



Lowell City Council

Zoning SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: August 25, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Zoom / Remote Participation

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Elliott and C. Chau. One absent (C. Nuon). Also present was Eric Slagle (Inspectional Services), Jared Alves (Inspectional Services), C. Mercier, C. Drinkwater, C. Rourke and Manager Donoghue.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Elliott called the meeting commenting on zoning issues.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Manager Donoghue outlined the motions that were brought before the subcommittee and the reasons behind that. C. Rourke commented on his motion and noted the need to gather information so a comprehensive plan can be brought forward. Mr. Slagle commented on the housing shortage and developing a comprehensive plan as well as prior meetings with the subcommittee. Mr. Slagle noted the national picture regarding housing and the approach to increase the number of units. Mr. Slagle noted on categories that would be addressed to increase housing stock; rezoning sections of the City, changes in dimensional zoning chart, changes in table of uses to better reflect the neighborhoods, converting large structures into multi-unit properties and creation of new housing ordinances. C. Elliott opened meeting up to public; Deb Forgione addressed the body. C. Rourke noted buying and renting in the City is expensive and goal should be to keep residents in the City. C. Elliott noted the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership is a valuable resource to address housing needs. Manager Donoghue noted this is a broad conversation and balances must be met between neighborhoods and housing needs. C. Elliott noted zoning in the City allows for many kinds of housing and that data from different sources including neighborhood groups is needed so that a comprehensive plan can be developed. C. Drinkwater noted supply and demand drives the housing market and that 300 units per year would need to be developed to keep up with the demand. Mr. Alves commented that must identify the housing need and address them. C. Chau noted there was a lot of criteria to review to develop a plan and that housing should be



affordable and high quality. C. Mercier noted that housing in the City must be affordable for all of its residents. C. Rourke noted housing is a State wide concern and plans must be developed. C. Elliott noted the size of the task and that many groups will need to be involved. Manager Donoghue noted that zoning issues require much information and education.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM

Michael Geary, City Clerk