

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on February 4, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/channels/40154>

Council Members Present:

Lee Kyriacou, At Large
George Mansfield, At Large
Terry Nelson, Ward One
John Rembert, Ward Two
Jodi McCredo, Ward Three
Amber Grant, Ward Four
Randy Casale, Mayor

Council Members Absent:**Also Present:**

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator
Nick Ward-Willis, City Attorney

A moment of silence was observed for those who serve and have served in the US military.

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak up to three minutes on any subject matter other than those which are the topic of a public hearing tonight.

Speakers:

Speakers: Louis Amoroso Sr.

Commended the Mayor on getting in touch with Assembly person Jonathan Jacobson to push for traffic alterations to alleviate congestion on 9D heading onto the Newburgh Beacon Bridge and to allow for a smoother ride for drivers exiting Van Ness Road.

He put an application in for the Planning Board but was denied. He believes he had enough credentials. It is not fair to interview the board appointees as the Council did the previous week during a workshop meeting. The Council should not micromanage the boards and committees.

Stanislaw Yankowski

He came to speak about the biological negative effects on people, animals, and vegetation that result from wireless providers. We should protect the residents, especially the children. A Verizon salesman and manager told him that there were no problems (gaps) in coverage in Beacon. However, the Verizon lawyers say there are gaps. Mr. Yankowski read a warranty from Verizon which stated that they would not guarantee pollution with many exceptions which he read off. He then read a notice that was put on twenty two cell phone towers in Woodbury Long Island warning people to stay at least four feet away from the tower because of hazardous radio frequencies.

He mentioned another notice from a town in California saying that people working on certain antennas need to wear a specific shield for safety.

Nick Ward-Willis, City Attorney

He responded to Mr. Yankowski by saying that the federal government passed a statute saying that local governments don't have the ability to examine the health impacts of cellular facilities. So long as the cellular provider meets the FCC criteria.

Theresa Kraft

The Melzingah Tap House sign is still laying on the ground two weeks after it was brought to the Council's attention. New four-story buildings being constructed are actually not four-story buildings due to their additional amenities such as roof top outdoor gardens and community use spaces.

The City Comprehensive Plan has turned into a nightmare. If we can't meet our own guidelines, we should not have them. Rhinebeck does not have four-story buildings, maybe Beacon shouldn't either. The comprehensive plan should be re-written every five years, not every ten years.

Regarding term limits, there is a petition on change.org and social media calling for the hiring of an ombudsman and for term limits for city officials.

Public Hearings:

No. 1: Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law to Amend Section 223-24.5, Wireless Telecommunication Services Facilities; Section 23-25, Site Development Plan Approval; Section 26.4, Small Cell Wireless Telecommunications Facilities; And Section 223-63, Definitions of the Code of the City of Beacon

Theresa Kraft

We should be very concerned about Verizon 5G technology. We should educate our elected officials on the harms of this technology. We urge you to argue aesthetics, loss of coverage, loss of property value, and no significant coverage gap. Just say no.

Stanislaw Yankowski

Would like to make sure that the Council inspects the small cell wireless facilities at least once per year. When the wireless facilities are only eight feet high this is irritating and may be unsafe to have the facilities so close to peoples' heads. I hope you do whatever you can to protect the people, especially children, this radiation is dangerous to children, it's a cumulative effect. He then said he would be protected because he has his own shield. Mr. Yankowski proceeded to

place a baseball cap wrapped in tin foil on his head, in the process saying “I’m ready. Ready Teddy.”

Motion to adjourn the Public Hearing until February 19th

- Motion by Council person Nelson
- Second by Council person Rembert
- Motion passes 7-0

No. 2: City of Beacon Capital Plan

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator read the Capital Plan which can be found here:
<http://agenda.cityofbeacon.org/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=5616&MeetingID=381>

No speakers

Motion to close the public hearing

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 7-0

Mayor Casale:

The Mayor pointed out that there are some capital plan improvements based upon some of the studies the City has been conducting, including the sewer consolidation study with the Town of Fishkill and the Village of Fishkill. Good things are coming out of these studies.

Council Member Reports:

Amber Grant:

Would like to see the Council define *viewshed* so they can provide good guidance to their boards. She thinks that the Council should revisit what is meant by “temporary signs.” There will be a meeting at the Recreation Center February 19th at 7 pm to discuss the master plan for Green Street Park. Residents are welcome to attend and provide input.

John Rembert:

Reminded the public that the Dr. Rev Martin Luther King Jr. Parade has been rescheduled to February 16th at 10 am.

Lee Kyriacou:

He would like to discuss policy considerations with regard to the sign law. He opposes maximum penalties for sign violations. He wants an open-ended discussion.

George Mansfield:

Told the public to contact their party if anyone wants to run for office.

Jodi McCredo:

Would like to workshop balconies that hang over Main Street. There will be a fundraiser for the Rombout Middle School. It will be a basketball game on Valentine's Day, the public can go to romboutpta.org for tickets.

Terry Nelson:

There is currently a bill in the assembly that would cap rent increases at 3 percent. A landlord would have to justify any higher raises. He hopes this is something the Council can talk about to put a cap on the rent increases in the City of Beacon.

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator:

Reached out to Hudson River Housing to come in and go over the affordable housing law.

Mayor Randy Casale:

A resolution will be placed on the agenda for next week's workshop regarding a property tax extension for federal furloughed workers.

The Mayor read a prepared statement regarding the National Salute to Veteran Patients Week. See below.

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week will be celebrated next week from February 10th through the 16th. Salute to Veteran Patients Week serves three purposes.

Firstly, it serves as a reminder for us to pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans. Secondly, it increases community awareness of the role of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and thirdly it encourages

citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

I highly encourage anyone interested in volunteering to stop by the Veterans Hospital at Castle Point off of Route 9D at 41 Castle Point Road on Mondays or Wednesdays to pick up a volunteer packet. If you don't have time to volunteer but would still like to show your appreciation to Veteran's; Castle Point is always happy to receive Valentines Cards for Veterans.

The Mayor read aloud a letter he received from Rob Outer notifying the City of his retirement from the Recreation Committee

Dear Mayor Casale,

I will be retiring from Beacon Recreation Committee. I can no longer attend the meetings and be an active member of the committee.

It has been my pleasure and enjoyment to serve on the committee. Beacon has come a long way improving the lives of the children and adults with the services provided.

Thank You for the opportunity to serve this great city.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Outer

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Capital Plan for the City of Beacon

- Motion by Council person Nelson
- Second by Council person Mansfield

- Resolution passes 7-0

2. A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of David Jensen to the Zoning Board of Appeals

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCredo

Council person Lee Kyriacou

Made a motion to combine the Planning Board and the Zoning Board appointments into one resolution.

- Motion by Council person Kyriacou
- Second by Council person Grant
- Resolution passes 7- 0

A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of J. Randall Williams, Jill Reynolds and Gary Barrak to the Planning Board and David Jensen and Robert Lanier to the Zoning Board of Appeals

- Motion by Council person Kyriacou
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 – 0

Council person Lee Kyriacou

Discussed three topics, the Planning Board appointments, the ZBA appointments and the upcoming retreat with the Planning Board, ZBA and City Council.

The Planning Board is the most important board in Beacon right now. He advised the Planning Board to be respectful, and to be understanding of people with strong views.

This is the advice he provided for the ZBA: The job of the ZBA is to disallow what the Council enacts as the zoning laws on the city, don't be afraid to say no. It is a very important role.

Mr. Kyriacou is pleased to have an upcoming retreat with the Council, ZBA and Planning Boards. He would like to get started working on an agenda for the meeting sooner rather than later.

Council person Jodi McCredo

She thanked the Planning Board and Zoning Board members and said she is excited to work with all of the members.

3. A Resolution Appointing the Superintendent of Streets

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person Nelson
- Resolution Passes 7-0

4. A Resolution Authorizing A Dog Housing Control Agreement with Dutchess County

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Resolution passes 7-0

5. A Resolution Rejecting University Settlement Pool Improvement Bids

- Motion by Council person Nelson
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Resolution passes 7-0

6. A Resolution Accepting River Ridge Performance Bond

- Motion by Council person Mansfield
- Second by Council person Nelson
- Resolution passes 7-0

7. A Resolution Authorizing a Stormwater Control Facility Maintenance Agreement and Easement Regarding 32 Alice Street

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Nelson
- Resolution passes 7-0

8. A Resolution Authorizing Sale of COB Property Adjacent to 790 Wolcott Avenue

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Motion by Council person McCredo
- Resolution passes 7-0

9. A Resolution Authorizing Contract with Beacon Residential LLC for Improvements to Green St. Park

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Resolution passes 7-0

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator

Explained that the money used for the project is from a Community Development Block Grant and it could not be rolled into a different project.

Second Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak for up to three minutes on any subject matter on which the Council can take action.

Speakers:

No speakers

Adjournment:

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 7-0

Next Workshop: February 11, 2019

Next Meeting: February 19, 2019