

**Regular Meeting**

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on September 16, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/360427599>

**Council Members Present:**

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

**Council Members Absent:**

George Mansfield, At Large

**Also Present:**

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

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

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**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.

Mayor Casale thanked Council Person Mansfield for running the Council Workshop on September 9, 2019 in his absence.

**Speakers:****Elaine Ciaccio**

Ms. Ciaccio suggested that language such as “awful” or “ugly” should not be used when describing properties proposed under the HDLO designation.

**Theresa Kraft**

Ms. Kraft said that the proposed velodrome at Camp Beacon looks like a big white bubble and that is not ideal. She asked how the project work with only one access for ingress and egress on an already heavily-travelled road. Opening tunnel road will not help because of the already-busy 9D corridor.

The interior of homes should not be included in the HDLO. Also, be clear that this will protect properties from encroaching development. These properties should not be allowed to undertake serious exterior alterations, regardless of the ownership.

Nationally registered structures should be protected by the City.

Do not consider concept plans such as 2 and 4 Cross Street and 174 Main Street, regardless of how much tax revenue it may bring. The city should work for its current residents.

The city should focus on developing a transportation system.

Willow Street by the M&T Bank should have a stop sign coming onto Main Street. Also, the yellow signs should be on both sides of the sign.

#### Mayor Casale

Mayor Casale asked the Council to add two items to the agenda, first is a resolution to sign a contract with a new Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, the second is a resolution authorizing a contract with Hudson River Maritime Museum. The Council agreed to add these two items to the agenda.

### **Council Reports**

#### Council Person Grant

Landlords in Beacon are still charging more than one month's security deposit. There doesn't seem to be a centralized spot to report violations – we should consider a way to make it easy for the tenants to report violations. We should work with the City Attorney to send a letter to the landlords in Beacon informing them of new laws pertaining to landlord/tenant regulations passed this year in New York State. She requested that landlords refund any money collected over the legal amount allowed.

If tenants are running into this issue, please reach out to Council Person Grant and she will work with you and elected officials.

She asked when the nuisance local law will be back on the agenda.

Danskammer has released their proposed stipulations for public comment. There is a public comment period. You can post your comments on the New York State Board on electric generation siting and the environment. If anyone needs a link, please contact her. Beacon is not listed as an "Interested Party" although it should be. She asked if the city submitted the paperwork to be designated as such?

#### Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator

Mr. Ruggiero said that Dutchess County is holding an educational event for landlords to learn about the new landlord/tenant laws.

#### Council Person Rembert

Mr. Rembert said he hopes to continue workshopping the HDLO regulations, particularly focusing on excluding the interior of homes from regulations and exploring new incentives to entice home owners to accept the designation.

Council Person Kyriacou

Mr. Kyriacou spoke about the HDLO. He said that it was unintentional but still inappropriate to insult any of the properties or their homeowners. The city needs to workshop the HDLO, setting it up so that in the residential area owners are not required to do anything. They can maintain their homes the way they are. Heightened obligations should be the city's responsibility. Any properties that are owned by the city in the Historic Overlay should be maintained carefully and thoroughly.

Council Person Jodi McCredo

Ms. McCredo said she attended the September 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremonies at Patriot Park and the Elk's Club. They were beautiful ceremonies. It was important for her children to attend these events. She thanked everyone who made it happen.

Ms. McCredo brought up some traffic issues in Ward Three. She said that the east end of Main Street is a problem and parking is an issue. On Leonard Street many vehicles drive the wrong way. There is signage, but the cars are still going the wrong way. Something needs to be done about the hill on Grove Street between Highland Place and Overlook Ave. It can be very dangerous for people walking when there are no sidewalks. The city should look into extending the one-way from Leonard Street up through that hill on Grove Street.

Terry Nelson

There is a beautiful exhibit of Spirit of Beacon Day through the years on display at the Howland Library.

The Beacon Independent Film Festival starts Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Story Screen, please support them.

Mayor Casale

Mayor Casale read a letter from Kelly Ellenwood regarding the Beacon Free Loop. Please see the letter below:

Dear Mayor Casale, City Administrator Ruggiero and Members of the City Council,

I could not be at the meeting tonight to express this in Person, so I am writing to tell you how happy and grateful I am that the City of Beacon and Dutchess County recognize the success of the Beacon Free Loop (also known as Route

G), and that tonight the Council will be approving a contract to continue this important service that greatly benefits our residents as well as visitors to our city.

Earlier today I had a conversation with our Marist College student partners at North Road Communications. Together with BeaconArts, we are planning more ways to promote the Beacon Free Loop, as well as to continue to provide information and updates via the BeaconArts website, social media, and print. We are also planning to create a video on how to ride the bus safely. We will be in touch soon to discuss this and to get any feedback from you on how we can help to make the Beacon Free Loop even more successful and reach more riders.

I also have just learned that BeaconArts will be announcing before the end of the month new artwork installations in each of the 5 bus shelters located throughout the city - so look for those changes soon. It is our privilege to transform everyday places through art, as well as to showcase our arts community.

Once again, thank you, for this and for your service to our great City.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ellenwood

Mayor Casale reminded the public that Spirit of Beacon Day is September 29<sup>th</sup> on Main Street starting at 12 pm.

He told the public that the deadline to apply for large scale home repair assistance through Rebuilding Together is September 30<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to apply, please visit [rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org](http://rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org) or call (845) 454-7310.

Mayor Casale read a letter from Barry Nelson informing the Mayor that he resigned from the Human Relations Commission.

He said that Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Dutchess County Department of Public Works at 626 Dutchess Turnpike in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Mayor Casale read a letter from the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce in which the Chamber expressed their support of DocuWare Corporation moving to Beacon. The entire letter can be found at the end of these minutes, labeled Attachment A.

He announced that Beacon residents can apply for a municipal identification card during normal business hours as well as two new additional dates, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 pm and October 12<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 3 pm. The City has issued 52 Municipal Identification Cards so far.

Mayor Casale proclaimed September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month in Beacon. To find the full proclamation, please see Attachment B.

He reminded the public that free use of the transfer station ends on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Each taxpayer whose taxes are paid in full can dump up to 250 pounds per tax parcel.

**Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:**

**1. A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Eleanor Peck for Climate Smart Communities Coordinator Services**

City administrator Anthony Ruggiero told the public that the former Climate Smart Communities Coordinator resigned and that Eleanor Peck is a strong candidate who is already being brought up to speed.

- Motion by Council Person Grant
- Second by Council Person McCredo
- Resolution passes 6 - 0

**2. A Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss A Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 149, Article II of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Nuisance for October 7, 2019**

- Motion by Council Person Nelson
- Second by Council Person Rembert
- Resolution passes 6 - 0

**3. A Resolution Approving the Teller Avenue Supplemental Agreement**

- Motion by Council Person Rembert
- Second by Council Person McCredo
- Resolution passes 6 - 0

**4. A Resolution Approving the Fishkill Avenue Supplemental Agreement**

- Motion by Council Person Nelson
- Second by Council Person Rembert
- Resolution Passes 6 - 0

**5. A Resolution Approving a Contract with Dutchess County for Transit Services**

Mayor Casale said that the ridership was about 3,000 people prior to the free bus program. This year, Dutchess County is projecting about 40,000 riders. The new contract is for two years.

- Motion by Council Person McCredo
- Second by Council Person Rembert
- Resolution passes 6 - 0

**6. Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Hudson River Maritime Museum for Ferry Services for Certain Dates**

Anthony Ruggiero

The City Administrator explained that the City of Beacon will sign a contract with Hudson River Maritime Museum for use of a solar powered ferry. Beacon will be fully reimbursed from Dutchess County.

Mayor Casale

The Mayor said that he spoke with businesses in Beacon and some are not happy with the idea of running a weekend ferry between Beacon and Newburgh because it may take away revenue from their business. He said he thinks that the restaurants in Newburgh will benefit at the expense of the businesses in Beacon. He believes that the businesses in Beacon should have been allowed to comment.

Council Person McCredo

Ms. McCredo said she thinks that people will use the ferry to visit both the Beacon businesses and the Newburgh restaurants.

- Motion by Council Person McCredo
- Second by Council Person Nelson
- Resolution Passes 6 - 0

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve council minutes from August 19, 2019

- Motion by Council Person Grant
- Second by Council Person Rembert

- Motion passes 6-0

Motion to approve council minutes from September 3, 2019

- Motion by Council Person Grant
- 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:**

Harvey Kaplan

Mr. Kaplan is the co-owner of Max's on Main. He said that he believes allowing the ferry to run between Newburgh and Beacon on weekends will be a greater benefit for the Newburgh businesses than the Beacon businesses. He cautioned the Council to think about it very carefully before allowing the ferry to run every day in the future.

Council Person McCredo

Ms. McCredo asked Beacon businesses to provide feedback regarding the impact of the ferry on their businesses.

**Motion to enter Executive Session:**

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

**Adjournment:**

- Motion by Council Person Nelson
- Second by Council Person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

Next Workshop: September 30, 2019

Next Meeting: October 7, 2019

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September 4, 2019

Hon. Randy Casale, Mayor, and  
Members of the Beacon City Council  
1 Municipal Plaza  
Beacon, NY 12508



One Civic Center Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601  
Tel: 845.454.1700 | Fax: 845.454.1702

## Re: DocuWare Moving Too Beacon

Dear Mr. Casale and members of the Beacon City Council,

I am writing in support of DocuWare's efforts to move to the city of Beacon.

The project aims to build a permanent location for their current employees, along with additional employees this location will allow them to hire. With walkability being a necessary aspect of where DocuWare wishes to relocate, I believe that Beacon is the perfect match.

Not only does the company currently employ 70 high-skilled employees, but they plan to expand staff to between 90 and 120 within the next 3 to 5 years. And with a training center being built into the facility, the hospitality industry can expect 800 to 1,000 additional hotel guest nights per year. This in turn will lead to additional revenue for the other businesses in the area, and help to fill the demand for mid-week business.

DocuWare also sees the value of investing in future generations, and has a track-record of helping the community. Currently located in New Windsor, DocuWare is working with the Newburgh Armory Unity Center and Nora Cronin Presentation Academy to support youth STEM education and sports, including providing internships at DocuWare. Additionally, they support the local sports community because they see the value in having diverse opportunities for youth to take advantage of to discover their passion.

On behalf of the Chamber's nearly 1,500 members, Board of Directors, and local economy, I emphasize our support of this proposed project, as we believe it will empower the community and catalyze further smart development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Frank M. Castella, Jr., President & CEO



## **Kelly Ellenwood Letter about Free Bus**

Please read this at the meeting this evening::

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