

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on June 17, 2019. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/342975417>

Council Members Present:

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:

Lee Kyriacou, At Large

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:

Louis Amoroso Jr.

Mr. Amoroso stated that he is disappointed with the construction at Green Street Park because it looks like it won't be a neighborhood park. It looks like they ruined the hill for sleigh riding. They took the blacktop away where kids used to learn how to rollerblade and cycle. There are trees all over the place. We're spending good money after bad. Someone should go take a look at it to put a stop to the construction.

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft stated that too many variances are being approved. The zoning board votes to approve variances, however each board actually plays an important role. She said that she will not be intimidated by threats or scare tactics about discussing this topic in public forums. This municipality has allowed developers to stage buildings out of context with our historic neighborhoods. Regarding the Creek Drive project, a letter from Lanc and Tully to the City states the project should be paused yet this project is still moving forward. A moratorium should be at least 6 months.

She stated that the water treatment plant is 25 years old and out of date. The City should force NYS to build their own water system and stop using Beacon's for Fishkill Correctional Facility. We need to see the reports submitted during the last moratorium.

Dennis Pavelock

Mr. Pavelock stated that he participated in the city-wide yard sale. It was a disaster. It should have been done in the park. Cars were speeding all over the streets and neighborhoods.

The City should consider renaming a street after Mayor Clara Lou Gould.

The City should have another grocery store on Main Street.

Mr. Pavelock stated that he doesn't agree with the construction at Green Street Park. He doesn't agree with the process and the City is not letting enough residents take part in the decision making.

John Bono

Mr. Bono spoke about the Bayview Avenue viewshed. People don't seem to know where the viewsheds are. Viewsheds should be protected. This is also a historically important area. The proposed building at Ferry Landing shouldn't be going up.

Arthur Camins

Mr. Camins spoke about the moratorium; he is pleased to see that it will be discussed but disappointed to see that it has only to do with the water supply. It should be much broader than that. The City should take a break for a year on building and determine the impact on schools, affordability, traffic, and viewsheds. This should be studied at length and cannot be done too quickly. The time to do this is now.

Stosh Yankowski

The moratorium does not include any issues other than the water status. The City should be looking at the parking problems, specifically the parking on Main Street. There is a small problem with handicap parking. He would like to suggest seven new handicap spots.

Radiation has poor effects on peoples' health. People are developing cancer from these issues. Sprint removed a cell tower from a town in California. We should do the same here in Beacon.

Community Segment:

Community Segment

Christina Boryk from Rebuilding Together gave a presentation about the services that her organization offers. Their focus is to help residents create safe and healthy homes. They work primarily with low-income earners and anyone can apply on their website. Additionally, they will be holding office hours at the Recreation Center in Beacon on June 25th from 11 to 1. For more information and to apply for a Rebuilding Together project, please visit rtdutchess.org

Public Hearings:

No. 1: Public Hearing Regarding 110 Howland Avenue

Nick Ward Willis

The City Council is familiar with the application, as is the City Planning Board and the County Planning Board. The height of the proposed Verizon tower exceeds 50 feet and requires approval from the Council. Evergreens will be planted in order to screen the tower from a nearby house.

Theresa Kraft

Please think of the value of our City and the quality of life. Based upon surveys, 90 percent of homeowners are less interested in properties near cell towers. The City should be concerned with opening Pandora's box. We need to think about our residents, everybody's home value will go down in the surrounding area.

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankowski put on a baseball cap wrapped in tinfoil to protect him from cellular radiation. The Verizon RF engineer sent an email to Nick Ward Willis saying that all of their facilities can be controlled remotely. The City needs to have their own engineer check what the current background radiation is. It will be around 1 percent of what is allowed by the Federal Communication Commission, Russia meanwhile allows 1/6 of what is permitted. Brussels has stopped the 5G rollout. France and Israel are eliminating wireless internet in their schools. Mr. Yankowski stated that he wishes the engineer could explain why their system can't be hacked. Many companies have been hacked in the past. He said that his tinfoil hat won't protect our children, that is the job of the Council.

Nick Ward Willis

According to the Federal Communication Commission, the City can only make decisions based upon aesthetics and not based upon health risks.

Neil Kaplan

Mr. Kaplan stated that he owns a property next to the proposed cell tower. He is opposed to this tower. Cell towers should not be in residential areas. The Council should be looking after what is good for the people. He is also opposed because the property values will go down in the area around the cell tower. Verizon may continuously want bigger towers. He requested that the Council reject this proposal.

John Miller

Mr. Miller owns a property adjacent to the property where the tower is proposed. The property in question is owned by a non-profit and they should not be allowed to make a profit in this way. He is opposed because he believes that the values of properties in the vicinity will go down.

Dave Papo

Mr. Papo is concerned that he found out about the proposed cell tower just two weeks before this hearing. He opposes the proposed tower. The City should send literature to resident explaining what this is all about. The City Council should have given residents more input and more notice. He predicted that the tower will probably decrease the value of his property.

Motion to close the Public Hearing

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

Council Member Reports:

Terry Nelson:

The Emergency Tenant Protection Act (ETPA) passed the NYS Assembly last week. This is essentially about rent control and landlord accountability which will now be enforceable around New York State. There was a resident in Beacon who would not have been evicted if this law were in place in Beacon. Mr. Nelson proposed that the Council should work on this at an upcoming Council meeting. He stated that he is in favor of his constituents not being embarrassed in front of their neighbors.

Jodi McCredo:

Ms. McCredo echoed Mr. Nelson and said the Council should workshop the ETPA Act.

George Mansfield:

Mr. Mansfield stated that the ETPA Act should be workshopped.

John Rembert:

Mr. Rembert said that he is looking forward to workshopping a moratorium for more than four months. He thanked Fire Department Station 2 for helping with a flooded basement at the church where he preaches.

Amber Grant:

Ms. Grant is excited to discuss the ETPA Act.

City Administrator

The City has put a significant amount of new technology into the water plant. They are going to continue to work on upgrades, it is always in the City's Capital Plans and Budgets.

Mayor Casale:

Mayor Casale announced that the City was the recipient of a Pedestrian Safety Audit offer. The audit will be performed for free. This will require very little effort on the part of Beacon. Previous safety audits have benefited other municipalities.

Mayor Casale read a letter from Rob Lielbein announcing his retirement from the Conservation Advisory Committee. Mr. Lieblein will continue to serve on the Tree Committee. The Mayor thanked Mr. Lieblein for all of his hard work and highlighted some on the great things the Tree Committee has done.

Mayor Casale read a letter of thanks to the Mayor, the City Council, City Staff and in particular the Recreation Director Mark Price, for their help with the Greenway Trail. Mayor Casale thanked all of the members of the Greenway Trail Committee for their work to improve the trail.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:**1. A Resolution to Appoint Eleanor Peck to the Conservation Advisory Committee**

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

2. A Resolution to Set Public Hearing on Local Law Regarding Enactment of a Building Moratorium for July 15, 2019

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

Jodi McCredo

Ms. McCredo asked if this can be workshopped before the public hearing. Nick Ward Willis assured her that it can be.

3. A Resolution Promoting Andrew Stevens to Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

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

4. A Resolution Promoting Sean Burke to Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

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

5. A Resolution Appointing Hearing Officer

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

6. A Resolution to Award Contract to Aqualogic Systems, Inc. for the Replacement of Filter Control Panel for the Beacon Water Filter Plant

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

7. A Resolution Approving Change Order # 1 for the Phillips Street Reconstruction Project

- Motion by Council person Grant

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

8. Resolution to Award Contract to Yonkers Excavating Corporation for the Wilson Street Watermain Replacement Project

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

Budget Amendments

1. ICLEI Services
2. Swift 911 Services
3. Fire Lieutenant Retirement

- Motion by Council person Grant
- Second by Council person Nelson
- 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:

No speakers

Adjournment:

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

Next Workshop: June 24, 2019

Next Meeting: July 1, 2019