



Lowell City Council

Rules SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: April 14, 2026
Time: 5:30 PM
Location Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack St., City Hall / Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Juran, C. McDonough and C. Scott. Also, present Atty. Williams (City Solicitor), Olivia Hart-Paulson (Asst. Solicitor), C. Nuon, M. Gitschier, C. Mercier, C. Robinson and C. Chau.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Juran called the meeting to order noting the attendance and topics for discussion regarding selection of the mayor and open meeting law requirements for boards and commissions.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Atty. Williams provided a summary of prior discussions in the subcommittee regarding selection of the mayor, the Consent Decree, discussions with plaintiffs of the voting rights lawsuit and the different paths that could be followed. C. Juran noted the two-step process of modifying the Decree and choosing the best system to select mayor and that it was not a change of government endeavor. C. Juran noted the referendum and that it called for the selection of the mayor by the electorate and that the challenge is to establish the best practice for that. C. Scott noted that the ballot question was not a clear mandate based on the wording and that if she would support such a change then the opportunity should be available to all members. C. McDonough question what process would be sufficient and that changes could be made by way of a charter review. Atty. Williams outlined the process of a charter review indicating it was a lengthy process. C. Scott questioned if the charter review would be beneficial. C. Juran noted length of time needed for a charter review as this question of mayor selection has been on table for some time. C. McDonough noted that a charter review and Consent Decree modification could move forward together. C. McDonough commented on an at-large selection process. C. Juran noted possible hybrid approach to satisfy the results of the referendum. C. Juran opened matter up to public and Mr. Robinson and Ms. Mercier addressed the body as residents and not councilors. Mr. Robinson requested that Worcester model could be a good starting point. Ms. Mercier noted



ballot question was overwhelming supportive of people selecting mayor and that best approach would be an at-large one. C. McDonough requested Law Department provide written review of a charter change process. C. Juran noted the need to inform public and best approach may be through neighborhood meetings. Atty. Williams noted it would be best to start at neighborhoods. C. Scott noted the need for Law Department to be present at these meetings. **Motion** by C. Scott, seconded by C. McDonough to request City Manager have Law Department attend neighborhood group meetings to supply information regarding selection of the mayor. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" and continue by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Scott. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
