced topic regarding sale of land on Varnum Avenue by the City. Ms. Tradd noted the property was taken by City under tax title and that a portion of the site is contaminated. Ms. Tradd noted that the City is exempt from clean-up as long as they make the site available to public and that was reasoning for RFP on site. Ms. Tradd outlined the various site challenges associated with parcel. C. Elliott noted that site must be cleaned if transferred. Ms. Brown discussed the exemption enjoyed by the City as well as the parcel itself. Ms. Lucken commented on the RFP and the asset as well. Ms. McCall commented on flood plain and wetlands associated with the site.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Mercier. So Voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk