

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on July 1, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/346056051>

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Terry Nelson, Ward One

Also Present:

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:

Louis Amoros Sr.

Mr. Amoroso discussed Green Street Park. He said that the park has two parking spots, one is handicap. He'd like to see signs so people don't park there after dusk and hopes it won't be a mini parking lot during the winter time. He asked about the community input process and reminded the council that he asked about this two weeks ago but no one has gotten back to him. Mr. Amoroso stated that as he sees it now, the city has taken almost 1,300 square feet out of the park and it doesn't look like a park anymore. He would like to know what the finishing touches are.

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankowski made a request regarding the City Council meeting minutes from the May 20, 2019 meeting. He pointed out that on May 20, he said the city should purchase the property not "take" the property. Mr. Yankowski requested the minutes reflect his word choice. He thanked Council person Jodi McCredo and Council person Amber Grant for supporting what he's been saying about having to monitor Howland Avenue transmission to ensure Verizon does not go over their allowable power output. He asked if the city can monitor output from the street? If so, then we don't have to give Verizon notice. He continued by asking if the transmission is only good for 1,000 feet and Verizon gets rid of the towers on Mount Beacon, how will they ensure the entire city receives coverage? He recommended inviting the Beacon RF Engineer to ask questions such as these. He also recommended that the RF

Engineer should come and explain the claim that there are gaps in coverage. Does Verizon need approval from Council to make upgrades on the wireless facility?

Nicole Wooten

Ms. Wooten spoke as a representative of the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC). The Committee welcomed two new members who have expertise in the areas of earth sciences and local food systems. They are happy to welcome the City's new Climate Smart Communities Coordinator. The CAC is excited to take on their new role as Beacon's Climate Smart Task Force. They will have a draft mission statement for the Council to review next month.

Mayor Casale asked if the CAC was working on a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI).

Ms. Wooten said the CAC is working on an NRI and a draft of the document will be ready for the Council's review after their next meeting (the CAC meets monthly).

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft spoke about comments made by the City Administrator at the previous City Council Workshop. The City Administrator told the public that the City received a letter about elevated toxic chemical levels in the City's water system, the culprit was tetrachloroethylene. There are a lot of 'what if' scenarios. The City Administrator said this was an isolated spike.

A new development in Fishkill will drain the City of Beacon's water system. Rolling Hills Development will use over 100,000 gallons of water per day from our Rombout water district.

We cannot hold the Mayor responsible for all the issues we are facing.

Sergei Krasikov

Mr. Krasikov spoke about the Danskammer Building Resolution. He thanked the Council for considering the resolution. The total climate changing gases that will be emitted will be more than coal. People in Pennsylvania and Ohio, at the point of production, will be negatively affected by this as well. Gas is not a part of a clean energy future according to a 2015 report by U.C Berkley. Danksammer is white washing what they are telling us.

Council Member Reports:

Jodi McCredo:

Ms. McCredo thanked the City and donors for a successful fireworks display. There is a parking problem on Main Street. She said she doesn't feel safe on Main Street. She would like to discuss eliminating parking on one side of Main Street. Specifically, she would like to discuss widening driving lanes and having a dedicated bike lane. The safety issue outweighs the parking issue.

John Rembert:

No comments.

Lee Kyriacou:

Mr. Kyriacou said he appreciates Council person McCredo's comments about parking on Main Street.

George Mansfield:

Mr. Mansfield thanked all of the donors and volunteers for their work on the fireworks display.

Amer Grant:

Ms. Grant reminded the public about the Declaration of Independence reading on July 4th at 11 am at City Hall.

Mayor Casale:

Mayor Casale announced that the Beacon Summer Lunch program was recently funded by Related Property. He thanked the director of the Related Properties Foundation. Please call 845 831 2620 to make arrangements for summer lunches for those who are eligible.

Mayor Casale thanked Beacon Natural Market, Key Food and the Roundhouse for their underwriting support for the fireworks. He also thanked all of the donors, the performers, and the Recreation Department.

There will be no meeting on July 22nd. Eric Anderson, the developer of the Camp Beacon property, will present on his project at the July 29th meeting.

Mayor Casale also read a letter from Michelle Hook, a representative from Danskammer. The letter can be found in its entirety below:

Danskammer Energy is writing this letter in response to the resolution opposing the proposed repowering of the Danskammer facility in the town of Newburgh that is before the Beacon City Council for a vote on July 1, 2019. After reading the resolution it has become apparent that the Council may be lacking some of the facts about the project. Much of the information contained in the resolution before your is misleading, whether intentional or not, and seems to be based on talking points from opposition groups working to undermine a project that would ultimately benefit the entire region. For instance, to claim that the region received a D rating from the American Lung Association because of the Danskammer facility is a misrepresentation of the facts.

That rating was given when Danskammer was a coal-fired facility and to compare a 1950s coal fired facility which is a far cry from a 2020 natural gas facility when it comes to air quality.

As a natural gas customer, like most people in the region, Danskammer does not frack and we don't decide where our gas comes from. Roughly 90% of the natural gas used in New York and the U.S. is fracked. We purchase our gas from Central Hudson utility – just like the homes and businesses in Orange County. So, the gas used to heat and electrify homes is the same gas we use. Central Hudson purchases gas from production sources based on price and availability and it is then sent to the utility via gas pipeline. We are simply a customer of Central Hudson. The United State is currently very dependent on natural gas, which is domestically produced, and it has helped to significantly reduce our reliance on coal and oil, both of which are much dirtier.

When Indian Point goes down, the state will need additional energy sources to keep people's lights on. Indian Point provides about 2,200 megawatts of power to NY. Two new plants are open/under construction in the lower Hudson valley: CPV and Cricket Valley. Together these will supply about 1500-1700 megawatts of power to the region. Danskammer's existing facility is 511 megawatts. When it is shut down and the new facility is turned on it would be able to go up to 600 megawatts. That would supply the needed additional power, as well as continue to fill in the gaps we do now on the hottest of hot and the coldest of cold days.

The state has just set ambitious new renewable goals, but it will take NY a while to get there. Currently, there are no wind projects under construction in the state and there isn't sufficient transmission to get the wind from rural upstate, where there is room to build it, to the downstate area, where most of the population sits. Once those renewable projects and transmission are built, Danskammer will be used less and go back to being a peaker plant. In the interim, the state needs a "bridge" to the future when renewables make up a larger portion of energy production statewide.

We would like to emphasize that Danskammer will be run as more of a baseload facility when Indian Point closes, whether we build a cleaner and more advanced plant or keep the existing one running. The new plant will offer a number of efficiencies and improvements through this modernization. Right now, we use Hudson River water to cool our facility and then put it back in the Hudson much warmer. We would no longer need to do this with the new, air-cooled facility, so it's better for the river and all its aquatic life. Also, right now we take 11 hours to start up if the state calls on us to run. We are emitting the entire time we are powering up before we have even created one electron of energy for the grid. Our new facility would start up in minutes and be able to support the grid in a more reliable way – especially when unpredictable renewables (wind stops blowing, sun stops shining) stop working.

Danskammer believes in climate change and in making responsible choices to combat the issue. However, as unfortunate as it is, there is not enough wind and solar in New York to replace the

existing energy infrastructure. We would also like to add battery power and solar on site to further support the renewable grid as it is developed.

Lastly, there is much Danskammer is still in the midst of studying about the project – noise, traffic, water and air impacts, etc. Once these studies are complete they will be submitted to the state for review as part of our application. At that time we would be happy to return and share that information with the Council and answer any additional questions you may have. But we would also request that the Council wait until that information is available so that an informed decision can be made about the Danskammer project. The project should be reviewed by all government bodies on its merits anything short of that would be irresponsible.

We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. We look forward to speaking with you more in the future.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hook

VP of Public Affairs, Danskammer Energy

The Mayor reminded the public that the July 4th Declaration of Independence reading is a great event, particularly for kids.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

1. A Resolution to Set Public Hearing Regarding Application for Special Use Permit for Accessory Apartment at 27 Fowler Avenue for July 15, 2019

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Grant
- Resolution passes 6-0

2. A Resolution Commenting on the Danskammer Buildout Proposal

Motion to table until a later meeting by Council person Kyriacou

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person Kyriacou
- Resolution passes 6-0

Council person Grant

Ms. Grant said she was okay to table the resolution but doesn't want to spend too much time churning the wheels on the matter.

3. Resolution Authorizing Change Order #1 Regarding the Main Street Improvements Project

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Resolution passes 6-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve Council minutes from May 20, 2019

Council person Grant agreed to approve the minutes on the condition that Mr. Yankowski's comments from that meeting are changed in accordance with his statements during the public comment period of this meeting.

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

Motion to approve Council minutes from June 3, 2019

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

Motion to approve Council minutes from June 17, 2019

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

Motion to approve Budget Amendments

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

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:

Adjournment:

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Motion passes 6-0

Next Workshop: July 8, 2019

Next Meeting: July 15, 2019

Resolution No. ____ of 2019			Date: <u>August 5, 2019</u>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendments						<input type="checkbox"/> 2/3 Required.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not on roll call.			<input type="checkbox"/> On roll call			<input type="checkbox"/> 3/4 Required	
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
		Terry Nelson					
		Jodi McCredo					
		George Mansfield					
		Lee Kyriacou					
		John Rembert					
		Amber Grant					
		Mayor Randy J. Casale					
		Motion Carried					