

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Beacon City Council held at the Municipal Center, One Municipal Plaza on August 3, 2009 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Council Members Present:

Mayor Steve K. Gold

Pasti, Sara – Council Member – Ward Four

Casale, Randy – Council Member – Ward Three

Excused:

Thompson, Eleanor – Council Member – At Large

Fredericks, Marlene – Council Member – At Large

Leake, Deanna – Council Member – Ward One

Kelly, Charles – Council Member - Ward Two

City Administrator – Meredith Robson – Excused

Also Present:

Acting City Administrator – Timothy Dexter

City Attorney – Richard Wolf

Media Represented by:

Goldie Green – Beacon Free Press

Due to the fact that the Council did not have a full quorum this meeting was strictly dedicated to a presentation Meeting with the following

Representatives:

David Stolman, Frederick P. Clark & Assoc. – City Planner

John Clarke, Dutchess County Planning & Development – County Planner

As your Mayor I want to make one observation that relates to the zoning regulations being presented tonight and other regulations at the waterfront and the Fishkill creek.

The city must find a more sustainable method to balance its budget than our current unhealthy dependence on sales tax related revenues. The effects of the economic downturn on sales tax revenue led to financial difficulties for Beacon last year and the 2010 budget is projected to have even more serious consequences. One way to stabilize revenue is to add to our residential housing stock using smart growth principles. The developments that we are considering on the water front and the Fishkill Creek will do that. They represent a low cost for Beacon to provide services (including schools) than single family homes on large lots. That is why these developments are recommended by the city's new Comprehensive Plan. The density and location of Beacon's transit-oriented development is environmentally positive and supported by Scenic Hudson Land Trust. It is also why in a July 10th editorial the Poughkeepsie Journal wrote "the blueprints are there (in Beacon) for sound growth".

We've already protected the city from over development by limiting density in our existing residential neighborhoods and by creating new parklands. Now we are focusing on

undeveloped areas where residential and commercial units can provide a measure of financial sustainability and add to our Main Street business vitality.

Tonight you will hear from David Stolman the City's Planner from the firm Fredericks and Clark. He will review with us the significant sections of the local law

Next John Clarke, Senior Planner for Dutchess County will present a slide show that will help us to better conceptualize the zoning requirements and design plans applied to this local law.

Then a representative of the firm Fredericks and Clark will explain the results of a regionally comprehensive, in depth and fully independent traffic study that has yielded favorable results.

And lastly there will be a questions and answer period.

If this local law is adopted and the subsequent development takes place it will undoubtedly change the look of our waterfront. It is for all of us to contemplate if that change will be for the better. We should keep an open mind as these discussions unfold.

The first official public hearing will take place on Tuesday September 81 but in the mean time the council and the mayor encourage you to ask questions and give us your thoughts starting today.

Thank you!

This meeting was for only Presentation purposes for the Transit Oriented Development along with a Traffic Study due to this project.

*Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Swift
Executive Assistant to Mayor Steve K. Gold*

Date: September 14, 2009 Date Approved: _____