Lowell City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: April 25, 2017  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Location: City Council Chamber  
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

Downtown Redevelopment SC April 25, 2017.

Discussion – Regarding Lowell House proposal to add residential component.

The Public is invited to attend.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Milinazzo, C. Leahy and C. Rourke. Also present were C. Samaras, Manager Murphy, C. Leary, C. Belanger, C. Mercier, C. Elliott, Kevin Coughlin (DPD) and Diane Tradd (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Milinazzo called the meeting to order in the Council Chamber. C. Milinazzo read the public notice and noted the motion of M. Kennedy to review item.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

William Garr (Lowell House, Inc.) commented that the project has been on table for a long period of time and it has garnered a lot of discussion in the community. Mr. Garr introduced his team at Lowell House. Mr. Garr commented on process and that the result would benefit all parties involved. Mr. Garr noted the opioid crisis spurs the need for such a facility and commented on the work that the Lowell House does in this area. Mr. Garr noted this type of facility lessens the likelihood of relapse which is a continuing problem with addiction. Mr. Garr noted there is a need for affordable sober living in Lowell. Yun-Ju Choi (Coalition for Better Acre) commented on the organization and how their projects benefit the City economically. Ms. Choi noted partnership with Lowell House to provide housing as support for addicted...
individuals. Mr. Garr commented on the physical presence of the building and that the day to
day operations would be moving to the Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC) offices on
Jackson Street. Mr. Garr noted that the building would be sold to CBA and that any monies
realized would be used to build out new facility at LCHC. Craig Thomas (CBA) commented on
the plan of the CBA for the building and how it would be financed through mostly tax credits
and other financial methods. Mr. Garr commented on the reasons building will be successful
including a commercial space to occupy the bottom level as well as strict governing rules. C.
Rourke questioned the procedure to entering a sober home. Representative of Lowell House
outlined the procedure and factors used to gain entry to program and further noted that they
are governed by many State and Federal regulations. C. Leahy commented on the upper
Merrimack Street area. Ms. Choi spoke on values being enhanced in the area once the building
is added to the tax roll. C. Milinazzo questioned the financing and the ability to create access
for veterans. Mr. Thomas outlined several financial scenarios and also noted CBA commitment
to veterans. Mr. Garr noted there should be a presence of veterans in the building. C. Samaras
commented on the major effort by all parties. C. Mercier noted her commitment to the
organization early on and that they are a great resource in the City.

C. Milinazzo opened matter up to public. C. Elliott questioned how much financial support from
the City would be needed for the project. Mr. Garr noted there was a $400,000 funding gap
that would need to be addressed. C. Elliott questioned the operating fund of the organization.
C. Elliott questioned CBA funding. Mr. Thomas laid out financial scheme to the body and noted
that there would be little City funding needed. C. Elliott questioned oversight of the sober
houses. C. Rourke questioned if City had any issues with project. Manager Murphy noted
support and that some parking issues would be addressed. C. Leahy recognized efforts of all
groups.

**Motion** to recommend to full City Council support of project as presented by C. Rourke,
seconded by C. Leahy. Adopted by Roll Call vote 3 yeas. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** “To Adjourn” by C. Rourke, seconded by C. Leahy. So voted. Meeting adjourned at
6:25 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk