



# Lowell City Council

## *Sub/Committee Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** August 22, 2017  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** City Council Chamber  
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

### **Ad Hoc Charter Review – Voting District Representation SC August 22, 2017.**

#### **PRESENT:**

Present on roll Call were Chairman Leary, C. Leahy, and C. Samaras. Also present were Kevin Murphy (City Manager), C. Mercier, C. Milinazzo, C. Elliott, Eda Matchak (Elections), Christine O'Connor (Solicitor) and Kevin Coughlin (DPD).

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chairman Leary called the meeting noting the attendance and agenda items of the meeting.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

C. Leary commented on the creation of the subcommittee and noted that this meeting there would be no discussion regarding litigation. Solicitor O'Connor outlined the possible pathways to changing charter; which included, Charter Commission; Special Acts filed with legislature; and Ballot Initiative. C. Leary commented on binding ballot. Solicitor O'Connor noted the need to file special legislation to ensure a binding ballot. Solicitor O'Connor outlined procedures for a charter commission noting the length of same. C. Leary noted the need to gather information on all of the pathways for review or change. C. Samaras noted a charter commission is the most inclusive. Solicitor O'Connor noted that a scope could be defined by the charter commission and that the Attorney General would have some oversight in that process. C. Leary noted that Council could design the process. C. Elliott noted that charter commission would not be most efficient in light of litigation and that he does have a preference for district representation. C. Milinazzo commented on changes to wards and precincts as part of any review. Ms. Matchak noted such changes only made after federal census. C. Mercier noted the need for citizens to choose their form of government and commented on possible changes to selection of the Mayor. Ms. Matchak noted that communities differ in their approach to



governing and provided examples in Cambridge, Worcester, Gloucester, Medford and Revere. C. Samaras noted the need to review charter regardless of litigation. C. Leary opened meeting up to public and following individuals address the committee: John Mitchell, Bob Burke and Maura Erickson. C. Leary noted need for further meetings and to gather additional information.

**Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Leahy. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** by C. Samaras, seconded by C. Leahy to Adjourn. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk