

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on December 9, 2019. There was a snow storm on December 2, 2019 and the meeting was moved to December 9th. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/378575039>

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Amber Grant, Ward Four (Excused)

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:

Elaine Ciaccio

Ms. Ciaccio said that a four-story building is not acceptable at 2 Cross Street. The proposed plaza will probably be smaller than the developer is suggesting. She proposed keeping the park and building three stories. She was disturbed to hear that a Planning Board member said that although zoning has been tightening, Council will have to understand that exceptions have to be made. She asked what the point was of tightening the zoning.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft said that four-story buildings are too big for the City of Beacon. The project at 2 Cross Street is out of character with the surrounding area. Overdevelopment will syphon away tourists.

Ms. Kraft continued, saying that Beacon is not a registered participant of the Certified Local Government program, a federally sponsored program overseen by the State Historic Preservation Office. Joining would give Beacon access to a variety of grants and services.

Arthur Camins

Mr. Camins said he notices that people who live on corner lots don't shovel the corner. There are also a fair number of sidewalks that are not shoveled.

He said that the Cross-Street proposal should be viewed through a proactive lens. A developer should be required to propose only what can be done within the existing code.

Public Hearing to Discuss a Special Use Permit Application for 296 Main Street

Nick Ward-Willis

Mr. Ward-Willis introduced the proposed project, saying that it would convert an existing one-story rear garage into a bar with an outdoor patio and maintain the first-floor retail use and second floor office in the Central Main Street District. It is being considered for a Special Use Permit. Both the County Planning Department and the City Planning Board favorably recommending granting a Special Use Permit.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft asked the Council to be considerate of the neighbors. She asked them not to grant a Special Use Permit because it will impede on neighbors' lives. Granting approval to expand on a residential street would set a dangerous precedent.

Jeffery Werner

Mr. Werner is the owner of the property. He said that he is nearly ready for the drainage to disconnect his stormwater from the sanitary sewer.

- Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Council Person McCrede
- Second by Council Person Nelson
- Motion Passes 6-0

Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 223 Section 14 Subsection B of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Exterior Lighting

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft said she supports the proposed local law. She said enforcing the code would be a real challenge. The City needs to strictly enforce the law in the Route 52 corridor in particular. She specifically mentioned the light pollution from the car dealerships on Route 52.

- Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCrede
- Motion passes 6-0

Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 223, Sections 41.4, 41.18 and 41.21 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Balconies

John Clarke, City Planner

Mr. Clarke said that this proposed law would disallow balconies in the Central Main Street, Waterfront Development, and the Linkage Districts. Bay windows and cornices will be allowed to overhang two feet of city property.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft questioned why the Council would hold a public hearing and a vote on the same topic on the same night. She said that setting a minimum depth of two feet is still not sufficient.

Mayor Casale

Mayor Casale said that although the public hearing and vote are both scheduled for the same night, the vote can be adjourned if the public hearing yields information warranting an adjournment.

- Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 211, Article II, Section 10 and Article III, Section 15 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Traffic Safety Recommendations

Lieutenant Sands Frost

Lieutenant Frost, a member of the Traffic and Safety Committee said that at Cross Street and West Church Street the proposed law will codify existing parking signs and extend the No Parking Zone by 65 feet in order to allow fire trucks to safely pass.

At Grove Street and Liberty Street, the proposed law would turn the intersection from an uncodified one-way stop to a codified three-way stop. The Traffic Safety Committee considered resident complaints along with the proximity to a school in coming to their decision.

On the east end of Main Street, the existing No Parking Zone would be codified. On Main Street to Ackerman Street the proposed law would extend the No Parking Zone by 20 feet. Additionally, the proposed law would codify an existing No Parking Zone on Main Street at the intersection of North Street.

On Commerce Street the proposed law would extend the existing No Parking Zone on the south side of the street beyond a driveway at 11 Commerce Street to allow users safe ingress and egress. Doing so would eliminate one parking spot on Commerce Street.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft thanked the Council for the three-way stop on Liberty Street. She said that motorists at an intersection on Leonard Street are unsafe because there are not enough signs alerting them of the one-way traffic direction and the intersection is not have a four-way stop. She also requested a stop sign at the intersection of Willow Street and Main Street.

Council Person Kyriacou

Mr. Kyriacou asked Lieutenant Sands how far the No Parking Zone on Commerce Street would be extended, and subsequently how many parking spaces would be lost by doing so.

Lieutenant Sands

Lieutenant Sands said that the No Parking Zone would be extended by 85 feet however, only one parking spot would be lost due to the presence of other parking deterrents obstructing potential parkers such as telephone poles, a driveway, and a fire hydrant.

Council Person Rembert

Mr. Rembert said that he thinks it is good to remove the parking space on Commerce Street.

- Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Council Person Rembert
- Second by Council Person Nelson
- Motion passes 6-0

Council Reports

Terry Nelson

Council Person Nelson said that he received an email regarding snow removal from sidewalks. He will send the email to the City.

Jodi McCredo

Ms. McCredo said developers proposing four story buildings on Main Street with no set backs are not listening to the Council. She said that although those developers are not listening to the Council, it does not mean the Council has to listen to them.

She also said that she had the pleasure of meeting students in the engineering program at J.V Forrestal. They spoke of ways to improve the community and produced the letter found below.

Dear Mrs. McCredo,

The JV Forrestal Lego League has a proposal for a four way stop sign at the intersection of East Main Street, Spring Street, and Washington Avenue, near BarB's Butchery. Some cars speed on Washington Avenue. It has no current stop sign and it is quite difficult to see around.

*Thank you very much for looking into this matter. Here is a picture of this intersection.
Mrs. Waage, Ms. Ebeling, Nolan, Athena, Theodore, Codey, Ike, Lila, & Nico*

Anthony Ruggiero

Mr. Ruggiero read a report on the status of the draught. He said that since the City's reservoirs are continuing to replenish and all three reservoirs are above draught limits the City is no longer in a Stage 1 Drought.

Mayor Casale

Mayor Casale said that the City just installed an electric vehicle charging station in the Visitor's Center parking lot. A second charging station was installed however the City were sent a faulty headpiece and are waiting for a new one.

He announced that Jerry Landisi resigned from the Ethics Committee. Mayor Casale thanked Mr. Landisi for his service to the City and invited residents to fill out an application to take his seat.

Mayor Casale read a Mayoral Certificate of Recognition that he presented to Isabelle Degrazia Berner, a longtime Beacon resident, on her 100th birthday.

Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 211, Article II, Section 10 and Article III, Section 15 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Traffic Safety Recommendations

Council Person Kyriacou made a motion to table the section of the proposed local law, which calls to extend a No Parking Zone on Commerce Street, until a later meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Person McCredo. Motion passed 6-0.

Amended Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 211, Article II, Section 10 and Article III, Section 15 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Traffic Safety Recommendations Without a Section Extending A No Parking Zone on Commerce Street

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

Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 223, Section 14, Subsection B of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Exterior Lighting

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

Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 223, Sections 41.4, 41.18 and 41.21 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Balconies

- Motion by Council Person Rembert
- Second by Council Person McCredo
- Resolution passes 5 - 1

Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 149 and Chapter 223 Section 29 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Noise

- Motion by Council Person Mansfield
- Second by Council Person Rembert

Nick Ward Willis advised the Council to re-motion the resolution to the table because, at an earlier meeting Council Person Mansfield had recused himself from legislating this local law and therefor could not motion the law to the table.

Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 149 and Chapter 223 Section 29 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Noise

- Motion by Council Person McCredo
- Second by Council Person Nelson

Council Persons Nelson, McCredo, and Rembert voted “Yes” while Council Person Kyriacou and Mayor Casale voted “No” and Council Person Mansfield abstained.

Before the vote was called final, Council Person Kyriacou made a motion to reconsider. Second by Council Person McCredo. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Resolution Adopting a Local Law to Amend Chapter 149 and Chapter 223 Section 29 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Noise

- Council Persons McCredo, Kyriacou, Rembert, and Mayor Casale voted “Yes” Council Person Nelson voted “No” and Council Person Mansfield abstained.
- Resolution Passes 5-1

Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the City of Beacon 2020 Budget

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

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Capital Plan

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

Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Vacant Lot at the Corner of Wolcott Avenue and Beacon Street

- Motion by Council Person Mansfield
- Second by Council Person Kyriacou
- Resolution passes 6 - 0

Resolution Adopting a City of Beacon Policy Regarding Naming City Property and other Locations within the City

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

Resolution to Name Baseball Field at Memorial Park the Shawn M. Antalek Field

- Motion by Council Person Rembert
- Second by Council Person Nelson

- Resolution passes 6 - 0

Resolution to Adopt Private Street Names for E911 Purposes

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

Resolution of Opposition to MTA Parking Fare Increases at the Beacon and New Hamburg Train Stations

Motion by Council Person Kyriacou to strike Whereas clauses # 3, 6, 7, 8

Second by Council Person Mansfield

Motion passes 6 – 0

Amended Resolution of Opposition to MTA Parking Fare Increases at the Beacon and New Hamburg Train Stations without Whereas clauses # 3, 6, 7, 8

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

Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 134 of the Code of the City of Beacon Concerning Historic Preservation for January 21, 2020

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

Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapters 223 and 210 of the Code of the City of Beacon Concerning the City's Schedule of Regulations and Associated Amendments Regarding Permitted Uses in the City of Beacon for January 21, 2020

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

Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend

Chapter 223, Section 41.18.E(7) of the Code of the City of Beacon Concerning Building Height Special Permits in the CMS District for January 21, 2020

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

Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the City of Beacon and the Police Benevolent Association

Anthony Ruggiero

Mr. Ruggiero summarized the details of the agreement. Some of the highlights include the fact that the PBA agreed to a dedicated Main Street Patrol Officer and the fact that this new agreement will make Beacon more competitive in the market for Police Officers in Dutchess County. The entire agreement can be found here

<http://agenda.cityofbeacon.org/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=8441&MeetingID=504>

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

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes November 4, 2019

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

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes November 18, 2019

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

Budget Amendments

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

Second Opportunity for Public Comment

Michal Mart

Ms. Mart requested that the City Council decide to be the lead agency for the 2 and 4 Cross Street proposed project.

She also asked for a report showing the number of occupied artists' lofts at the West End Lofts and the corresponding number of applications.

Motion to Adjourn

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