



# Lowell City Council

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

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

**Date:** July 28, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Location:** 375 Merrimack Street, Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA/Zoom Hybrid

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Drinkwater, C. Chau, C. Rourke, SC Doherty, SC Descoteaux and SC Dillon. Also present were Chief Charron(LFD), Conor Baldwin (CFO), Alison Chambers (Asst. CFO), Rick Underwood (Lowell Schools), Jim Hall (Schools – Zoom), C. Samaras and Christine Clancy (DPW).

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

C. Drinkwater called the meeting to order noting the motions referred to the body.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

C. Drinkwater introduced first agenda item regarding flooding at Lowell High School (LHS) and fire suppression equipment in City buildings. Ms. Clancy provided history of flood which occurred at the high school back in June noting the reasons, results and pictures of damage. Ms. Clancy noted that there were no custodians that late at night and that alarms did not get triggered. Ms. Clancy noted there is a list of priorities to be done before students return to school. Chief Charron commented on structural layout of the high school along with reason alarm was not triggered due to the location of the break in piping. Chief Charron noted entire system is being reviewed to ensure there is full compliance with regulations. C. Drinkwater questioned if facilities are regularly inspected. Ms. Clancy noted that there had been no prior inspections of this area prior to incident. C. Drinkwater noted location of alarm upgrade. SC Descoteaux commented on the need to have space in position to allow students back even if done piecemeal. C. Rourke noted work would be subject to bidding process which entails time constraints. C. Dillon noted that building is about two years away from full rehabilitation. C. Drinkwater requested construction schedule. Mr. Underwood commented on rehab outlook and construction project. SC Doherty noted it was important for sensors to be adjusted and construction be scheduled. Chief Charron noted the fire department was involved with rehabilitation project as well. C. Samaras noted the importance of sensors on City buildings and



there may be a need for late night personnel to cover facilities during off hours. Mr. Underwood noted that sensors would alleviate the need for added personnel. **Motion** by C. Drinkwater, seconded by SC Doherty to request Superintendent provide information regarding additional sensors in school buildings. So voted. Ms. Clancy stated that type of flooding would not trigger any alarms at the Water Department.

C. Drinkwater introduced second item on agenda regarding window, screen and shade repair and replacement in schools. Mr. Underwood outlined memorandum regarding need and costs for repair and replacement totaling \$347,645. SC Doherty noted the urgent need for this during summer months and covid relief. SC Doherty questioned status for HVAC units in the schools. Mr. Underwood commented on work being done and the need for further work especially repairing and attaching condensers to the systems. SC Dillon noted the need to bring all HVAC up to code and operational status. Ms. Clancy outlined the many upgrade projects being done on City buildings, most notably in the schools. C. Drinkwater questioned if federal government relief funds could assist with any costs associated with these projects. Mr. Baldwin reviewed how costs must be associated and referenced for reimbursement of money. SC Descoteaux noted HVAC needs at music room in the high school.

C. Drinkwater introduced last item of agenda regarding park safety with schools. SC Doherty noted there could be a case to upgrade these areas with federal money as being tied to the pandemic. Mr. Underwood noted improvements in the parks and that school custodians are assisting with that effort. C. Rourke noted use of cameras in park to protect equipment. Ms. Clancy referenced on incident caught on tape regarding damage to a slide.

C. Drinkwater provided closing remarks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to adjourn by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Descoteaux. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

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