

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on January 6, 2020. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/383328601>

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
Nick Page, County Legislator

Mayor Kyriacou thank all of the public servants who work in the City of Beacon and said it is an honor to be the Mayor of the City. He thanked all public servants from those who provide mutual defense to those in law and order. He said each Councilmember will have an opportunity to determine who or what is being recognized at the start of different Council meetings.

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak up to three minutes on any subject matter.

Speakers:

Theresa Kraft

Ms. Kraft said there are several pressing issues facing the City's leadership. Beacon must be careful that the new development compliments what is already in place and abides by reasonable guidelines established in the City. Taller, out-of-scale buildings are becoming the norm instead of the exception. Beacon needs to choose preservation over demolition. The most sustainable thing the City can do is to restore old buildings. The new buildings will be out of style quickly.

She said the City should join the Certified Local Government Program which offers access to state and federal grants. Ms. Kraft urged the new administration to uphold design standards. Movements should be deliberate, with an eye on the long view. She wished the Council the best of luck going forward and asked for a moment of silence since it was not on the agenda when it is needed most.

Dennis Pavelock

Mr. Pavelock said that the municipality of Mount Vernon conducted an active shooter drill. He said that such a drill should be a priority in 2020. Do not deprive City Hall workers simply because it is easier to kick the can down the road a little further.

He also said that Councilmembers who say they have nothing to report during the council meetings fall short of their representation of their ward and show a reckless disregard to the constituents.

Anthony Ruggiero said that he and the City Police Chief are working on security and safety in the building.

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankowski congratulated the Mayor and Councilmembers on their election victories. He said the City needs to monitor the output of the transmitters Verizon is planning on installing. He is concerned that Verizon can raise the energy output so high that it would harm people. Older residents are more affected by radiation from cell phone towers and the developer of the Cross and Main Street parcel wants to create senior housing right next to a cell tower.

Mr. Yankowski reminded Councilmember Nelson that he claimed to be against four story buildings. Councilperson McCredo seemed to say that her ward residents felt the same way. Mr. Yankowski said that it seems like Councilmember Nelson and Councilmember McCredo are now going back on their word.

Mr. Yankowski said that the City Planner is bias towards the developers, citing the fact that the Planner said that in the past there used to be four story buildings in the City of Beacon.

He said the City should approve a resolution to move the towards lower emissions. The City should support the Paris accord because a lot of people are against it.

Arthur Camins

Mr. Camins said that the community forums on development should include extraordinary outreach so that the audience is large and diverse. He said that in the near future, the criteria and expectations of the City's contractors should be discussed in an open meeting. He said that, in particular, the City Planner's position should be seriously looked at.

Michal Mart

Ms. Mart thanked the Council for their service and congratulated them. She said that the contract for the City Planner should be examined. She asked if there was a monthly or bi-monthly report on the status of affordable housing in the City of Beacon.

Council ReportsCouncilmember Dan Aymar Blair

Mr. Aymar-Blair said that he is excited for the upcoming development forums and about reforming the development process over the next couple of months. Councilmember Aymar-Blair said he plans on doing direct door-to-door outreach to inform residents about the development forums.

He asked the City Administrator for a map of City-owned property.

Councilmember Amber Grant

Ms. Grant thanked the City staff for their hard work in preparing for the Swearing in Ceremony.

Councilmember Jodi McCredo

Ms. McCredo thanked all of the participants in the Swearing in Ceremony, she mentioned Susan Wright, the singers, and the Beacon and Fishkill Cub Scout Troop 41 and Pack 1.

She thanked the Traffic Safety Committee for their work in implementing stop signs on Liberty and Grove Street.

Ms. McCredo said she is happy that the Traffic Safety Committee is planning on reviewing a potential stop sign by Barb's Butchery because the request was submitted by JV Forrestal Elementary School students.

She assured the public that the Council will be looking at all of the consultants' contracts, unfortunately there was not enough time to do it for this year's contracts. It is best practice to learn what is available to the City. She wished everyone a happy new year.

Councilmember George Mansfield

Mr. Mansfield wished everyone a happy new year, he said that he is looking forward to working with the new Council.

He thanked the Beacon Police Department for their diligence in catching the person who has been putting graffiti along Main Street.

He said that a business owner who fell victim to the graffiti perpetrators is upset because he received a letter from the City stating he has 16 days to clean the graffiti or he'll be fined. Councilmember Mansfield said he thinks the City should try to be more sensitive in the future.

Anthony Ruggiero

Mr. Ruggiero said that he also spoke with the same business owner and told him that he can work with the Building Department to find some flexibility in order to avoid a fine.

Councilmember Air Rhodes

Mx. Rhodes introduced herself as the new Councilmember representing residents in Ward 2. They said that they received several complaints about people not clearing sidewalks in Ward 2. Councilmember Rhodes reminded residents that it is the homeowners responsibility to clear their sidewalks.

They said that they're excited to hear what residents have to say, and all of the Councilmembers email addresses can be found on the City's website.

Councilmember Terry Nelson

Mr. Nelson wished everyone a happy new year and thanked those who attended the Swearing in ceremony. He went on to clarify his comments from a previous meeting, saying that the number of stories that a building has are not as important as the height of the building itself. He is always willing to have a discussion about building height.

Councilmember Nelson implored residents to follow the traffic laws, particularly on Main Street and Verplanck Avenue.

He said he wants to work on affordable housing during the new year.

Mr. Nelson concluded his comments by reminding the public that he is available if they want to get in touch with him.

Nick Page, County Legislator

Mr. Page said that Dutchess County passed a law in late 2019 that will allow the County to enter into agreements with school districts in order to put cameras on school busses to dissuade and identify drivers who do not obey stop signs on school buses. He said he looks forward to working with the new Council.

Mayor Kyriacou

Mayor Kyriacou thanked the residents of the City of Beacon. He said that he has full and complete confidence in the City Administrator, Anthony Ruggiero, to run the city on a day to day basis. He said that respectfulness and civility will be a priority at meetings. He will try to run efficient meetings. Finally, he will emphasize partnership with the City Council and the community.

Local Laws and Resolutions

Resolution Adopting City Council Rules and Procedures

- Motion by Councilmember Grant
- Second by Councilmember Nelson
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Establishing City Council Meeting Dates for 2020

- Motion by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Designating the Poughkeepsie Journal as the Official Newspaper of the City Council

- Motion by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember Grant
- Resolution passes 7 – 0

Resolution Authorizing the City of Beacon to Enter into a Contract with Keane and Beane for Legal Services

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

Councilmember Blair

Mr. Blair asked Mayor Kyriacou how the Council could go about expressing their desires to have an RFP process for consultant contracts.

Mayor Kyriacou

The Mayor said that an RFP process can be undertaken during the 2020 year.

Resolution Authorizing the City of Beacon to Enter into a Contract with John Clark Planning & Design for 2020

- Motion by Councilmember Grant
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Resolution Passes 6 – 0 – 1 Councilmember McCredo Abstained

Mayor Kyriacou said that leadership from the Mayor makes a big difference how the Planner conducts their business. He has made it clear that he is expecting the Planner to provide options to the Planning and Zoning Boards. He is also asking the attorneys and Planner to provide additional training to the Planning and Zoning Boards. He also called

for a meeting, within the next two months, of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, City Attorney and City Planner.

Resolution Authorizing the City of Beacon to Enter into a Contract with Video Ventures for Videography Services for 2020

- Motion by Councilmember McCredo
- Second by Councilmember Nelson
- Resolution passes 7 – 0

Resolution Authorizing the City of Beacon to Enter into a Contract with Choice Words LLC for Grant Writing Services for 2020

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

Councilmember Grant said she is happy with the service Choice Words is providing the City.

Resolution Authorizing the City of Beacon to Enter into a Contract with Lanc & Tully for Engineering Services for 2020

- Motion by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Adopting of the City of Beacon Procurement Policy

- Motion by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Adopting of the City of Beacon Investment Policy

- Motion by Councilmember Rhodes
- Second by Councilmember Grant
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Approving the Mayor's Designation of Amber Grant as Acting Mayor

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

Resolution Reappointing John Gunn to the Planning Board

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

Mayor Kyriacou said he is appointing John Gunn to be the Chair of the Planning Board.

Resolution Reappointing Richard Muscat to the Planning Board

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

Resolution Appointing Kevin Byrne to the Planning Board

- Motion by Councilmember McCredo
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Appointing Karen Quiana to the Planning Board

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Appointing Leonard Warner to the Planning Board

- Motion by Councilmember Mansfield
- Second by Councilmember McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Mayor Kyriacou welcomed the new members of the Planning Board and advised them to push back on any experts who are not providing options.

Resolution Appointing Elaine Ciaccio to the Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Mayor Kyriacou said that he is appointing David Jensen to be the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). He complimented Mr. Jensen on the detailed work he's been doing on the ZBA.

Resolution Appointing Marcia Frahman to the Conservation Advisory Committee

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Nelson
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Appointing Michal Mart to the Human Relations Commission

- Motion by Councilmember McCredo
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Resolution Appointing Arthur Camins to the Board of Ethics

- Motion by Councilmember Nelson
- Second by Councilmember McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Council Member McCredo thanked all of the volunteers on the boards and committees throughout the City.

Resolution Accepting the Dedication of Riding Ridge Trail Polo Fields

- Motion by Councilmember Grant
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Anthony Ruggiero

Mr. Ruggiero said that this resolution is a dedication of the street.

Resolution in Support of the Paris Agreement

- Motion by Councilmember Grant
- Second by Councilmember Nelson
- Resolution passes 7 - 0

Mayor Kyriacou said that resolutions without a nexus of relation to the City of Beacon will not be found on the Council agendas.

Second Opportunity for Public Comment

Deborah Felder

Ms. Felder asked if Riding Ridge Trail will become a City road.

Mayor Kyriacou

The Mayor assured Ms. Felder that Riding Ridge Trail will be City road.

Bonnie Champion and Sharlene Stout

Ms. Champion and Ms. Stout spoke about the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The celebration will begin at 8 am at Springfield Baptist Church. The parade will begin at 9:45. All are welcome to attend.

Next Council Workshop: January 13, 2020

Next Council Meeting: January 21, 2020

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion by Council Person Nelson
- Second by Council Person McCredo
- Resolution passes 7 - 0