



Lowell City Council

Neighborhoods SC April 27, 2021 Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: April 27, 2021
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber / Zoom

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Rourke, C. Mercier and C. Nuon. Others present were Eric Slagle (Inspectional Services), C. Elliott, C. Drinkwater, C. Conway and C. Chau.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Rourke called the meeting to order noting attendance and posting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Rourke commented on the report entitled "Zoning for more Housing in Lowell" noting motions were filed regarding report. Mr. Slagle commented on how report was developed and was to be used for information only and not as recommendations. Mr. Slagle outlined various changes in the report which could increase housing in City; noting changed in dimensional requirements, Table of Uses and new ordinances. The meeting was open to public and the following individuals addressed the body: Jon Geer; Pat Vondal; Deb Forgione; John Hamblett; Brian Meade; Stacey Thompson; Deb Belanger; Eric Gitschier; Marty Hogan; and Cathy Mercado. C. Mercier questioned how the report was formulated and who authored same. Mr. Slagle noted the author and further commented that DPD assisted as well. C. Mercier noted she did not support most of the report but commented that some sections may be helpful. C. Mercier noted battle against homelessness and indicated that parking in the City will hamper some aspects of housing development. C. Mercier noted you must look at whole picture and improve character of the neighborhoods. C. Nuon noted the need to increase housing that is affordable and that neighborhoods should be involved in those discussions. C. Nuon noted conversation must be open and continuous. C. Mercier noted plans for citizens to afford homes and increase opportunity. C. Elliott commented on thoughts of speakers and noted the report was lengthy and further noted that recent resolution indicated need to make homes affordable in the City. C. Elliott noted the goal should be towards ownership and not renting and that any plan needs to include a parking scheme as well as associated costs. C. Elliott noted rezoning of



entire City is not the solution but it needs to be done in a responsible manner. C. Rourke noted ownership is the goal and that the report contained some plus and minus towards that goal.

ADOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
