



Lowell City Council

Technology & Utilities SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: October 13, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/Zoom
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Nuon, C. Drinkwater and C. Samaras. Also present were C. Mercier, C. Elliott, C. Rourke, City Solicitor O'Connor, Christine Clancy (DPW) and M. Leahy.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Nuon called the meeting to order noting the attendance and the need to update our ability to access the internet in the City.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Solicitor O'Connor commented on the SIFI negotiations and that they would be reviewing a test run of their system in Salem, Ma. Solicitor O'Connor noted that they are doing due diligence on the matter and that this would be in the making for many years until completion. Ms. Clancy commented on the effect on the infrastructure in the City per installation and that there are many issues to work out in that regard. C. Drinkwater questioned the costs regarding pilot programs with this company. Ms. Clancy did not know the details regarding pricing the pilot program. Solicitor O'Connor noted that if City is going to be paying on the matter they must be certain of the value in return. C. Nuon noted that the more options to look at the more beneficial to the City. C. Samaras noted competition is good. Ms. Clancy noted that there are no other vendors concerning micro trenching in the City. C. Samaras commented on the effects of micro trenching on the infrastructure. Solicitor O'Connor noted that a long term contract may diminish competition in the field. C. Rourke noted the proposal makes no sense and that it should be ended at this point. C. Nuon noted there should be a cautious approach.

C. Nuon opened matter up to public. Greg Franks (Comcast) informed body of the discounts on service during this period for use of the internet and how the City would benefit from that. Mr. Franks outlined the program which included costs and waiver of 90 look back periods. C. Nuon questioned the waiver of look back period. C. Rourke noted that school administration should



have had this program on their desks at this point and in place and commented on his disappointment on the failure to have that done. Mr. Franks noted he has had discussions with the schools. C. Samaras questioned eligibility requirements and Mr. Franks noted it was based of free lunch programs in the schools. M. Leahy noted that grants are paying for hot spots at this point and that the Superintendent of Schools has been involved. C. Nuon noted that teachers would also need assistance in this area as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Drinkwater. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk