

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on April 15, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/330769857>

Council Members Present:

Lee Kyriacou, At Large
George Mansfield, At Large
John Rembert, Ward Two
Jodi McCredo, Ward Three
Amber Grant, Ward Four
Randy Casale, Mayor

Council Members Absent:

Terry Nelson, Ward One

Also Present:

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator
Nick Ward-Willis, City Attorney
Frits Zernike, Dutchess County
Legislator
Nick Page, Dutchess County
Legislator

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. There were no public hearings scheduled.

Speakers:

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft stated that the city should not allow four-story buildings on Main Street. The Planning Board is hypocritical in the fact that they state they do not grant variances, that is the job of the Zoning Board. However, the Planning board does make recommendations for variances to the Zoning Board. High density development mechanical rooms are like miniature cities and they are unnecessary. We need to preserve the character of our historic city.

Dennis Pavlock

Mr. Pavlock made two comments. First, he said that he witnessed an unsafe act at the Parade of Green and if anyone would like to discuss this, please get in touch with him. Second, there is unsafe scaffolding near Ed's gas station due to the high winds.

Paul Mersfelder

Mr. Mersfelder spoke on behalf of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson. He asked the city to support New York State legislation called Protect Our Courts which would essentially prevent ICE officials from arresting individuals who have entered the United States illegally while they are in court for a non-immigration related issue.

Tina Bernstein

Ms. Bernstein asked the city to support New York State legislation called Protect Our Courts.

Arthur Camins

Mr. Camins opined that the City of Beacon should take an aggressive and visionary role in order for our city to be more welcoming and affordable. He spoke in favor of rent control and stabilization. Mr. Camins requested that the City Council enact a building moratorium so we can have an expert help us create an affordable housing plan.

Julie Shiriooshi

Ms. Shiriooshi spoke on behalf of New York State Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson who is supporting Protect Our Courts.

Charlie Kelly

Mr. Kelly spoke about Ferry Landing. He stated that the vantage point where the viewshed is protected starts at the intersection of Bayview and Wolcott Avenue. There is no intersection of Bayview and Wolcott Avenue. Mr. Kelly spoke out against the project at Ferry Landing, stating that it was out of line with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and the planners involved with the project have made dubious claims. We need to protect our viewsheds.

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankowski pointed out that the trees at Ferry Landing have been cut and it looks terrible. He asked for support to take the property through eminent domain. He stated that the development project on Wolcott Avenue looks terrible. Mr. Yankowski suggests having an RF engineer determine if the facilities at Howland Avenue can be remotely tuned. He wants to know if the power level can be increased remotely.

Frank Ritter

Mr. Ritter showed a picture of Beacon 100 years ago and asked the public to let him know if their family members are in the photo. He questioned what Beacon's predecessors would think of the development happening today. There will not be enough parking. Sewers and storm drains will overflow.

Laury Dick

Ms. Dick asked the Council to vote to support the New York State legislation called Protect Our Courts. ICE is arresting people without criminal records in the courts.

Community Segment

Dennis Pavlock of the Beacon Historic Society spoke about the upcoming Walking Ghost Tour on May 3, 4, 5 from 6 – 9 pm every half an hour. Some of the many historical figures who will be portrayed are actor and director Paul Newman, the first fireman who died fighting a fire in the City of Beacon, Bobby Kramer, and the famous palmist, Madam Zingarra.

Public Hearings: There was no Public Hearing scheduled.

Council Member Reports:

Amber Grant:

Ms. Grant thanked people for supporting Protect Our Courts. She spoke in favor of the bill and said she would email a sample resolution and key points regarding the bill. She said she looks forward to discussing viewshed protection on April 29th. Ms. Grant thanked the City Administrator and the Mayor for moving forward on the Climate Smart Communities program by posting a job announcement for a Climate Smart Communities Coordinator.

John Rembert:

Mr. Rembert is looking forward to the workshop on April 29th to discuss viewsheds. He wants to learn more about Protect our Courts and would like to support the bill.

Lee Kyriacou:

Mr. Kyriacou attended the last Planning Board meeting. He recognized how even-handed and attentive the Planning Board is to input. People should be complaining to the City Council, not the Planning Board. The Planning Board has limited authority. Further, it is important for the Council to look at the linkage zone and the viewsheds.

George Mansfield:

Mr. Mansfield said that he looks forward to discussing the Protect Our Courts Act. He pointed out that there is a bench on 9D and Tioronda Avenue that has spray paint. He would like to consider adding the chapel at Hidden Brook to the historical list of properties.

Jodi McCredo:

Ms. McCredo thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She would like to discuss the Protect Our Courts. The Howland Public Library will be hosting a series of Community Conversations. The schedule is as follows: May 22nd at 6 pm at the Beacon Elks Lodge, May 24th at 10 am at the Howland Cultural Center, and June 22nd at 3 pm at the University Settlement Camp. You can find out more at beaconlibrary.org. Ms. McCredo is looking forward to speaking about zoning.

Nick Page

Mr. Page provided several updates from Dutchess County regarding the City of Beacon.

Mr. Page said that money was recently allocated for early voting; the closest location to Beacon is the Fishkill Town Hall.

A subcommittee recently expanded wine and liquor store hours across the county.

In May there will be a county infrastructure package, they will allocate funding for the design of the Washington Street Bridge. Bridge replacement is scheduled to be done no later than 2022.

Mr. Page is working on providing a summer weekend ferry service pilot program. He has secured county funding from Dutchess and Orange; he is likely to come back and ask for a Newburgh and Beacon contribution for the service as well.

Frits Zernike

Mr. Zernike, a County Legislator provided an update on the wine and liquor bill at the county level. He announced that the County Executive will likely veto a bill which will expand wine and liquor store hours. However, the legislators will likely be able to override the veto. He thanked the Mayor for supporting the bill.

Mayor Casale:

Mayor Casale thanked the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps members for their life-saving efforts over the past 60 years. Mayor Casale read a proclamation that declared April 16, 2019 Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps Day. He congratulated them on their 60th Anniversary and thanked them for all of the money they have saved the city over the past 60 years. He went onto empathize with the ambulance corps system. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call 845 831 4540 or email recruitment@beaconvac.org

Mayor Casale stated that he received a letter from a resident regarding the Protect Our Courts Act. That letter can be found below:

Dear Mayor Casale and Beacon City Council Members,

I am unable to make it to tonight's city council meeting, but would like to have my comments included in the record regarding the recent surge in the presence of ICE officers in local courts of the Hudson Valley in recent weeks.

I urge you to pass a resolution in support of the Protect Our Courts Act now before the State Assembly. It is crucial that ALL of our citizens to be able to access local courts, for both criminal and civil matters, without fear of being arrested by federal agents. Whether a person needs to address criminal charges or pay a traffic fine or get help regarding domestic abuse, they must feel they can safely access the courthouse. To quote from the bill, "the use of court calendars and courthouses as a means of locating allegedly undocumented individuals...leaves many immigrants, documented and undocumented, afraid to access the justice system or respond to court summonses for fear of potentially life-changing immigration-related repercussions. This trend has a potentially damaging impact on all New Yorkers, not just immigrant communities, as the operation of our judicial system and public safety are undermined."

I also urge you to stand firm in keeping Beacon a sanctuary for immigrants. We hear in the media that cities that have declared themselves sanctuaries are being threatened by the federal government with loss of funding and other retaliation. But an article in the NY Times reported that in NY state and other states, the courts have been ruling in favor of municipalities. In November, a New York appellate court rules that local law enforcement cannot detain immigrants for ICE. The article notes that courts in NY and other states have "prohibited local law enforcement from complying with so-called detainers, the requests from ICE for those officers to hold immigrants." [nytimes.com/2018/12/12/nyregion/sanctuary-cities-state-courts.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/12/nyregion/sanctuary-cities-state-courts.html)

I thank you for your attention to this issue and for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Julie Winterbottom

The Beacon Library will be voting for Board Members on April 25th from 12 – 8 pm.

The New Vision Church has been running a food pantry on Saturdays from 10:30 – 12:30 at the Recreation Center. They have an abundance of food. If you have any questions, please call 845 202 7199. He thanked the New Vision Church for their service.

The Arbor Day Celebration will be on April 26th at 4 pm at the Yankee Clipper Diner.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

1. A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Will Hough to the Recreation Committee

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

Will Hough:

Mr. Hough stated that he has been a part of the Beacon community for about 18 months. A couple of months ago he stopped a kid from robbing a store in Beacon and he decided he wanted to help make kids stronger mentally and physically. He is a former special operations military official. He looks forward to working together with the Mayor and the citizens of Beacon. Mr. Hough thanked the Council for appointing him.

2. A Resolution to Set Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law to Delete Chapter 183 and Amend Chapter 223 Sections 15 and 63 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding the Sign Law

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Resolution passes 6-0

3. A Resolution to Set Public Hearing on Verizon Wireless Facility at 110 Howland Avenue

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Resolution Passes 6-0

4. Scheduling of an Information Session for Public Comment on Preliminary Draft Zoning Code Tables for Schedule of Uses and Rezoning of Certain Properties

- Motion by Council person McCredo
- Second by Council person Grant
- Resolution passes 6-0

5. A Resolution Supporting Universal Rent Stabilization and Control

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

Council person Lee Kyriacou:

Mr. Kyriacou asked for the specifics of the resolution.

Mayor Casale:

The Mayor read the resolution which can be found in the agenda for April 15, 2019.

6. A Resolution to Declare Fairview Tank Replacement Project a Type II Action Under SEQRA

This resolution was not voted on. Rather, the Council voted to table the vote until May 6th because it must be voted on at the same time as the Water Bond which is on the agenda for May 6th.

Motion to table until May 6

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Grant
- Motion passes 6 – 0

7. A Resolution Authorizing Sale of City of Beacon Property Adjacent to 351 Tioronda Avenue

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Resolution passes 6-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve council minutes from April 1, 2019

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person McCredo
- Motion passes 6-0

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:

Louis Amoroso Sr.

Mr. Amoroso stated that an individual who spoke in the earlier Public Comment period made statements hypocritical to the stance he took years ago when he was influential in preventing Mr. Amoroso Sr. from serving on the Planning Board. According to Mr. Amoroso Sr., this individual took pro-development stances in the past however, his stance has now changed since there is a planned development in his own neighborhood.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Council person Rembert
- Second by Council person Mansfield
- Motion passes 6-0

City Council / Zoning Board of Appeals / Planning Board Retreat: April 22, 2019

Next Workshop: April 29, 2019

Next Meeting: May 6, 2019