



Lowell City Council

Public Safety SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 10, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Chau, C. Drinkwater and C. Rourke. Also present were C. Mercier, C. Conway, Supt. Richardson (LPD), M. Leahy, C. Elliott, Manager Donoghue, C. Samaras, Asst. City Solicitor Gary Gordon, Asst. City Solicitor Adam Lagasse and Lowell License Commission members (Martha Howe, John Descoteaux, Clifford Krieger, Terry McCarthy and Joseph Donahue).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Chau called the meeting to order at 5:30PM in the Council Chamber and introduced Supt. Richardson.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Supt. Richardson commented on the history of patrolling downtown and the incidents that may occur during certain times at night in that area. C. Elliott commented on motions that were filed and that issues have not been handled as best as they could have been and that aggressive action is needed as there is a concern for entire downtown. C. Elliott commented on the report provided to the Council and noted incidents were increasing. Supt. Richardson noted the report and commented on certain areas in the downtown and that establishments that do not comply with regulations should be reprimanded to the upmost and that a blanket solution would be less effective. C. Mercier noted that there are many complaints regarding downtown and that action should be taken against owners who are not compliant and not against those who have never had any issues concerning public safety. C. Rourke noted discussions are important to ensure establishments understand the consequences of bad management and that discipline against non-compliant owners would rectify many issues. Mr. Descoteaux outlined the policies and procedures of the License Commission and noted that many times their discipline is over turned at the appellate level. C. Chau questioned number of licenses in the City and what types of establishments have those licenses. C. Chau commented on last call



procedures of establishments and how they are regulated. C. Samaras commented on prior request for information concerning downtown law enforcement and noted that the establishments must work with the police department to ensure a safe environment in the downtown. C. Drinkwater noted the primary focus is public safety for all and that the focus should be on owners who do not follow regulations and that a blanket solution would not be beneficial nor effective. C. Chau commented on bar/restaurant distinction and that more information about the establishments may be necessary. C. Rourke questioned appeal process before the ABCC. Atty. Lagasse outlined that procedure and how decisions are rendered. C. Rourke commented on LPD involvement in different establishments. Supt. Richardson noted the programs being put forward including assistance with identification methods. Manager Donoghue noted that City Council only has authority to recommend and do not have authority to establish or change regulations which sit with the License Commission. Atty. Gordon outlined statute which regulates the industry. C. Nuon commented on the importance of public safety for residents, visitors and City employees. C. Mercier commented on the establishment who have most violations. Mr. Descoteaux noted that there is an ability to roll back hours without appeal. C. Chau opened meeting up to public with the following addressing the body: Richard Healy; Tom Fianelli; Jack Moynihan; and Carolyn Helpen. C. Elliott noted disagreement with suggested approach and that a broad remedy is needed to ensure safety downtown. Ryan Wynn (Ex. Sec. License Commission) provided information requested by C. Elliott regarding number of violations issued by the board. C. Elliott requested information regarding violations over the past three years. **Motion** by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Rourke to request City Manager have Law Department provide a report regarding jurisdiction as it concerns changing regulations of closing times of downtown establishments. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 3 yeas. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Rourke. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk