



Lowell City Council

Economic/Downtown Dev. SC

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: January 26, 2021
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Zoom / Remote Participation / City Council Chamber
Lowell City Hall, Lowell, Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Elliott, C. Drinkwater and C. Chau. Also present C. Mercier, C. Nuon, Christine McCall (DPD), Craig Thomas (DPD) and C. Samaras.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in the Council Chamber.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Elliott commented on the need to assist small businesses during pandemic and in addition there must be plan moving forward to retain businesses and to assist them on their return. C. Chau noted the efforts of Ms. McCall and her staff in assistance to businesses. Ms. McCall provided following presentation entitled "Small Business Initiatives" which outlined following topics: Covid-19 Programs overview (emergency relief, marketing, restaurant, Streatery Program, #Shop Lowell, Golden Mask Program); Ongoing economic assistance (permits, location sites, new business during pandemic, retention/relocation of existing business); Moving forward (existing projects, grants, parking study, mural ordinance, loyalty program, rapid planning grant, one step growth program). C. Elliott noted the effort and the outreach to community with vital information. C. Drinkwater commented on the DPD efforts in developing relationships with each business and stated that City should focus on events to bring people to the area. Ms. McCall noted the loyalty program and the streatery program along with pop up retail are attractions for people. C. Elliott noted timing and scheduling are important to these endeavors. C. Chau commented on the team effort of the DPD and requested statistics regarding businesses during the pandemic. Ms. McCall noted there were some closing and restructuring of businesses during the pandemic and that department is developing data. C. Mercier noted the vital assistance of the DPD to businesses in the City regarding grants. C. Mercier questioned if a downtown coordinator would be beneficial to the department and interchange with local Chamber of Commerce is needed. C. Nuon noted need for foot traffic downtown. Ms. McCall noted possibility of different development downtown. C. Elliott noted



second round of grant applications are needed as they would assist businesses that are close to shuttering. C. Elliott noted that State regulations regarding restaurants are changing and latest should be available to owners. Ms. McCall reviewed latest regulations. C. Samaras noted that Council would provide whatever assistance the department would need to continue the service to business owners. Ms. McCall noted that grant money is being sought to fund a down town coordinator position.

C. Elliott opened meeting to public and Jack Moynihan addressed the body.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

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