

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council Meeting on April 6, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting took place remotely and was available via live stream on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvPpigGwZDeR7WYmw-SuDxg>, the meeting was also available via telephone at +1 929 205 6099. An announcement of the virtual meeting information can be found attached at the conclusion of these minutes. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/405040045>.

Council Members Present:

Amber Grant, At Large
George Mansfield, At Large
Terry Nelson, Ward One
Air Rhodes, Ward Two
Jodi McCredo, Ward Three
Dan Aymar-Blair, Ward Four
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

Council Members Absent:**Also Present:**

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

Public Comment Period

Theresa Kraft

Submitted for the record:

In these trying times we are watching the insurgent increase of walking and cycling - granted this will be a prelude to that much talked about and desired walkable City of Beacon - but in order to have that walkable master plan we must focus on the current health crisis and enforce serious actions to lockdown and shelter in place. The public must stop gallivanting around like they're on summer vacation going on nature walks and socializing like it's the hippest and trendiest thing to do. This is not the time to have private homes flooded with an influx of strangers and opened to Airbnb, which as the City's own lawyer quickly pointed out to the delegated host community leader at the workshop - for the record Airbnb's are still illegal in Beacon, we cannot afford to open our neighborhoods and our City streets unnecessarily to this crisis. We must protect our tax paying residents.

This too shall pass and hopefully Beacon can build upon the ashes of this pandemic.

On that note I must say; I was excited to watch and listen to the Tioronda Presentation during the March 30th workshop. What Mr. Barry Kohn and his team are envisioning for the historic Tioronda Craig House property by saving Frederick Clarke Withers designed grand estate with its elaborate music room addition built by Richard Morris Hunt as well as the sadly neglected American Picturesque landscaping grounds is commendable. This luxurious concept could put Beacon on the same scale as Hunt's internationally famous Biltmore Estate hotel and tourist attraction in North Carolina. If designed and constructed well this could be a great gateway to the Tioronda Bridge reconstruction, also in Beacons near and bright future.

Council Reports

Councilmember Terry Nelson

Mr. Nelson reminded everyone that social distancing is not the same as emotionally distancing from each other. He asked that people don't detach from each other.

Councilmember Air Rhodes

Mx. Rhodes said that people can feel free to reach out to them. They said that they are still representing residents no matter the current situation. Councilmember Rhodes is pleased with the work of the Beacon Mutual Aid group. They reminded people of the census which can be completed online.

Councilmember Jodi McCrede

Ms. McCrede reminded everyone that six feet is a decent distance, if you can stay more than six feet then all the better. Please do your best to be careful to slow the curve and keep everyone healthy and safe. She said she is deeply appreciative all of the people helping each other out. She asked people to support local businesses if they can. Filing for unemployment insurance is difficult but keep trying to apply.

Councilmember Amber Grant

Councilmember Grant thanked City of Beacon employees for all of their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair

No comments

Councilmember George Mansfield

Mr. Mansfield said that he is looking to help fellow local business owners navigate the loan assistance programs available through the federal government. He said that there is a bin outside of Dogwood where people have been dropping off materials for face masks and masks themselves. All are welcome to take part in this community bin.

Mayor Kyriaocu

Mayor Kyriacou read a statement which can be found attached at the end of these minutes. Mayor Kyriacou read a statement proclaiming April as Autism Awareness month which can be found at the end of these minutes.

Anthony Ruggiero

The City Administrator said that residents can find resources for the COVID-19 response at cityofbeacon.org. He thanked City staff for all of their hard work.

Resolutions #1, 2, 3 were voted on together as part of a Consent Agenda.

- Motion by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

1. Resolution Accepting Ferry Landing Easement Regarding Drainage and Sight Distance

2. Resolution Awarding a Contract to Petinelli Recreation, Inc for the Green Street Playground Project

Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair asked if there were renderings of the playground equipment and the path. Anthony Ruggiero said there is a sample that the City will put on cityofbeacon.org

3. Resolution to Authorize the Receipt of Bids and Offers in Electronic Format

Motion to add to waive the Workshop requirement and add Resolution #3 to Consent Agenda

- Motion by Councilmember Grant
- Second by Councilmember McCredo
- Motion passes 7 – 0

4. Resolution Approving the Appointment of Samantha Milani as a City of Beacon Police Officer

- Motion by Councilmember Rhodes
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

Approval of Minutes

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2020

Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2020

- Motion by Councilmember McCredo
- Second by Councilmember Rhodes
- Motion passes 7 – 0

Mayor Kyriacou asked the public to stay safe, stay upbeat and stay kind,

Next Council Workshop: April 13, 2020

Next Council Meeting: April 20, 2020

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to Adjourn by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember Rhodes

- Motion passes 7 – 0



NOTICE OF CHANGE IN PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that effective immediately and based upon notices and health advisories issued by Federal, State and Local officials related to the COVID-19 virus, the City Council will not hold in-person meetings. Until further notice, all future City Council meetings (including public hearings) will be held via videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law. Due to public health and safety concerns, the public will not be permitted to attend at the remote locations where the City Council members will be situated. The public, however, will be able to fully observe the videoconference meeting and comment during regular City Council meetings (i.e for public hearings and during designated public comment periods). To the extent internet access is not available, the public can attend and comment via telephone by dialing + 1 929 205 6099 and entering the Webinar ID 924 1166 6627 and entering password 192083. The City Council's agenda is available online in advance of meetings at <http://www.cityofbeacon.org/index.php/agendas-minutes/>. The public can email written comments or questions for regular City Council Meetings by 5pm on the day of the meeting addressed to cityofbeacon@cityofbeacon.org. Any member of the public who has questions should contact the City Administrator in advance of the meeting at 845 838 5010 or aruggiero@cityofbeacon.org.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that any Executive Session of the Council will be initiated with the Council first convening on the public videoconferencing site, and then adopting a motion to go into Executive Session.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that the City Council Meeting of Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:00pm can be accessed live at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvPpigGwZDeR7WYmw-SuDxg>



City of Beacon, New York

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City of Beacon || Mayor's Update on COVID-19 || 6 April 2020 7 PM

Hi everyone. It's Mayor Lee Kyriacou, and I personally want to provide a local Beacon update related to COVID-19/coronavirus. Information first, then a couple of personal remarks.

1. **Census:** Let me first remind you about the census – at www.my2020census.gov. Do it.
2. **Governor:** I place my reliance, and take my orders from the Governor.
 - **Closures Through April:** Governor Cuomo today extended the closure of schools and non-essential businesses through April 29.
 - **Social Distancing:** This remains the most important requirement for us all.
3. **County:** The Dutchess County website – www.dutchessny.gov has a COVID-19 button that takes you to a county map with accurate local COVID-19 data.
 - **Active Cases:** As of today, Dutchess county has 994 active COVID-19 cases, of which 68 are in Beacon.
 - **Beacon:** To be clear, 68 have tested positive in Beacon.
 - **Elsewhere:** It's higher in Fishkill, East Fishkill, Wappinger, Poughkeepsie and Town of Poughkeepsie.
4. **Essential City Services:**
 - **Fine:** Police, fire, water, sewer, curbside trash/recycling are operating just fine.
 - **Safety Protocols:** Our first responders have specific protocols for these situations – to keep citizens and staff safe.
 - **Trust Them:** Trust that our first responders are doing it right.
5. **Outdoors:** I'm with the Governor – we need to get out but in a safe manner, or else we will all get "cabin fever" as he put it.
 - **State Parks:** Governor Cuomo has kept state parks open with signs & monitoring.
 - **City Parks:** Our city parks remain open – with signs on appropriate distancing and regular monitoring.
 - **Mt Beacon:** The Scenic Hudson entrance to Mt. Beacon on Route 9D is closed – they could not provide appropriate monitoring.
 - **Monitoring:** The police regularly monitor our parks and trails, and almost everyone is well behaved.
 - **Mayor Checking:** I was out a half dozen times this weekend, just driving or observing compliance – everyone I saw was doing their part.

- **If You Go Out:** If you are outdoors, keep up social distancing from those outside your household. Obey all posted signs.
 - **Cover Up:** While not required, it is recommended that people cover their nose/mouth while outside in proximity of others.
 - **Respect:** Treat everyone you meet equally, with dignity and respect. Now more than ever.
 - **Call It In:** If you see clear violations of social distancing that require intervention, call it in – Beacon Police is 831-4111. Social media is a cop-out – just call it in.
6. **Census:** Did I remind you about the census – www.my2020census.gov. So much of government – from congressional seats to millions of local funding for Beacon – depends on an accurate count.
7. **City Bills:** Residents are doing a great job of paying water and other bills in safe ways.
- **E-Pay:** We’ve had 250 sign-ups on the city website to pay bills, and growing fast.
 - **Fees:** Yes, there’s a 3% fee to pay by card, or 75 cents to pay from your checking account. State law requires us to pass any fee on. You can still mail it in if you would rather pay the postage.
 - **Drop Box:** We’ve had a big increase in people dropping off their payment in the drop box in front of City Hall. Use it.
 - **M&T:** You can also go to M&T Bank’s drive-up window; they provide receipts
 - **Forms:** All city forms are available online; you can email / mail / drop box.
 - **Phone for Help:** Staff is here to help with questions – 838-5000. and to direct
 - **Pay Safely.**
8. **Municipal Meetings:** As you can see and hear, City Council and other city board meetings continue remotely, with real-time accessibility.
- **Mayor Is In:** As for me, I am at City Hall every day, all day.
9. **Information:** While not complete, here are some resources.
- The City’s website – <http://www.CityofBeacon.org> – has new links for
 - **COVID-19** at the top of our home page in **red**;
 - **Beacon Resources** in the middle of the page, with local listings of food pantries and meals, open businesses and take-out/delivery food;
 - **Request for Service:** A link at the top and middle of the page where you can tell us about a problem and get a fast response and reply;
 - **Public Safety Alerts:** A link in the middle of the page to “Sign Up for Public Safety Alerts” – so you can get SWIFT-911 messages by mobile/email;
 - **Pay Bills:** I’ve already told you about this, and hundreds have signed up.
 - Dutchess County’s website – www.dutchessny.gov has some of the best links for small

businesses and affected employees, including to SBA loans and grants.

- **Dutchess Notification Network:** Both notices, links and webinars. They do note that the Federal CARES Act has not had much federal guidance, and they will post more when better information becomes available.
- **DCRCOC:** Also see the local Chamber of Commerce at www.DCRCOC.org.
- **Financial Impacts:** Remember, the Governor has halted evictions, foreclosures and utility cutoffs. The state has waived the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits.

10. Census: Oh, let me remind you about the census.

11. About COVID: I'm no expert, but a couple of observations from a data geek.

- **Peak?** Hard to tell just yet, but I agree with the Governor that NYC cases may have peaked
- **NYC vs. Suburbs:** The highest incidence of confirmed COVID-19 cases – measured in terms of cases per 100,000 – are in the suburbs, not NYC – Westchester, Rockland, Nassau, Suffolk – and New Orleans.
- **Dutchess:** We are half the rate of NYC, and a quarter the rate of Westchester / Rockland, but more than Detroit, which is a new national hot spot.

12. Thank You:

- **Health Care Workers:** Thank you for being on the front lines, at risk to yourselves. You are national heroes.
- **Local Stores:** Thank you to our essential stores that have provided food and other needed services. You are all local heroes.
- **Closed Businesses & Employees:** Thank you for suffering economically, in order to help protect our most vulnerable neighbors.
- **City Employees:** Thank you all for keeping our community going, from police and fire, to water and sewer, to city hall and others.
- **Community:** Thank you all – for doing your part, for social distancing, for remaining civil and – as best we can under the circumstances – upbeat.

13. Be Kind: Finally, be kind to one another.



Proclamation

In Honor of Autism Awareness

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, learning and behavioral skills of those affected by it and;

WHEREAS, autism was once thought to be a relatively rare disorder, but with increased awareness and diagnosis, it is estimated to occur as frequently as 1 in 60 children and;

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive treatment early in their lives, it is often possible for them to make significant improvement and;

WHEREAS, the Autism Society of America has spearheaded an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Lee Kyriacou, do hereby proclaim April, 2020 as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Beacon.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Lee Kyriacou, Mayor