

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 16, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/380020895>

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.

Speakers:

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankowski asked several questions. He asked if the City would hire a wireless consultant to check the background radiation at the Howland wireless facility. He also asked the City to conduct an independent study to determine the true gaps in cellular coverage throughout Beacon. He said that perhaps the City of Beacon is colluding with Verizon and Russia. His point was that the City should frequently check the output of the Verizon facilities.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft said that the City of Beacon has had a few setbacks with regards to development on Main Street. The buildings look like they were designed for 'generic Main Street America' and do not match the existing character of the area. The new development should not be allowed to continue into the new year. She reminded the elected officials that they ran their campaigns on the notion of halting four-story developments.

Council Reports

Amber Grant

Ms. Grant had nothing to report.

Council Person Rembert

Mr. Rembert thanked the Council, the Mayor, the City Administrator, the City Attorney and the public for their support during the past two years while he was serving as a Council Member. He wished everyone a happy holiday and a happy new year.

Council Person Kyriacou

Mr. Kyriacou wished everyone a happy holiday.

Council Person Mansfield

Mr. Mansfield said that he had very low expectations when Mayor Casale first took office eight years ago. He doubted the Mayor's ability to lead and bring the city forward in a progressive and sustainable way. He expected that the city would rue the day Randy Casale was elected Mayor. However, he was quickly proven wrong. From day one he realized that Mayor Casale was exactly what Beacon needed at the time. His mind and his door were open. He respected the past and welcomed new ideas. He listened to everyone and he was everywhere. He kissed babies, married couples, cut ribbons and, at four o'clock in the morning, watered flowers on Main Street.

Mayor Casale was a municipal savant. Much to the often consternation of the city staff he had his fingers in everything and he understood it all. Mayor Casale's greatest challenge was navigating the treacherous waters of success. He understands that he had to govern for today and for decades going forward. He leaves a legacy of rising property values, reduced taxes, a vibrant Main Street, a healthy general fund, excellent bond ratings, and environmental and social justice reforms. We are the envy of the Hudson Valley. The residents of Beacon today and tomorrow owe Mayor Casale a great debt of gratitude. Mr. Mansfield said that he always looked forward to walking on the right of the Mayor during the Spirit of Beacon Parade when everyone would say hi to Randy. He knew everyone by name. Mr. Mansfield said that he's glad that he was wrong eight years ago.

He thanked John Rembert for his service. He then presented Mayor Casale with a gavel.

Council Person McCredo

Ms. McCredo wished everyone a happy holiday. She thanked John Rembert and Mayor Casale for their hard work and leadership on the Council.

Council Person Nelson

Mr. Nelson wished everyone a happy holiday. He thanked Council Person Rembert for serving on the Council, saying it was a pleasure to work with him. He thanked Mayor Casale for all of

his years of service to the City of Beacon. When he came here and started a film festival, Mayor Casale was the first on board.

Anthony Ruggiero

Mr. Ruggiero said that the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting has been cancelled for December 17th.

He thanked Mayor Casale for giving him an opportunity to work in Beacon. He said he appreciates everything they've done together. He said it's been a wonderful opportunity.

Mr. Ruggiero concluded by thanking Council Person Rembert for his service to Beacon.

Nick Ward-Willis

Mr. Ward-Willis thanked Mayor Casale for challenging him. He said he learned a lot from the Mayor's passion and interest.

He also said that he enjoyed working with Council Person Rembert.

Mayor Casale

Mayor Casale said the following about the voluntary boards and committees in Beacon.

“Over the past week I received several resignation letters from Board members. Patrick Lambert and Gary Barrack resigned from the Planning Board, Garrett Duquesne resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Yvonne McNair resigned from the Human Relations Commission. Mike Duane will now serve as the Chair of the Human Relations Commission. I would like to thank all of these Board members for their hard work and dedication to the City of Beacon. They approached their work with poise, precision and common sense. Patrick, Gary, Garrett, and Yvonne are role models for all of our residents in Beacon.

If anyone is interested in applying to serve on a City Board, please submit an application to the Mayor's office. Applications can be found in the back of the room here tonight, in the Mayor's Office during business hours and online at cityofbeacon.org.”

Mayor Casale addressed his tenure as Mayor.

He thanked all of the city employees. He said that he believes that Beacon is second to none in public works, police work and firefighting throughout the Hudson Valley. Whenever he got a complaint about the Police Department, the complainant always got a response and typically the complaint turned out to be invalid. He thanked all of the Board and Committee members for their volunteer work. He thanked all of the Council members who have served with him. He advised Council members to make the best decision for the overall city. He thanked the residents for allowing him to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming the Mayor. He said his greatest accomplishment was winning over the naysayers and a big part of that was by having an open-

door policy. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

LOCAL LAWS AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Approving the Appointment of Christopher Baum as a City of Beacon Firefighter
Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis

Mr. VanVoorhis thanked the Mayor and Council for making history by bringing a fourth career firefighter on each shift. He introduced Christopher Baum as a Firefighter with three years of experience with the City of Newburgh.

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

Resolution Approving the Appointment of Michael J. Connor as a City of Beacon Police Officer
Police Chief Kevin Junjulas

Chief Kevin Junjulas thanked Mayor Casale and Council Person Rembert for all of their work for the City. He said that he looks forward to working with the new Mayor and the incoming Council.

Chief Junjulas introduced Michael J. Connor and Seth M. Nash.

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

Resolution Approving the Appointment of Seth M. Nash as a City of Beacon Police Officer

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

Resolution Approving a Special Use Permit for 296 Main Street

Nick Ward Willis said that the applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to convert a one-story garage into a bar with an outdoor patio. Public Hearings were held and the City Planning Board and Dutchess County Planning and Development Department both provided positive

recommendations for the project. Several conditions were added including prohibiting operating or playing live outside music on the patio.

- Motion by Council Person Mansfield
- Second by Council Person Rembert
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Declaring City Council's Intent to Act as Lead Agency Regarding the 2 and 4 Cross Street Project Proposal

Council Person Kyriacou reiterated his opposition to taking on lead agency status. He said that the process is very specific, and very detailed. It rarely leads to altered outcomes. The Council already controls the zoning, and the special use permit.

Council Person Grant said that she agrees with Council Person Kyriacou.

- Motion by Council Person McCredo
- Second by Council Person Nelson
- Resolution fails 1 Yes – 4 No – 2 Abstentions
 - Council Person Nelson voted no
 - Council Person McCredo voted yes
 - Council Person Mansfield voted no
 - Council Person Kyriacou voted no
 - Council Person Rembert abstained
 - Council Person Grant voted no
 - Mayor Casale abstained

Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement for Location of Verizon Wireless Cellular Antennae Facility on New Telecommunication Facility at 7 Cross Street

Mayor Casale

The design will be a stealth pole with two lights.

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

Resolution Authorizing the Extension of an Agreement with Royal Carting for Waste Collection Services

Council Person Grant

Ms. Grant asked if the extension is for one year.

Mayor Casale

Mayor Casale confirmed that the extension is for one year and said that everything will be the same except the garbage pickup may be cheaper if the tonnage decreases.

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

Resolution Authorizing a Future Operation and Maintenance Agreement Between the City of Beacon and Beacon Engine Company No. 1

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

Nick Ward-Willis

Mr. Ward-Willis introduced the resolution. This formalizes and legalizes an agreement for the maintenance of Beacon Engine Company No. 1. Beacon Engine Company owns the middle portion of the Beacon Engine property while the City of Beacon owns the property and building on the east and west sides of the fire station.

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes December 9, 2019

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

Motion to Adjourn

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