



# Lowell City Council

## *Economic/Downtown Dev. SC*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** August 3, 2021  
**Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Location:** City Council Chamber/Zoom

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Elliott, C. Drinkwater and C. Chau. Others present were Christine McCall (DPD); Maria Dickinson (DPD); and Tom Lamond (DPD).

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

Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order describing motions referred to body.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Ms. McCall provided presentation entitled “Rapid Recovery Plan (RRP).” Ms. McCall outlined the project background; what plan is; participation in plan; and planning for phase I, II, and III. Ms. McCall commented on diagnostic phase (Phase I) noting the study area including physical environment, market information, business environment and administrative capacity. C. Elliott commented on the physical and private realm elements of the study. Ms. McCall provided results of the business survey noting when it was conducted as well as the results from said survey. C. Elliott noted the need to improve facades in the area. Ms. McCall noted the need for the improvements and that there are currently programs in place to assist with that. C. Elliott commented on the damage absentee landlords are doing to the City. C. Chau questioned the amount participation in the survey noting it was lower than expected. Ms. McCall commented on outreach done and that there may have been some survey fatigue. Ms. McCall noted that business closures were limited during the pandemic and further commented that she was impressed with the amount of new businesses during this time. Ms. McCall provided information regarding Phase II of plan by outlining recommendations. Ms. McCall reviewed the top three priorities which included project themes for culture/art; safety/social services; business support; and connectivity. Ms. McCall noted each theme would be developed with the assistance of experts in that field. C. Elliott commented on pop-up businesses. Ms. McCall outlined that process and the need for them. Ms. McCall provide information on the final phase, Phase III, which reviewed the Plan moving forward. C. Chau questioned if study would go beyond downtown. Ms. McCall noted the need to stay within the limits of grant guidelines



but commented on ways they are extending beyond downtown. C. Drinkwater commented on the survey results and noted the importance of appearance of area being assisted with façade and storefront programs. Ms. McCall commented on existing programs for this infrastructure. C. Drinkwater commented on available borrowing to assist business owners. Ms. McCall outlined those funding options many of which must create jobs. Ms. McCall provided time frame moving forward. C. Elliott introduced concern of homeless downtown and the need to attend to needs of them and business owners. Ms. McCall recognized the difficulties and noted need to house individuals to remove them from street. Ms. McCall noted it is a small community but consistent. C. Elliott commented that there should be a public bathroom in the City. C. Chau recognized that need as well. C. Drinkwater noted that need should be addressed. **Motion** by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Chau to explore feasibility to place public bathroom downtown. So voted. C. Elliott provided closing remarks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Chau "To Adjourn". So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

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