



Lowell City Council

Election Laws/ Redistricting SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: June 2, 2021
Time: 4:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Rourke, C. Elliott and C. Chau. Also present was C. Conway, C. Drinkwater, M. Leahy and Atty. Elliott Veloso (Election Director).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Rourke called the meeting to order noting the motion filed by M. Leahy to inform public regarding election changes.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

M. Leahy noted the importance for information so that citizens can understand new process. Atty. Veloso provide presentation entitled "Lowell Municipal Elections 2021 Nomination Process" dated June 2021. Atty. Veloso provided summary of the 2021 municipal elections noting it was a hybrid set up which included district and at large voting processes. Atty. Veloso commented on the process for candidates to become eligible to run for an elected position which included coming to the Elections Office to log in intent through nomination papers which must include the exact position one is seeking. Atty. Veloso noted the qualifications for candidates include must be 18 or older; registered voter in the City; City resident; and must live in the district one year prior to election. Atty. Veloso noted each candidate will be provided a packet which include nomination papers; frequently asked questions pamphlet; educational guide; and updated voter lists. C. Rourke questioned review process for one year living in district requirement. Atty. Veloso outlined procedures to verify that information. M. Leahy questioned if candidate could pull sets of papers for different positions. Atty. Veloso noted that would not be possible under established rules. Atty. Veloso noted that August 3, 2021 at 5PM is last day to file paperwork and that there is a 150 signature requirement. C. Mercier commented on signature verification. Atty. Veloso noted candidates would be best served to gather additional signatures as some may be subject to rejection. Atty. Elliott noted that each



candidate will be provided a guide to financial reporting requirements provided by the State. Atty. Veloso noted that there would be adjusted polling locations and voter lists to reflect new district setup and that information will be provided to voters. C. Elliott noted information was important and that voters should continue receiving information regarding changes being made. Atty. Veloso outlined plan for continued outreach to community. C. Elliott noted that there would be only one polling location in each district. M. Leahy questioned process for preliminary elections. Atty. Veloso noted requirement of double number of candidates for position plus one remains intact. C. Rourke commented on scenario for school committee possible preliminary. C. Chau noted structure of ballot. Atty. Veloso noted ballot would be in several languages and a sample will be provided. C. Rourke provided contact information for the elections department.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
