

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 15, 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
George Mansfield, 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:**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:

David Schwartz, owner of the Beacon Bldg.: Agrees with the consensus that the consolidated firehouse should be located at the Dog Park. Bought the Beacon Bldg. at auction; no one else bid on it. If the City decides to use his site, he will be an unwilling seller.

Charlie Kelly: Spoke out against using the Dog Park location for the firehouse. Feels that the land is more valuable as parkland. City Hall was moved to its current location as an afterthought. Would like the firehouse project to contain a Recreation Center.

Christine Galbo: Gave details about the upcoming Youth Police Academy.

Amanda Means: Is concerned about locating the firehouse on the Dog Park site. Is worried about response time. Mentioned enhancing EMS services.

Clara Davis: Thanked the Council for taking comments. Feels that the fire study does not consider Beacon's recent growth. Worries that it will be difficult for a firetruck to maneuver through that area. Urged the council to delay the vote and look at what is best for the future.

Jason Hughes: Would like Council to consider the kids going to the Montessori School. Making it a multi-use facility would alleviate others' concerns about a firehouse as a playhouse.

Marie Greener: Feels that the 10-year-old report may not reflect the current needs of Beacon. Encourages council to delay voting. Route 52 is on the edge of town and it will be a busy intersection.

Pat Keliher: Has been a firefighter for many years. Has participated on all of the reports. We have studied this issue for 20 years. It would be wasteful to remodel the current firehouse. Thinks the Dog Park is the best place. Tens of thousands of dollars have been spent reviewing this issue. Vote for or against but stop kicking this can down the road.

Jim Cotter: Has read the studies and does not feel that there is a compelling argument for moving forward. Response time should be considered and the City should include renewable energy options. Encourages council to vote no.

Samantha Brit: Does not feel that the changes made to the law with regard to affordable housing will help. Feels that single mothers and families should be given preference. Read from the Highland Current newspaper.

Clark Gebman: God bless the men and women who come to rescue us from heart attacks. He mentioned that he is a banker and that none of the council members has asked him for his numbers regarding the proposal. Feels that Beacon's laws do not address how families can create generational wealth.

Public Hearings:

No. 1: Continuation of the Public Hearing on the Local Law to Amend Chapter 223 of the Code as it Relates to Off Street Parking

Speakers:

Lou Amoroso: Thinks that it would be dangerous to have underground parking and is surprised that we allowed underground parking on Churchill Street.

Theresa Kraft: Believes that parking spaces on Main Street are too narrow already.

Motion to close the public hearing: Council Member Muhammad, second Council Member Mansfield 7-0

Council Member Reports:

Ali Muhammad: Feels happy to be at the meeting and hopes everyone had a nice Mother's Day.

Omar Harper: Hoped everyone had a happy Mother's Day. Went to the Cupcake Festival – it was a great event. Went to a radio interview with the kids from Sargent School, it was the highlight of his week. It's great to see the recreation programs at work.

Lee Kyriacou: Assessment notices were sent out. Previously ran a State agency dealing with assessments. Gave an overview of how assessments affect taxes. Advised that if anyone has any questions, they can contact him.

George Mansfield: had no comments.

Pam Wetherbee: Would like to revisit the 344 Main Street issue to make sure something like this does not happen again.

Peggy Ross: Also would like to discuss 344 Main. Encouraged the public to attend Planning Board meetings. Would like to suggest a Super Workshop where the council, planning board and zoning board would meet together. Gave examples of things to be reviewed. Would like to look at the impact the City's growth is having on the school district. This would be a meeting about intelligent growth.

Jerry Landisi: Gave details on the Elder Abuse program in Poughkeepsie. Gave an update on the County's legislative items.

Anthony Ruggiero: Gave details about the gypsy moth spraying on Mt. Beacon and Fishkill Ridge.

Mayor Randy Casale: Announced that he reappointed Tony Lassiter to the Newburgh Housing Authority. Gave the details about Grievance Day. Advised that it is National Police Week.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:**1. Resolution Adopting a Local Law Amending Chapter 223, Article III, Section 26, Subsection C Concerning Off-Street Parking**

- Motion by Council Member Wetherbee, second by Council Member Ross
5-2 (Council Members Muhammad and Harper voted no)

2. Resolution Selecting the Memorial Park Dog Park Location as the Site of the Single Consolidated Firehouse

Council Member Kyriacou would like to keep one of our firehouse in a historic firehouse bldg. Added that he would like the new firehouse to be multi-use. Would like to discuss long-term planning for all City-bldgs.

Council Member Mansfield feels that if we move the firehouse to the dog park, we should first have a traffic study done.

Anthony Ruggiero added that a traffic study is being done on the Fishkill Avenue and Teller area.

Mayor Casale explained how the EMS system is run and how it does not cost the city any money. He will also speak to Dutchess County about their site as a possible location if the present bldg. could be demolished a new facility could fit there.

- Motion by Table until June 5 - Council Member Ross, second by Council Member Wetherbee
6-1 (Council Member Muhammad voted no)

3. Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with MAA for Architectural and Design Services Related to the Consolidated Firehouse Project

- This resolution was removed from the agenda.

4. Resolution to Set a Public Hearing for June 5, 2017 to Receive Comments Concerning a Special Use Permit for Property Located at 177 Main Street

- Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second Council Member Kyriacou
7-0

5. Resolution to Authorize the Common Ground Farm to Hold a Ticketed Event at the Pavilion at Memorial Park

- Motion by Council Member Mansfield, second Council Member Ross
7-0

6. Resolution Establishing Benchmarking Requirements for Certain Municipal Buildings

- Motion by Council Member Ross, second Council Member Mansfield
7-0

7. Resolution to Approve the Appointment of a Part Time Police Assistant

- Motion by Council Member Mansfield, second Council Member Muhammad
7-0

Approval of Minutes of April 17 and May 1, 2017:

- Motion by Council Member Kyriacou, second by Council Member Muhammad
7-0

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:

Theresa Kraft: Feels like everyone is looking to develop a 4-story bldg.

Kenya Gadsden: Urged everyone to vote on the School Budget and Board members.

Lou Amaroso: Advised that 3 minutes is not enough time to discuss the firehouse project. Whoever painted the firehouse did a terrible job. Gave details about what a volunteer firefighter does.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Council Member Harper, second by Council Member Muhammad
7-0

Next Workshop: May 30, 2017

Next Meeting: June 5, 2017