



# Lowell City Council

## *Regular Meeting Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**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

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