



Lowell City Council

Neighborhoods SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: August 3, 2021
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: City Council Chamber / Zoom

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Rourke, C. Mercier and C. Nuon. Others present were Eric Slagle (Insp. Services); Dave Fuller (Building Insp.); C. Elliott; and Christine McCall (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Rourke commented on the concern with infestation in neighborhoods. Mr. Slagle commented on the issues which has been growing over the past couple of years noting it was City wide issue as well as a State wide issue. Mr. Slagle noted that they cannot pinpoint one violator but reason may be due to restaurant closing, increased residential trash and tardy trash collection during pandemic. C. Rourke opened meeting up to public and following addressed the body: John O'Beirne and Ms. Montbleau. Mr. Slagle informed public of resources available to assist with issues arising from the infestation. C. Mercier questioned if there was a water source creating the problem noting it was a health issue and animal control issue and that all departments should be focused on the matter. Mr. Slagle noted all departments are involved with the problem. C. Elliott noted that issue highlights need for more inspectors and more control over absent landlords as the problem is growing. C. Rourke noted the need to hit areas hard and the need to have contact information for owners so that they can be continually aware of the problem. C. Nuon noted issue throughout State and it would take a team effort to get it under control quickly. C. Mercier commented that UMass-Lowell should send notice to off campus students of the issue and what they can do to alleviate it. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon to request UMass-Lowell provide letter to off campus students to inform them of the infestation health crisis in the area and the steps they must take to assist in preventing further issues. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 3 yeas. So voted. C. Elliott noted this approach was helpful with curbing off campus student parties. C. Elliott noted that because of



health issues the department may get Covid funding for inspector. Mr. Fuller commented on current and past inspections and noted issues with absentee landlords and overgrown brush on the properties. C. Rourke provided closing remarks.

ADOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
