



Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 27, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 9 present.

M. Samaras presiding.

Motion to suspend meeting until interviews with City Manager finalists are completed by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Cirillo. So voted (6:31 PM).

Roll Call upon return to regular meeting showed 9 present. (7:15 PM)

C. Mercier requested moment of silence in darkened Chamber for Stephen M. Zaharoolis.

C. Conway requested moment of silence in darkened Chamber for Noreen Finn Conlon.

C. Kennedy requested moment of silence in darkened Chamber for Helen Mangan Brooks and William "Billy" Gilmore. C. Mercier commented on Mrs. Brooks.

2. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2.1. Communication – Selection of City Manager.

In City Council, **Motion** by C. Milinazzo, seconded by C. Elliott to select City Manager. Roll Call indicated that Eileen Donoghue was selected next City Manager for Lowell on unanimous first ballot. So voted. **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Kennedy to request Mayor and City Solicitor begin negotiations with Ms. Donoghue regarding position. So voted.

2.2. Citation - Friends of Council on Aging.

In City Council, M. Samaras presented Citations to each member of the Council of Aging; including C. Mercier. The following were issued citations: Dr. Joe Downes;



Jacky Denison; Arthur Toupin; Claire Brodeur; Joe Dussault; Lenny Gendron; Doris Santos; Ray Roades; and Michelle Ramalho.

3. CITY CLERK

3.1. Minutes Of Arts and Culture SC March 20th; City Council Meeting March 20th, For Acceptance.

In City Council, minutes read, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Milinazzo. So voted.

3.2. Vote-Approve Temporary Appointment of Angela Gitschier as Acting City Clerk and establish temporary salary.

In City Council, Read twice, full reading waived with no objections, **Motion** to adopt by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Kennedy. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

3.3. Vote-Approve Temporary Appointment of Michael Q. Geary as Acting City Manager and establish salary.

In City Council, Read twice, full reading waived with no objections, **Motion** to adopt by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Conway. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

4.1. Motion Responses.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

Motion Responses:

A) Acre Improvements – C. Cirillo requested information regarding response. Nicholas Bosonetto (City Eng.) commented on the various improvements in the Acre. C. Nuon noted that Mr. Bosonetto was leaving the employ of the City of Lowell. M. Samaras presented a citation to Mr. Bosonetto.

B) Branch Middlesex Business – C. Nuon commented on the start and time line.

C) Duren Ave and Surrey Lane – C. Leahy noted the streets needed attention.

D) Hiring Process Breakdown – C. Noun noted the need to attract all qualified individuals to the positions. **Motion** by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Cirillo to refer matter



to Personnel SC design recruitment program. So voted. C. Cirillo noted the hiring process needs diversity.

E) Edge Dormitory Project – C. Nuon questioned the domestic category statistic. Supt. Taylor (LPD) noted it was a comprehensive category which touched many aspects.

F) Update - Greening Communities Program Revised – None.

G) Safety First – C. Conway questioned if Superintendent of Police had met with Superintendent of Schools. Manager Murphy noted that had not and he would update report after the meeting. C. Conway questioned safety parameters and increasing the age for juveniles. Supt. Taylor commented on juvenile system. C. Conway commented on group home issues. Supt. Taylor noted locations that are problem areas for the police. C. Kennedy commented on the group homes and their relationship with the State. Manager Murphy commented on prior meetings to resolve issues. M. Samaras noted prior safety councils dealt with gang issues and problem students. Supt. Taylor commented on police interaction with the schools.

4.2. Informational

Informational

H) Community Development Week Letter and Flyer – None.

I) Street Paving List – C. Mercier requested Phoenix Avenue be added to list. C. Leahy questioned if some businesses could be involved with street improvements. Manager Murphy noted that City is responsible for public ways.

J) Preliminary FY19 Budget – Manager Murphy presented preliminary budget as a blueprint of balanced budget and that successor management may change as seen fit. **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Nuon to refer to Finance SC. So voted.

4.3. Communication-Accept resignation Craig Kelly from Board of Health.

In City Council, **Motion** “To accept and place on file” by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Cirillo. So voted.

4.4. Communication-Appoint Lisa Golden to Board of Health.

In City Council, read, **Motion** to adopt by C. Milinazzo, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted. Ms. Golden was present and thanked Council.



4.5. Communication-Appoint Dr. Anne Mulhern to Pollard Memorial Library Board of Trustees.

In City Council, read, **Motion** to adopt by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted. Dr. Mulhern was present and thanked Council.

4.6. Communication - City Manager request Out of State Travel (1) DPW.

In City Council, read, **Motion** to adopt by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Cirillo. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

5. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

5.1. Vote-Apply.Accept.Expend 25,000 for the Commonwealth Places Grant Program through MassDevelopment and Patronicity.

In City Council, Read twice, full reading waived with no objections, **Motion** to adopt by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Kennedy. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

5.2. Vote-Transfer 5,000 to fund professional services related to Parcel 17 in the HCID.

In City Council, Read twice, full reading waived with no objections, **Motion** to adopt by C. Conway, seconded by C. Elliott. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

5.3. Vote-Transfer 8,000 in funds to cover building inspector overtime.docx.

In City Council, Read twice, full reading waived with no objections, **Motion** to adopt by C. Conway, seconded by C. Nuon. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted.

6. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

6.1. Zoning SC March 27, 2018.

In City Council, C. Milinazzo provided report regarding attendance and drafting of ordinances to address cultivation and distribution sales of marijuana. C. Milinazzo noted meeting next week to continue the discussion. **Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Cirillo. So voted.



7. PETITIONS

7.1. Claims - (3) Property Damage.

In Council, **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

7.2. Misc. - Evelia Ramirez request installation of handicap parking sign at 482 Moody Street.

In Council, **Motion** to refer to Traffic Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Nuon, seconded by C. Mercier. So voted.

7.3. Misc. - Morlai Tusay request permission to address City Council regarding filed property damage claim.

In City Council, **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Leahy to be returned next week. So voted. Mr. Tusay was present and addressed the Council. C. Kennedy requested quick response. C. Mercier noted that there are rules and regulations that must be followed.

8. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

8.1. C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. place Phoenix Avenue on the re-paving list.

In City Council, seconded by C. Leahy, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Mercier noted matter was addressed earlier.

8.2. C. Cirillo - Req. City Mgr. have proper department include line item in City budget to supplement yearly allocation from Massachusetts Cultural Council to include an allocation for the Lowell Cultural Council.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. Adopted per Roll Call vote 9 yeas. So voted. Registered speakers Maxine Farcas and Jonathon Stevens addressed the Council. C. Cirillo noted matter had been taken up by Arts and Culture SC. C. Leahy noted matter to be sent to Manager for a response.

8.3. C. Cirillo - Req. City Mgr. provide a report regarding costs of adding three to four electric charging stations in the center of downtown.

In City Council, seconded by C. Kennedy, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Cirillo noted electric cars are becoming more prevalent and locations of stations are critical.



C. Conway questioned the number present in the City. Manager Murphy outlined various locations. Registered speaker, Madison Piccirilli, addressed the body.

8.4. C. Cirillo - Req. City Mgr. provide a report regarding how many and what type of City vehicles are up for renewal or replacement and the costs of transferring those and other City vehicles in the future from gas to electric, which would produce an all-electric fleet for City of Lowell.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Cirillo noted motion was self-explanatory. C. Conway questioned if use is proper for safety equipment and costs may be high. Registered speaker, Madison Piccirilli, addressed the body.

8.5. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. provide a report regarding equal opportunity employment in the City.

In City Council, seconded by C. Kennedy, referred to City Manager. So voted. Registered speaker, Bobby Tugbiyele, addressed the Council. C. Nuon noted there must be an improved effort with diversity. C. Nuon requested it be referred to Personnel SC to explore better ways to attract diverse applicants. Manager Murphy commented on report.

8.6. C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. review pedestrian safety along Branch Street business corridor; indicating if signage will improve safety in the area.

In City Council, seconded by C. Kennedy, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Nuon noted motion was self-explanatory.

8.7. C. Kennedy - Req. City Mgr. provide a report to the City Council regarding MassDOT proposed changes to traffic pattern at Oakland/Eastham Square.

In City Council, seconded by C. Cirillo, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Kennedy commented on proposed changes and noted Representative Nangle was following issue as well. Manager Murphy noted item should be tracked with Mr. Nangle. C. Leahy noted speeds have reduced.

8.8. C. Kennedy - Req. City Mgr. instruct downtown coordinator to develop a practical policy for decorating the display windows in vacant store front units in the Central Business District.



In City Council, seconded by C. Nuon, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Kennedy noted vacancies cause issues downtown and commented on other communities approach to the issue.

8.9. C. Milinazzo - Req. City Mgr. and members of the Owner's Project Management Team meet with representatives of Local Unions to prepare a Project Labor Agreement for the construction of the new Lowell High School.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Milinazzo noted it was a large project and discussions should begin to stay ahead of the curve and nail down costs. C. Kennedy noted labor reps need to be involved. C. Elliott noted communications with different groups and the work of the committees formed.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, each Councilor recognized Manager Murphy and his commitment to the City as its Manager, highlighting his career and accomplishments. Manager Murphy provided farewell comments at his last meeting thanking personnel and family for their support and their efforts in improving Lowell.

10. ADJOURNMENT

In City Council, **Motion** to Adjourn by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Michael Geary, City Clerk