



Lowell City Council

Economic/Downtown Dev. SC

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: October 25, 2022
Time: 5:45 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/Zoom (Hybrid)
City Hall – Lowell, Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Nuon, C. Jenness, C. Scott. Also present were C. Yem, Terry Ryan (Parking Director), Elizabeth Oltman (Transportation Engineer), Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD), C. Rourke, C. Gitschier and C. Mercier

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Nuon called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and purpose of meeting to discuss 15 minute parking proposal.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon noted prior study done regarding parking downtown. Mr. Ryan outlined the parking study noting it was done over one year ago. Mr. Ryan indicated the arrival of new kiosks in the City indicating the contracts will be executed this week. Mr. Ryan noted the kiosks have many settings to allow for different periods of time in different zones and that it will be all parking will paid by plate. Mr. Ryan indicated that this type of parking will assist businesses and that price changes will follow new technology. C. Scott questioned the programming of meters. Mr. Ryan noted it was done by zones and that first 15 minutes could be set to be free. Ms. Baez-Rose noted benefit of new kiosks and that goal is to move parking into garages to open spaces downtown for less intrusive parking. C. Jenness noted that City should be moving to payments by smart phones. Mr. Ryan noted new kiosks can be adjusted to receive those types of payments. C. Jenness questioned time of arrival for new kiosks. Mr. Ryan indicated that there will be dynamic pricing in place which allows more money when parked longer and that the residential parking program will need to be overhauled. C. Jenness was supportive of dynamic pricing as it would assist with movement to garages. C. Nuon noted garages afford longer stays and that there are plenty of spaces in downtown. C. Scott questioned if lower levels in garages could be set aside for shorter parking stays. Mr. Ryan indicated that dynamic pricing should get



that result. C. Jenness requested that some free time be allowed for garage parking as well. C. Mercier noted her philosophy with downtown parking is to assist the business owners there. C. Mercier questioned security in the garages. Mr. Ryan indicated Luz Parking is the vendor who handles that and they are always on site. C. Mercier questioned structural status of garages. Mr. Ryan noted bonding in place to upgrade garages structurally. C. Yem noted the elderly and non-English speaking people may need assistance with technology and also noted that many tickets are being written due to broken meters. Mr. Ryan noted kiosks are user-friendly and outlined process to rectify tickets. C. Rourke noted use of kiosks are becoming obsolete as they move towards apps. Mr. Ryan noted kiosks can adjust for apps and that City will begin pilot program for using apps. C. Scott questioned advertising ability on the kiosks. Ms. Baez-Rose noted advertising ability and plan. C. Jenness recognized recent upgrades to garages.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Scott. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
