

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on March 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:Tom DiCastro

He thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work during the snow storms.

Mr. DiCastro spoke about the future of the Beacon Fire Department. He mentioned that making the three existing firehouses functional is going to be difficult because the newest one is still forty years old. Bringing them up to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) codes and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards is going to be expensive. There was discussion at one point to move to one firehouse that would be functional and up to standards, for some reason that never happened.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft spoke about the role that building development in the City is playing and how it is adversely affecting the failing sewer infrastructure. She pointed to the sewer collapse on Wilson Street from the week on February 25th. Raw sewage overflowed for 3.5 hours with roughly 200,000 gallons of raw sewage being discharged and partially treated. It will affect public parklands and water. She posited that the issues can't be fixed with band-aids. Beacon needs innovative solutions to rebuild the infrastructure for the future.

Frank Ritter

He brought pictures from the 1920's and the 1930's showing his family and fellow Beaconites. Mr. Ritter said the waterfront was a "homerun." He questioned what old Beaconites would think about the development in Beacon today. He is concerned about the buildings that block the view of the mountains. People don't come to Beacon to see four story buildings. Blocking out mountain views can decrease all property values.

Nancy Koeber

Ms. Koeber is a psychologist who does her primary business in the City of Newburgh. She wants to bring her practice to Beacon. She currently works out of an office at 5 Cliff Street part time. She is thankful for all the wonderful new buildings because they may be bringing in new patients for her practice. Ms. Koeber said she would appreciate some office space for small business owners such as herself.

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankowski discussed three topics. First, the dangerous radiation from 4G and 5G wireless technology. He reminded the Council that any pole over 50 feet has to be tested at least once per year. It will be no extra expense for the City. Second, he questioned why Verizon Wireless seems to be trying to hide the exact location of their future facilities. He opined that perhaps Verizon is afraid the neighbors will oppose the plans. Third, Mr. Yankowski espoused his mantra "No more four" regarding his displeasure with four story buildings being built in Beacon.

Nicole Wooten

Ms. Wooten, a Beacon Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) member reported on the organization's monthly meeting. She had three updates to share. First, the CAC is reviewing a report created by Cornell Cooperative Extension regarding Climate Smart Resilience Planning Tool and Recommendations. The document addresses opportunities to improve resiliency to climate change and flooding. Second, the CAC is eager to work with the City's grant writer to identify and write grant applications with a focus on more conservation and sustainability in Beacon. The CAC is already working on one grant currently. Third, the CAC discussed ecologically-minded best management practices for removal of trees in the City, including pre-permit on-site assessments. Ms. Wooten thanked all who were involved in the Drinking Water Source Protection Program grant application which was submitted in February.

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator

Responded that, in order to have a better chance of being awarded the water protection grant Ms. Wooten referred to, the application was completed as part of a larger effort of intermunicipal cooperation with Fishkill, East Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, the Village of Wappingers, and Wappingers.

Public Hearings:**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**

No speakers

Motion to close the Public Hearing

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

Council Member Reports:Amber Grant:

Ms. Grant presented two matters for the Traffic Safety Committee: (1) Events near Spring Valley and how traffic may be affected (2) Howland Avenue near the intersection of Goodrich Street and Union Street, a resident told her that people drive very quickly in that location and she is worried about children who pick up the school bus in that location.

John Rembert:

Asked the two high school students from his church to stand and be recognized, "They're good kids." He stated.

Lee Kyriacou:

Passed on commenting, stating there is a long agenda for tonight's meeting.

George Mansfield:

Mr. Mansfield said he had nothing significant to report.

Jodi McCredo:

Announced that this is Music in Our Schools Month. Beacon band will play on Tuesday and the chorus on Thursday. She Addressed a recent New York Times article regarding development in Beacon. She urged people not to let anyone divide people unnecessarily. She stated that Beacon

residents have a lot more in common than different and if the City continues to work together this community will be better for everyone.

Terry Nelson:

Read a letter from a resident, Nate Smith, requesting the City consider seasonal bike lanes on Main Street.

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator:

The RFP for Camp Beacon is coming along nicely. Respondents to the RFP are being interviewed and he should have another update for the Council within the next two to three weeks.

Mr. Ruggiero spoke about the sewer collapse on Wilson Street. He gave the public detailed information regarding the break in the sewer and the specific technical methods being taken by both the City and Tam Enterprises to repair the break and even make improvements around the area. The matter will be resolved in the next few weeks.

Mayor Casale

Thanked the Public Works Department for all of their efforts during the snow storms this winter.

Mentioned that many of the sewer pipes are 100 years old, not only in Beacon but, in cities up and down the Hudson River. He cited a lack of investment in infrastructure across the country as the reason behind the recent sewer collapse. Mr. Casale noted that cities in our area, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Yonkers for example, have similar sewer collapses. The recent collapse on Wilson Street has nothing to do with development in Beacon, especially considering that the new development is actually on the other side of town. The City has spent a lot of money for upgrades to the system in the last eight years. A new asset management program, being put together now, will allow the City to plan ahead for these issues.

Mayor Casale noted that during the snow storm on March 3, 2019 about ten parking tickets were issued with City of Middletown written on top of the ticket. The company the City of Beacon buys the tickets from sent a roll of tickets with City of Middletown printed on the top. If anyone was given one, please call Officer Figlia in the police department at 845 831 4111.

The Parade of Green is this Saturday, March 9th.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

- 1. A Resolution to Adopt Local Law Amending Chapter 199, Article IX, Section 39 of the Code of the City of Beacon**

- Motion by Council person Rembert

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

2. A Resolution to Make Findings and Determinations Regarding Environmental Compliance

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

3. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$5,149,152 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds of the City of Beacon, County of Dutchess, State of New York, Pursuant to the Local Construction, Reconstruction and Improvement to the Sewer System, in and for the City of Beacon

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

4. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$1,823,000 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds of the City of Beacon, County of Dutchess, State of New York, Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, to Finance the Costs of the Construction, Reconstruction and Improvement to the Water System, in and for the City

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

5. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$751,500 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds of the City of Beacon, County of Dutchess, State of New York, Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, to Finance the Costs of (1) the Acquisition of Machinery and Apparatus for Construction and Maintenance and (II) the Preparation of Surveys, Preliminary Plans, Detailed Plans and Estimates for Future Capital Improvements

Council person Lee Kyriacou

Asked for clarification on this bond.

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator

Described in detail the content of the next three bonds to be voted on, which include but is not limited to construction equipment, highway equipment, replacement of a dump plow sander, land surveying, in-car cameras, preliminary plans and an estimate for the capital improvement, Green St. Park improvements and fiberglass pool restoration

- Motion by Council person McCredo
 - Second by Council person Mansfield
 - Resolution passes 7-0
6. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$95,000 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, to Finance the Cost of the Installation or Reconstruction of a Heating and Ventilating System in a Class "A" Building, in and for the City
- Motion by Council person Nelson
 - Second by Council person Grant
 - Resolution passes 7-0
7. Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$250,000 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds of the City of Beacon, County of Dutchess, State of New York, Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, to Finance the Costs of the Improvements to Parks, Playgrounds and Recreational Areas

Council person Amber Grant

Clarified that there will be a public hearing before future plans are approved for Green Street Park.

- Motion by Council person Grant
 - Second by Council person McCredo
 - Resolution passes 7-0
8. Resolution Acknowledging Modification to Project Related to City Sale of Former Highway Garage Property
- Motion by Council person Mansfield
 - Second by Council person McCredo
 - Resolution passes 7-0

9. Resolution to Award Contract to Tam Enterprises, Inc. for the Final Settling Tanks' Equipment Replacement for the Beacon Wastewater Treatment Plant

City Administrator, Anthony Ruggiero

The awardee was recommended by City engineers, had the lowest bid amongst three bidders and bid below what the City budgeted.

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

10. Resolution to Award Contract to Tam Enterprises for the Replacement of Filter Media for the Beacon Water Filter Plant

City Administrator, Anthony Ruggiero

The awardee was recommended by City engineers, had the lowest bid amongst three bidders and bid below what the City budgeted.

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

11. Resolution to Renew License Agreement with Things You Love, LLC, for Flea Market Management

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

12. Resolution Authorizing Execution of CCA Memorandum of Understanding and Electricity Supply Agreement

Mayor Casale

This will benefit everyone in Beacon and the surrounding area by having green energy and saving money. Thank you to those who have worked on this project.

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

13. Resolution Authorizing the City of Beacon to Apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

Council person Lee Kyriacou

Asked for the details of the grant, particularly funding for when the grant ends.

Mayor Casale

The City would pay 25% the first two years, 65% the third year and then it becomes part of the budget.

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

14. Resolution to Refer an Application for a Small Cell Wireless Facility Special Use Permit Submitted by Verizon Wireless for 110 Howland Avenue to the Dutchess County Planning Board and the City Planning Board for Report and Recommendation

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

Nick Ward Willis, City Attorney

Explained that the point of this resolution is to get the input from both the County and City Planning Boards. Mr. Ward Willis further detailed a meeting regarding

fees for wireless facilities on right of ways. Verizon does not agree with the fee set forth by the City.

15. Resolution to Approve City Council Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2019; February 4, 2019; and February 19, 2019.

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Grant
- Resolution 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:

No speakers

Adjournment:

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

Next Workshop: March 11, 2019

Next Meeting: March 18, 2019