

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on May 1, 2017. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <http://vimeo.com/channels/40154>.

Council Members Present:

Lee Kyriacou, At Large
Peggy Ross, Ward One
Omar Harper, Ward Two
Pamela Wetherbee, Ward Three
Ali Muhammad, Ward Four
Randy Casale, Mayor

Council Members Absent/Excused:

George Mansfield, At Large

Also Present:

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

A moment of silence was observed for those who work to protect human rights

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:

Samantha Brit: Development is pushing long-time citizens out. The community needs more affordable housing not more luxury housing. Pete Seeger sang, "This Land was Made for You and Me".

Theresa Kraft: Commends the Council for resolving the wall issue.

Lou Conway: Would love a skate park in Beacon. Has a lot of support from his peers. Has a plan for a 100% citizen funded park. **Mayor Casale:** invited him to set up a meeting regarding the skate park proposal.

Joseph _____: Gave details on the Soapbox meeting and explained the purpose. Mentioned that Ali and Pam were there.

April Farley: Invited everyone to the NAACP meeting. Gave the meeting details. Asked that "affordable housing" issue be added to an upcoming agenda. Believes it would be important to enact rent stabilization laws. Renters need amenities – there are only two laundromats in Beacon. Feels that senior citizens are being preyed upon by those wishing to buy their houses. When the seniors move out, young people will suffer.

David Eberle: Feels that diversity is the lifeblood of a City. There are not enough rental units for low-income renters. We should address all income levels.

Community Segment:

Howland Public Library Update – Amy Raff, Director
Ms. Raff distributed the Library's annual report and gave programming details.

Public Hearings:**No. 1: Continuation of the Public Hearing Regarding Workforce Affordable Housing**

John Clarke, Planner, explained the minor changes that were made to the draft local law.

Speakers:

Theresa Kraft: Reiterated her feeling that developers not be allowed to influence the City's laws.

Justin Riccobono: Feels that it is almost impossible to find property available in Beacon. Hopes that with development the market will cool.

Taylor Palmer: Spoke on behalf of the development community. Reiterated developers' request for increased density be permitted. Would like to continue the discussion about condominiums. Appreciates the City Council's and the consultant's time and attention to this matter.

Mary Linge, Hudson River Housing: Addressed the letter from CPC and advised that HRH does in fact develop subsidized projects.

April Farley: Asked council to explain some of the numbers included in the law. Should residents wait three years for the development or will they be priced out?

John Clarke, City Planner and Laura McLaughlin, HRH: Explained the figures included in the draft local law.

John McKibble: Understands the need for workforce housing for those who work here but is conflicted by the provision giving preference to City employees.

Anthony Ruggiero advised that first preference will be given to emergency responders. We hope this may help us retain our volunteers.

Motion to close the public hearing: Council Member Harper, second Council Member Wetherbee
6-0

- **Public Hearing No. 2: Local Law to Amend Chapter 223, of the Code as it Relates to Off-Street Parking.**

Mayor Casale explained the changes to Chapter 223

Speakers:

There were no public comments.

Motion to adjourn the hearing until May 15 so that Planning Board could provide their comments.
Council Member Harper, second Council Member Wetherbee
6-0

Council Member Reports:

Ali Muhammad: Thanked everyone for attending meetings and staying involved. Was nice to see the wall come down. Thanked the organizers of the Citizen Soapbox meeting. Meetings like that are what democracy looks like. Gave information on the Unity in the Community Yoga event in Green Street parking on May 11.

Omar Harper: Thanked everyone for helping out on Earth Day.

Lee Kyriacou: Is glad that everything worked out with the wall issue on Main Street. Had wanted to quote Ronald Reagan "Mr. Gorbachev, take down this wall", but did not need to since it was resolved very swiftly. Would like to talk about traffic and parking issues that he anticipates in the future.

George Mansfield: excused

Pam Wetherbee: The 344 Main Street issue gave her concerns about future development. Would like confirmation that the remedy did not cost the city anything. Attended the Citizen Soapbox meeting and heard about the skate park plan. Participated in Earth Day and thanked Mark and Brian.

Peggy Ross: Was sorry she was unable to get to the Soap Box meeting. Participated with Earth Day. There are many teachable moments for kids relative to Earth Day. Would like to workshop 344 Main to figure out what happened.

Anthony Ruggiero: Gave the history of the project at 344 Main. The wall was being built on the owner's property, which happened to span to the middle of the sidewalk. The City approached the developer with their concerns and the developer agreed to relocate the wall to align with the health food store.

Mayor Casale: Attended the Little League Parade and the Dog Parade. Thanked the Barkery and Safe Havens for their role in organizing the dog parade. Will be meeting with the skate park advocates soon. Read the proclamation from the Elks Club about Youth Week.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

1. Resolution to Adopt the Local Law Regarding Workforce Affordable Housing

Mayor Casale read the entire local law.

- Motion by Council Member Wetherbee, second by Council Member Ross
5-1 Council Member Muhammad voted no

2. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Millennium Strategies for Grant Writing and Administrative Services

- Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Ross
6-0

3. Resolution to Appoint Peter Hockler to the Position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Helper

- Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Harper
6-0

Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2017:

- Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Ross
6-0

Budget Amendments:

- City Administrator read the budget amendment details

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:

Clark Gebman: Continued the affordable housing comment as it relates to his property on Liberty Street. Offered a settlement to the 10-year saga.

Jodi McCredo: Gave an update on the Human Relations Commission.

Executive Session:

- Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Harper
6-0

Next Workshop: May 8, 2017

Next Meeting: May 15, 2017