



Lowell City Council

Rules SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: July 10, 2018
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

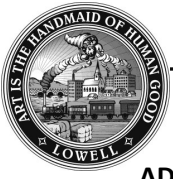
Present on Roll Call were Chairman Elliott, C. Conway and C. Mercier. Also present were C. Leahy, C. Cirillo, M. Samaras and Atty. O'Connor (City Solicitor).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in the Council Chamber. Chairman Elliott read the public notice that had been posted.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Elliott noted prior protest at a subcommittee meeting which prompted the need for a protest area to allow individuals their first amendment rights. Atty. O'Connor noted there were two areas to study one is decorum in the chamber the second would be establishing a protest zone. Atty. O'Connor noted the need to update some rules to allow chance to speak and improve decorum in the Chamber and that a free speech zone could be recognized outside of the building as is done in other communities. C. Mercier questioned location of the area and said it was customary to be outside of the building and that should be formalized by a rule. C. Conway noted existing language and the need to update same for enhanced decorum detail. C. Conway noted it was not a bar to speaking openly. C. Mercier raised the issue of how many times a Councilor may speak on a matter. C. Elliott suggested amending rule to include proposed language of the administration. C. Elliott noted that all should be allowed on public grounds if there are no interruptions. **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Mercier to amend Rule 26 of the Council Rules to include proposed language as it addresses decorum in the Chamber. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas. So voted. C. Elliott noted language regarding a protest area needs more review. Atty. O'Connor noted the importance of having a designated area for the protesters and other. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Conway to refer language regarding protest area back to Law Department for further review. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 3 yeas. So voted. C. Mercier prefers area language as opposed to zones. C. Mercier noted rights stop when one violates others' rights.



ADJOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Conway, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
