



Lowell City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: February 28, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

1. ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed 9 present.

Mayor Kennedy presiding.

C. Leahy requested moment of silence in darkened chamber for Elinor A. (Leahy) O'Connor.

C. Belanger requested Item #5(A) be taken out of order. So voted with no objection.

C. Mercier requested Item #4.1(E) be taken out of order. So voted with no objection.

2. CITY CLERK

2.1. Minutes of Economic Development SC February 14th; City Council Meeting February 14th; Special Meeting - Committee of the Whole February 16th, for acceptance.

In City Council, minutes read, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

3. AUDITOR BUSINESS

3.1. FY16 AUDIT

In City Council, **Motion** to refer matter to Finance SC by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Leary. So voted.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

4.1. MOTION RESPONSES

In Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.



(A) Motion Response - Four Way Stop Trull Lane – None.

(B) Motion Response - 2017 Pavement Marking – C. Leahy noted his concern with dividing lines on the streets.

(C) Motion Response - Comcast Hanging Wires – C. Leahy noted different departments could compose lists of wires.

(D) Motion Response - Bridge Street Improvements – C. Samaras noted it was a busy street that will need improvements. C. Mercier noted the work done and that information should be forwarded to the Centralville neighborhood group so that they are aware of it. **Motion** by C. Leary, seconded by C. Samaras to refer matter to Economic Development SC. So voted.

(E) Motion Response - Smith Baker Center – Yun-Ju Choi, registered speaker, provided update to Council regarding the Center noting the work being done to raise funds and all of the events that will be taking place there once fully established. Ms. Choi requested City provided member to advisory board and that the Blue Ribbon Committee continue their work. C. Belanger noted the updates are important and that the City will assist in any fashion. **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Mercier that the Smith Baker Blue Ribbon Committee be reconvened. So voted.

(F) Motion Response - LHS Meeting Minutes – None.

4.2. INFORMATIONAL

(G) Informational - Net School Spending FY16-FY17- **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Belanger to refer matter to Finance SC. So voted.

(H) Informational - Refunding Bonds - Budgetary Savings - **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Belanger to refer matter to Finance SC. So voted.

(I) Informational - 2016 Audit Response - **Motion** by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Belanger to refer matter to Finance SC. So voted.

4.3. Communication-Reappoint Richard Lockhart and James Wilde-Historic Board.

In Council, **Motion** to adopt by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Leary. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 9 yeas. So voted.

4.4. Communication Designate Norman Giguere as Chairman of Veterans Commission.



In Council, **Motion** "To accept and place on file" by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Leary. So voted.

4.5. Communication - City Mgr. request Out of State Travel (1) LRWU; (1) LPD.

In Council, **Motion** to adopt by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 9 yeas. So voted.

5. VOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER

5.1. VOTES

(A) Vote-Approve 4 unranked options and Auth. Skanska USA Building, Inc. the OPM submit Preliminary Design materials to MSBA.

In City Council, Read twice, waived full reading without objection. **Motion** to adopt by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Leahy. Adopted per Roll Call Vote, 9 yeas. So voted. The following registered speakers addressed the Council: Chris Meehan; Geoffry Feldman; Lynn Dailey; Seng Chan; Derik Mitchell; TJ McKierman; Leo Creegan; Peter Martin; Matthew LeLacheur; Brian Meade; Marco Leonardo; Elmer Martinez; Karen Green; Jim Teague; Virak Uy; Maria Sheehy; Natalia Czerwonk; Brian Martin; Stephen Anstey; Ismael Rosado; Maureen Hovey; Elizabeth Donoghue; Joe Healy; Christine Hungate; Rebecca Starcevic; Russ Williams; Terri Dellingham; Susan Zacharer; Bridget Stein; Debbie Callery; Onotse Omoyeni; Francisco Melendez; Sreypov Vary; Tom King; Daniel Finn; and Armand Hebert. C. Elliott commented to send all four options to the MSBA even though each one has its obstacles. C. Elliott noted the need for transparency in the process and that all parties should act appropriately. C. Samaras noted the amount of thought each group is using on the issues and that there is a need to reach out to all communities. C. Mercier noted that the opinions are informed and the sides are respecting each other and further commented that it is the duty of the Council to make an informed decision in the best interests of all. C. Milinazzo noted that the MSBA should be impressed with the public participation and that a copy of video of the meeting should be sent to the agency. C. Leahy noted all options should be sent along and that the Article 97 issue is not fatal and that the process should now be providing hard numbers for each project. C. Leary noted that the community is united in the pursuit of a new school. C. Belanger noted the passion on both sides of the issue and the energy present.

(B) Vote-Auth Mgr Ex. License Agreement (overhanging sign) 17 Shattuck St.- Lupoli Companies LLC.

In City Council, Read twice, waived full reading without objection. **Motion** to adopt by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Milinazzo. Adopted per Roll Call Vote, 9 yeas. So voted.



(C) Vote-Transfer \$17,700.00 Police Equipment.

In City Council, Read twice, waived full reading without objection. **Motion** to adopt by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Leahy. Adopted per Roll Call Vote, 9 yeas. So voted.

(D) Vote-Transfer \$18,000 Kennel Services.

In City Council, Read twice, waived full reading without objection. **Motion** to adopt by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Samaras. Adopted per Roll Call Vote, 9 yeas. So voted.

6. ORDERS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

6.1. ORDERS

(A) Loan Order-Garage Design Bond (HCD)-\$1,200,000.

In City Council, Given 1st Reading, **Motion** to refer matter to Public Hearing on March 21, 2017 at 7 PM by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Leary. So voted.

(B) Loan Order-Rescind Excess Debt Authorizations (various).

In City Council, Read twice, waived full reading without objection. **Motion** to adopt by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call Vote, 9 yeas. So voted.

(C) Order-60 day trial (various).

In City Council, Read twice, waived full reading without objection. **Motion** to adopt by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Rourke. Adopted per Roll Call Vote, 9 yeas. So voted.

7. REPORTS (SUB/COMMITTEE, IF ANY)

7.1. Special Meeting - Committee of the Whole February 16, 2017.

In City Council, **Motion** by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Rourke to accept the report as a report of progress. So voted.

7.2. City Council Special Meeting February 27, 2017.

In City Council, **Motion** by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Rourke to accept the report as a report of progress. So voted.

7.3. Technology & Utilities SC February 28, 2017.



In City Council, **Motion** by C. Leary, seconded by C. Elliott to provide report at next meeting on March 7, 2017. So voted.

7.4. Wire Insp. - National Grid - Req. permission to install underground concrete PVC conduit at 11-15 Carter Street.

In City Council, **Motion** by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Milinazzo to accept and adopt the accompanying report. So voted.

7.5. Wire Insp. - National Grid/Verizon NE - Req. permission to install new riser pole at 15 Carter Street.

In City Council, **Motion** by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Rourke to accept and adopt the accompanying report. So voted.

8. PETITIONS

8.1. Claims - (3) property.

In Council, read and **Motion** to refer to Law Department for report and recommendation by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Rourke. So voted.

8.2. Misc. - Robert McCarthy request installation of handicap parking sign at 14 Dumerle Street.

In Council, read and **Motion** to refer, as amended, to Traffic Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Elliott. So voted. C. Mercier requested that it be amended to 60 day trial without objection. So voted.

8.3. Misc. - Daniel Daigle request installation of handicap parking sign at 40 Arlington Street.

In Council, read and **Motion** to refer, as amended, to Traffic Engineer for report and recommendation by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Elliott. So voted. C. Mercier requested that it be amended to 60 day trial without objection. So voted.

9. CITY COUNCIL - MOTIONS

9.1. C. Leahy - Req. City Mgr. provide report from DPW regarding waste barrels being left on curbsides in all neighborhoods during the week.

In City Council, seconded by C. Leary, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Leahy noted that there has been a lot of neighborhood discussion with the issue.



9.2. C. Leahy - Req. City Mgr. provide a report from Inspectional Services regarding clearing of snow from sidewalks; report to include amount of citations and fines as compared to last year.

In City Council, seconded by C. Leahy, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Leahy noted it was another neighborhood concern.

9.3. C. Leahy - Req. City Mgr. have Water Department review bills regarding high water costs.

In City Council, seconded by C. Leahy, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Leahy noted many calls regarding higher bills coming from the department.

9.4. C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. have proper department replace the missing plaque at the South Common swimming pool with a granite stone that was named the "Anthony L. Archinski Memorial Pool" in 1978, in his memory.

In City Council, seconded by C. Rourke, referred to City Manager. So voted. C. Mercier commented on the memorial and the need to replace monument and improve the area.

Motion by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Belanger to bundle and second remaining motions and refer them to City Manager. So voted.

9.5. C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. have proper department install a stop sign on Lewis Street at the corner of the Bridge.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. So voted.

9.6. C. Mercier - Req. City Mgr. increase City input to address the massive amount of illegal dumping in the City, especially in Centralville.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. So voted.

9.7. C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. have City Solicitor prepare language for a Home Rule Petition to require State to provide 100% of Charter School student tuition costs to cities and towns.

In City Council, seconded by C. Belanger, referred to City Manager. So voted.



9.8. C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. meet with Winn Development to reconsider developing parcels 8 and 9 residential and parcel 5 commercial.

In City Council, seconded by C. Belanger, referred to City Manager. So voted.

9.9. C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. evaluate potential cost savings from streamlining the Parks Department and the DPW.

In City Council, seconded by C. Belanger, referred to City Manager. So voted.

9.10. C. Belanger - Req. City Mgr. update City Council regarding status of lease agreement with the Lowell Spinners.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. So voted.

9.11. M. Kennedy - Req. City Mgr. have proper department review the parking restriction regulations or lack thereof in the vicinity of the intersection of Mt. Vernon Street and Varney Street.

In City Council, seconded by C. Elliott, referred to City Manager. So voted.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

In City Council, C. Mercier noted Luna Fest being held by UTEC.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Samaras. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk