



# Lowell City Council

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

## *Municipal Facilities SC Joint with School Facilities SC Minutes*

**Date:** April 12, 2022  
**Time:** 5:00 PM  
**Location:** 375 Merrimack Street, Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA/Zoom  
Hybrid

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Leahy; C. Gitschier; C. Robinson; SC Doherty; SC Lay; and SC DelRossi. Also present were C. Nuon, C. Scott, C. Yem, Christine Clancy (DPW), Conor Baldwin (CFO) and Eric Slagle (Insp. Services)

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

C. Leahy called the meeting to order noting purpose of the meeting which included discussion of centralized office and the use of the St. Louis School property.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Rick Underwood (Schools) provided report regarding ESSER funding for facilities' expenditures. Mr. Underwood provided lists in each district of items that have been completed and that need to be completed. C. Leahy noted that many projects were in process. C. Leahy questioned status of trailers at Cawley Stadium. Mr. Underwood noted there were bids for proposals being formulated but the plan is still in place to have the trailers on site. C. Leahy pressed for costs of trailer project and was surprised at the estimate of over one million dollars provided by Mr. Underwood. Mr. Underwood noted that they had missed an opportunity to obtain trailers at a lower rate. C. Leahy introduced item regarding STEM Academy. Mr. Underwood noted there is a significant lack of space that needs to be addressed and it is a sizable project with sizable costs in the range of five and a half million dollars. C. Robinson questioned the ESSER funding in different districts and what formula was used to appropriate these funds. C. Robinson noted it should have been a function by the City and not the schools in which there appears to be a wish lists by the schools. C. Leahy noted the costly expenditure on bottled water in the schools did not make sense. SC Doherty noted the requirement for water in the schools and was the least expensive option. C. Robinson commented on window replacement in the schools. C. Doherty noted windows need to open for proper ventilation. C. Robinson wanted to ensure that all space options in schools were



explored before STEM Academy renovations. SC Doherty noted modules are the best way to accommodate overcrowding. C. Robinson noted it was a lot of money for modules. SC Doherty stated the City is responsible to house students. C. Gitschier noted that these items could be better addressed through a centralized department approach. C. Gitschier noted that HVAC work could not be professionally done with the amount appropriated. C. Gitschier questioned use of school employee working on City property as the City is responsible for a lot of these items. C. Gitschier noted schools and public safety are big part of any City success. Mr. Underwood noted City is responsible for schools and that they are responsible to cleaning the grounds. C. Gitschier commented that there is a need for trained employees and hiring the best people to get the job done. SC DelRossi noted there is a need to be proactive at this point and work together. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. DelRossi to retain consultant provide costs, pros and cons in establishing a centralized facilities department between the City and the schools. Adopted per Roll Call vote 6 yeas. So voted. SC Doherty noted the need for immediate HVAC attention. C. Leahy noted issue should be brought before new City Manager quickly. SC Lay noted discussions are important to begin process. C. Gitschier noted the importance of on-call contractors and there must be sufficient funds to cover them. Mr. Underwood noted there are a number of good ideas in the Collins Report but they is less in funding. Christine Clancy (DPW) noted the Collins Report recommended on-call contracting. C. Robinson questioned the use of ARPA funding to cover costs. Conor Baldwin (CFO) stated that would need to proceed with caution regarding that request. Mr. Baldwin noted that there is one million dollars currently funded in the Municipal Facility Stabilization Fund that could be appropriated for this purpose. Following were part of public participation: Paul Georges and Keith Rudy. SC Doherty noted there needs to be additional meetings. **Motion** by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson to request use of \$500,000 in the maintenance fund to procure on-call services needed for HVAC systems in the schools. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 6 yeas. So voted. **Motion** by SC DelRossi, seconded by C. Gitschier to meet again on May 17, 2022 to continue discussion and addressing priority issues. Adopted per Roll Call vote 6 yeas. So voted.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to adjourn by C. Robinson, seconded by SC. DelRossi. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk (Per notes of Asst. Clerk Gitschier)

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