

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 19, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <http://agenda.cityofbeacon.org/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=5616&MeetingID=381>

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
Drew Gamils, 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: Theresa Kraft**

Overcrowding in Beacon is a result of overdevelopment, security and safety may be compromised. For example, fires will be harder to fight. Increasing the number of people increases the potential for fires. We do not have enough firefighters to cope. High density condos and apartments are larger and higher than this city is accustomed to, we are setting ourselves up for failure. Too big, too many and too soon. We should be protecting our Tree City USA status.

Dr. Frank Griggs signed a petition to preserve the Tioronda Bridge.

Antonia Maelk

She spoke in favor of the Green Light legislation saying it puts some muscle behind the safe and welcoming city resolution. It is also a huge opportunity to improve public safety for all.

Athena Torri

Spoke in favor of the Green Light legislation asking the Council members to pass the resolution.

Joe Burden

Spoke out against the noise coming from Billy Joe's in Newburgh asking if the Council would retain a noise specialist to begin addressing the problem.

Mayor Casale

Responded to Joe Burden by saying that himself, NY State Assembly person Jonathan Jacobson, City of Newburgh officials and the owner of Billy Joes will be meeting in Newburgh next week to discuss the issue. The Mayor will report on that meeting to keep the public up to date.

Council person Kyriacou

Confirmed that the noise is coming from Billy Joe's.

Public Hearings:

No. 1:

Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law to Amend Section 223-24.5 Wireless Telecommunication Services Facilities; Section 223-25, Site Development Plan Approval; Section 223-26.4, Small Cell Wireless Telecommunication Facilities; And Section 223-63, Definitions of the Code of the City of Beacon

Drew Gamils, City Attorney

The City Attorney discussed all changes that had been made to the law since February 4, 2019. These changes regarded the following: height limitations, collocation agreements, clarification of antennas versus antenna equipment, and accessory equipment.

Stanislaw Yankowski

Stated that he was satisfied with the law and complimented those who helped to craft it. He did have a few issues which he brought up, they include the following: Priority zoning is not in the small cell law, it should be; the facilities should be more than 20 feet away from homes; regular cellular facilities should not be permitted to obstruct traffic; the City needs to ensure that the meters are inspected at least annually; the height of the meters may become a problem; smart meters may be dangerous.

Theresa Kraft

Stated that the City should be cautious about 5G technology, it may not be about faster internet service and instead may be about "big brother" in your living room.

Drew Gamils, City Attorney

Responded to Stanislaw by agreeing that the law will need to be updated in the future. Small cell applicants are not exempt from review. Cellular facilities are discouraged from being placed in historic and residential districts.

Council person Mansfield

Asked the City Attorney how to deal with wireless companies when they refuse to avoid using ground technology instead of stealth technology.

Drew Gamils, City Attorney

Responded by saying that under the FCC the City cannot outright say “no” the City must instead provide a record that there is a feasible alternative for that location.

Council person Jodi McCredo

Asked the Council how they felt about language in the law regarding inspections of wireless telecommunication facilities.

Mayor Casale, Council person Kyriacou, Drew Gamils, and Anthony Ruggiero stated that they believe the language is appropriate as it stands.

Stanislaw Yankowski

Reclaimed some of his public hearing time to discuss who will pay for the inspections, the City or the wireless company. Drew Gamils said that the wireless company will not continuously pay for inspections.

Motion to close the Public Hearing

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

Council Member Reports:Amber Grant:

Asked about Climate Smart Communities Coordinator (s)

Anthony Ruggiero

Said that he and Collin Milone, the Assistant to the Mayor, met to discuss Climate Smart Communities and they also interviewed someone. He said he does not have a problem writing a resolution when someone is chosen.

John Rembert:

Reminded the public to clean their sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall.

Lee Kyriacou:

Showed pictures of the Tioronda Bridge dating back to the 1800s using the televisions in the court room. (Video footage can be found here at the 38:20 mark of the Council Meeting dated January 19, 2019

<http://agenda.cityofbeacon.org/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=5616&MeetingID=381>) He explained the different historical characteristics of the bridge. He noted that the bow trusses are low to the bridge deck and would have to be incorporated into an additional safety feature such as rails.

George Mansfield:

Noted that business owners on Main Street are wondering if the City could look into public restrooms along Main Street.

Jodi McCredo:

Encouraged the public to talk to each other in order to regain the sense of community that many people feel that Beacon has lost.

Terry Nelson:

Asked the public to be responsible and shovel their sidewalks so no one gets hurt.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

- 1. A Resolution to Adopt Local Law to Amend Section 223-24.5, Wireless Telecommunication Services Facilities, Section 223-25, Site Development Plan Approval, Section 223-26.4, Small Cell Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, and Section 223-63, Definitions of the Code of the City of Beacon Concerning Wireless Telecommunication Facility Services**
 - Motion by Council person Grant
 - Second by Council person Rembert
 - Resolution passes 7-0
- 2. A Resolution Amending the Fee Schedule Concerning Wireless Telecommunication Services Facilities**

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

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator

Noted that the FCC states the City can only charge “reasonable fees.” The fees found in this resolution were developed with input from both the Highway Department and the Building Department.

3. A Resolution Appointing Dave Buckley as Building Inspector II

- Motion by Council person Kyriacou
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Resolution Passes 7-0

Council person Kyriacou

Dave Buckley has done a tremendous job.

Mayor Casale

Dave Buckley was working with Dutchess County prior to working for the City of Beacon.

Council person Kyriacou

His personal experience working with Dave Buckley was exceptional.

4. A Resolution Adopting the City of Beacon Investment Policy

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

5. A Resolution in Support of the Green Light Legislation to Ensure Equal Access to Driver's Licenses for all Residents of New York State

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

Mayor Casale read the resolution which can be found below.

NYS LOCALITY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN LIGHT LEGISLATION TO ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK STATE.

WHEREAS, All residents of New York State, regardless of immigration status, should have equal access to driver's licenses; and

WHEREAS, New York State currently bars hundreds of thousands of immigrants in our state from obtaining driver's licenses due to their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Without access to licenses, many immigrants are unable to purchase, register, and insure their own vehicles and so face major barriers to meeting the most basic needs of day to-day life: traveling to work, school, grocery shopping, medical appointments, and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, Expanded immigrant access to driver's licenses will reduce the number of uninsured vehicles on the road, thereby lowering insurance premiums for all New York motorists; and

WHEREAS, With New York State currently in the process of redesigning its license policies to comply with the federal REAL ID Act by the 2018 deadline, now is the ideal moment to remove immigration status restrictions for driver's licenses;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Beacon City Council calls on the New York State Legislature to move forward Drivers Licenses Bill A10273, granting access to licenses for all residents of New York State.

Council person Grant

The bill number has been updated to A3675.

6. A Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Local Law Amending Chapter 199, Article IX, Section 39 of the Code of the City of Beacon Concerning the Cold War Veteran's Real Property Tax Exemption

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

Mayor Casale

This resolution removes a time limitation for Cold War veterans to receive the tax exemption.

7. A Resolution Adopting Provision of Real Property Tax Law Granting A Temporary Extension for Payment of Real Property Taxes for Furloughed Federal Employees

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve council minutes from January 22, 2019.

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

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:

Julie Shiroishi

Spoke as a representative for Assembly Person Jonathan Jacobson and thanked the Council for passing the Green Light resolution. Assembly Person Jacobson wants all New York drivers to be licensed and insured.

Adjournment:

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

Next Workshop: February 25, 2019

Next Meeting: March 4, 2019