

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Beacon City Council held at the Municipal Center, One Municipal Plaza December 21, 2009 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Council Members Present:

Mayor Steve K. Gold

Kelly, Charles – Council Member - Ward Two

Casale, Randy – Council Member – Ward Three

Pasti, Sara – Council Member – Ward Four

Fredericks, Marlene – Council Member – At Large

Leake, Deanna – Council Member – Ward One

Council Members Excused:

Thompson, Eleanor – Council Member – At Large – Left Early

Also Present:

City Administrator – Meredith Robson

City Attorney – Richard Wolf

Media Represented by:

Goldie Green – Beacon Free Press

Residents at Beginning of Meeting:

37

Community Segment: Martin Luther King Cultural Center:

Dorothy Paulin – Martin Luther King Cultural Center – Bad News – No Money - Good News – MLK lives off grants, donations and Fund Raising Events. In late 2008 there was an advertisement in the newspaper stating that the Department of Transportation put out a grant that said MLK can apply for the grant. New York States had twelve grants, MLK applied and the City of Beacon MLK received one of them.

Our grant will be used for the Senior Citizens. The MLK has been existence for the past forty years. Our focus is on youth and seniors citizens, and handicapped residences, wherever they want to go.

Because there is no hospital in the City of Beacon, we take the seniors up to Vassar in Poughkeepsie. Take meals to the home bound; there is a meal time down at Forrestal Heights which the MLK will pick up anyone who needs a ride. We work with the Office for the Aging, to make sure they have hot meals. This also benefits the caregivers which gives the caregivers free time to do things they need to do.

The economy is very bad, and when MLK says they need help that means MLK needs money. MLK budget has been cut twenty percent to thirty percent this year.

Please help us to remain alive and well and kicking and screaming for our seniors in Beacon.

Regarding the bus grant it states it will play eighty percent, and the MLK will need a twenty percent match. I went to the public to help raise the MLK twenty percent.

The bus is beautiful; please take the time to come see it. It is a two wheel chair assessable. The bus goes to Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and as far as Cold Spring.

The Martin Luther King Center phone number is **845-831-9887**.

Council Member Kelly – This grant was for the purchase for the grant. Operating cost is separate, which funding comes from Office for the Aging, different charities. The MLK has fund raiser to obtain the rest of the money for operating costs.

Ms. Paulin stated that MLK is \$25,000 short for this year 2010. This would be MLK cash flow to keep the bus moving. The biggest cost program that MLK is facing is the insurance which is over twenty one thousand dollars.

A member from the audience asked who wrote the grant. Reply “Dot Paulin”. There are three grants two from the Department of Transportation and one from Phillip Morris.

Council Member Kelly - Asked if Ms. Paulin looks for grants seven days a week. Ms. Paulin further stated that she is on a list if there is a grant available they will notify the MLKC. Ms. Paulin went to a workshop, and if you write twenty grants, you may receive one. Donations are made out to **Martin Luther King Cultural Center, 19 South Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508.**

All Council Members thanked Ms. Paulin with applause.

James Brown – Martin Luther King Center – Topic: Youth Programs. This year there will be a basketball program will be open this winter for youths from eight to twelve, and thirteen to seventeen. Ms. Brown realizes that money is tight for everyone, but if the City can donate space, it would be much appreciated. The school system has many requirements prior to uses the space and then the MLK have to pay for the use of the space for our youths. The Youth need to be protected, parents drop off their youth and we at MLK protect them. Homework is done at the MLK so parents do not have to worry about that when they come home from work. “City Council, Mayor we the MLK needs your help!”

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Pertaining to any, item Maximum time for this section is thirty minutes. Maximum time for individual public comment is three minutes.

Bill Siebert – 4 Vail Avenue – He stated that he is a representative for his neighborhood. RE: Snow Removal – The snow is being plowed unto our sidewalks, and do not appreciate it. At this time Mr. Siebert shared pictures of his Vail Avenue Sidewalk and Phillips Street sidewalk. This practice has been going on for approximately three to four years. Mr. Siebert has been shoveling snow since the 1950’s and it has been nothing like it is today.

Lou Amoroso – 40 Vail Avenue – There was a comment that he made at the Town Hall meeting regarding responsible spending. I had requested that the City of Beacon do not pay for surveys, it was relayed to me that the surveys are being charged to the contractors. At the last meeting here (workshop) there was a guest speaker who said that the City would pay for the survey. About five months ago there was a topic discussed about Five Churchill Street with regards to sewer. He has observed from the budget that the Water and Sewer is going up six percent. Is this due to the work that is being done on that private property?

Public Hearings:

Proposed Budget of 2010

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council will hold a public hearing at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York on December 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter is reached on the agenda, to review and discuss the proposed 2009 budget for the City of Beacon.

A summary of the budget follows:

ARTICLE NO. 362 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEACON THAT THE FOLLOWING SUM COMPRISING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR 2010 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO MEET THE AMOUNT OF

MONEY FOR THE YEAR 2010. (The Spreadsheet will be a separate document at the end of the document.)

COMMENTS:

Tim Joseph – Nine Aldridge Place – The last budget that Mr. Joseph has observed the line item for the Secretary is still intact. It's my understanding that the Secretary for the Fire Department has been cut from the budget. To maintain this position it is fourteen thousand dollars, which if the City of Beacon lays her off, the City will have to pay unemployment, which will be savings of eighty thousand, seven hundred dollars. This position is a key position, as it is what keeps the operations going on a day to day basis. In addition, Mr. Joseph went into details about another clerical worker hours of work during the year, and felt that this clerical worker should go part time and keep the part time secretary for the Fire Department. I would like the Council to reconsider the decision to layoff the Fire Department Secretary position, prior to voting on the Budget.

Motion to close the Public Hearing by Council Member Pasti and Seconded by Council Member Kelly. All present agreed to close public hearing

Minutes: September 21, 2009

Minutes: October 5, 2009

Minutes: Special Meeting – December 14, 2009

Motion by Council Member Fredericks to accept the Minutes of September 8, 2009, Seconded by Council Member Pasti. All present voted in favor.

Communication / All Reports from Mayor and Council Members Located at the end of the Minutes

Public Comments Pertaining to This Agenda Only: Up to Five Minutes per Person

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolutions None

Local Laws and Ordinances: None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

Resolution 175 2009 - Approve Budget of 2010

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the APPROVAL of the 2010 City of Beacon Budget as per attached 2010 Budget Front Page dated December 21, 2009 and the attached list of adjustments.

COMMENTS:

Mayor Gold stated that the City of Beacon started out with eleven point seven percent increase.

City Administrator – Went over a few options:

1. Election Cost \$38,000 – Which was announced by the Mayor that will be a decision of the Council whether or not to fund this item?
2. ITC Phone Maintenance Cost and did double count that in a sense, so the City can take off approximately forty-five hundred from the additional seventy two hundred.
3. The equipment needed to have the meetings on Channel 22 which is about fifty eight hundred.
4. Regarding the School Resource Officer – Spoke with the Superintendent of Schools they are beginning their budget process, Ms. Askfsy did poll her board and philosophically they are in favor of splitting the cost with the City of Beacon, BUT will not make a determination until their budget is out. The very best we could do is to half the year paid for.
5. Fire Equipment that was requested to have additional information on unfortunately does not have the response but I did email the Fire Chief, and hopefully he can provide that information to you. The line item was for thirty five thousand dollars, which is for air packs. Chief Joseph was in the audience and approached the podium to explain this line item. The fire department carries six air packs on the first line piece of equipment. They have six air packs on both engines. In addition, in the three cars. In total we have twenty seven air packs. Eleven of the air packs are older than ten years. Shelve life of an air pack is ten years. These air packs are sixty two hundred a piece. Chief Joseph explained that he likes to order these air packs at the end of the year to see what is left in the budget and buys as many air packs as the budget allows. The Fire Department likes to have a stacking of buying air packs, so at any given time the Fire Department has working air packs. **Council Member Casale questioned if there are any grants to obtain the air packs.** Chief Joseph stated yes, and has asked on a number of occasions to hire a grant writer. The grant writer is too busy working on the USC and Hiddenbrooke. **Mayor Gold** suggested asking Susan Brown to look into writing more grants for the Fire Department and other Departments. In addition, the Mayor has contacted Senator Saland office for a member item. We cannot put that in our budget as we do not know if this will be delivered.
6. Professional Consultants – We have received noticed that the City Planner has agreed to reduce his fees by ten percent. The Engineers and Auditors, we do not have the full scope yet. City Administrator has already reduced the Engineer's Line Item by three thousand dollars.
7. Empire Zone – Budget half of the \$10,000

Mayor Gold stated if we should take all the items that was discussed and show it as additional revenue (sales related taxes) we would have to put in one hundred and fifty eight thousand dollars to get to get to nine point nine percent. Regarding Sales Tax – the current legislature did not approve eliminating the Clothing Sales Tax. The County is anticipating there to be additional revenue to Beacon about one hundred and sixty five thousand dollars for the City. The new administration the first thing on their agenda is ending the clothing sales tax in the County. Legislator Forman stated that he had some concerns that the Republican Majority is going to go along with ending the clothing sales tax exemptions. They could possibly do what they did with the Board of Elections Pay Back and let the towns and cities pay for that by ending the sales tax clothing exemptions.

Council Member Kelly - Stated that he would like to avoid at all cost a double digit tax increase for our residents in Beacon.

City Administrator Robson – Wanted the City of Beacon Residents to understand what every increase in tax percentages means to the average household, for every percent you increase the tax rate for two hundred thousand dollar value home is ten dollars and fifty nine cents for a tax increase in taxes for that home. For three hundred thousand dollar value home is fifteen dollars and eighty nine cents for an increase in taxes for that home. For a four hundred thousand and fifty thousand dollar value home is twenty three dollars and eighty three cents for an increase in taxes for that home.

Council Member Casale – Asked about the fifty two hundred dollars allocated to the Settlement Camp for electricity. **Highway Superintendent Anthony Thomaselli** stated that there are four meters at the settlement camp, one is for the theatre, one is for the White House (City is not paying for the White House) the other is for the pool, and the other is probably for the gym or infirmary.

Council Member Leake – Asked about the Empire Development Program. **City Administrator** stated that there are three active and taking the benefits, and eleven that are certified. If the Council decides not to fund the Empire Zone, the boundaries do not go away; it takes an act of the County Legislature to change the boundaries for the Empire Zones. **Mayor Gold** stated that there are two large projects that would like to take advantage of the Empire Zone, but neither has started. One is Beacon Long Dock, which they have been relying on the Empire Zone. It was noted that they have ran into some road blocks as far as funding. The other one has not hit the radar yet but they are still in negotiating stages for the property, which would be a significant revenue generator for the City, and want to take advantage of the Empire Zone also. The total is twenty thousand dollars, and the DC EDC is willing the City of Beacon to pay for half, ten thousand dollars, and then half in June as the legislature is changing and the Empire Zone. It was noted that businesses cannot pay for this service the municipality has to pay for it. **Council Member Leake** stated that this item should be skimmed, done. This would be nineteen five off the one hundred and fifty seven. **Mayor Gold** agreed and if the City should need it, then we can get right back into it. **Council Member Pasti** suggested paying half and seeing what happens. **Council Member Kelly, Fredericks and Casale** all agreed to take the nineteen thousand dollars for the Empire Zone out of the budget. There was discussion regarding overtime for the Police Department in the amount of twenty thousand dollars. **Council Member Kelly** wanted to know how the Chief could approve overtime if it is not in the budget. **City Administrator** stated that the City is providing public safety service; one cannot stop this service if it is needed. Chief Scofield has been very careful checking overtime cost, City Administrator has been meeting with the Chief, we have worked very hard to keep overtime down, but sometimes it is necessary for the public safety.

Include the Sales Tax Revenue – Ending of the Clothing Exemption to get the Budget down to nine point nine. **Mayor Gold** asked the Council if they would want to put back the thirty eight thousand for the Elections Charge Back in the proposed Mayors 2010 budget. **Council Member Casale** asked a question regarding the county paying for Resource Officers in schools. Why doesn't the County put a Resource Officer in one of City of Beacon Schools? If the County is going to put a Resource Officer in other schools, they should put an officer at Beacon High, or they should help fund it. If the County is going to charge for elections, than they should be paying for a Resource Officer in Beacon High School, it should be across the board as the Election Charge Back is. **Mayor Gold** will talk to John Forman and Alison MacAvery and the majority leader Robert Rolson. **Mayor Gold** wanted to set the record straight there are many time though it does not match dollar to dollar, there are many times the County Sheriff's department has come into Beacon, two years ago in 2008, the Sheriff's Department had to come into Beacon seventy times. **Council Member Casale** requested to go into Executive Session to talk about personnel, prior to voting on the budget.

Mayor Gold went over the questions regarding the Budget and has come to a conclusion of the following:

1. It has been determined to add the Board of Elections Payback back into the Budget under Expenses.
2. The Council discussed the ITC, four thousand, five hundred.
3. Video Venture (Peter) will be doing the uploading of the Council Meetings on Channel 22 which would be Five Thousand, Eight Hundred dollars.

4. Fire Equipment leaving that in the Budget, if the Council wanted to reduce this line item, **Mayor Gold** prefers not to. **Council Member Casale** suggested that every line item be reduced by three percent and put into contingency. This will allow each Department to ask for additional funds IF they should need it as it will be in the contingency fund.
5. Empire Development Zone will be dropped from the budget.

City Administrator stated that she is very concerned about six hundred and thirty thousand in revenue; the City is likely not to receive. Thinking alone that if the City Council approves the nine point nine budget, even though items have been budget there is no way that the City Administrator will be able to release all of the funds in all of the line items as budget, because I just remain extremely concerned that we are not going to be able to get money in and it will hurt the City in the long run, so thinking even though there is budgeted money that was not approved, in the long run, so in essence probably putting funds in the contingency is fine cut City Administrator does not think the City can cut the budget across the board of three percent. **Mayor Gold** stated that the City should aim for the one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and then figure out what the percentage is to cut across the board. **City Administrator** stated that the City cannot do that for every line, if that that is the goal that the City Council has, then go ahead and approve any tax rate the Council votes on and then the City Administrator will come in the year 2010 with the transfers. We will take one hundred and thirty seven five of variety line items, in order to put it in the contingency funds. **Council Member Kelly**, stated that the City cannot reduce every line item in the Budget. **Council Member Casale** stated that the City Administrator will look at every line item PRIOR to approving spending. The **City Administrator** is concerned about the six hundred and thirty thousand.

At this time **Mayor Gold** asked to make a **motion** to go into Executive Session at 9:05pm by Council Member Leake, Seconded by Council Member Kelly. All present voted in Favor to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:35pm by Council Member Pasti, Second by Council Member Leake. All voted in favor to come out of executive session.

City Administrator recapped of what the Council would like revised in the 2010 Proposed Mayor's Budget:

1. Elections -	\$ 38,000.00	
2. ITC	-4,500.00	
3. Channel 22 Equipment	5,500.00	
4. Empire Zone	<u>19,500.00</u>	
Total	\$ 58,500.00	which is added back into the Budget
5. Added to Revenue	137,500.00	
Total	196,000.00	(or 9.9%)

It was noted that the Council wanted to get the Budget from eleven point seventeen one percent, to nine point nine percent. The City would need one hundred and eighteen thousand. The Council wanted to reduce the budget to one hundred and thirty seven five in order to get the budget to nine point nine percent. **Council Member Casale** asked if the City Administrator added the twenty five thousand to Route 9D Maintenance. **City Administrator** stated that she is ninety nine percent sure that she did add that back in, but she does not have the final version.

Mayor Gold stated to **City Attorney** that the Mayor had a budget, in the past years, the Council would vote on the Amendments first. After the Amendments were voted on, then the Council would vote on the entire budget, which included the budget. So, what has to be done is to take the original Mayor's budget \$7,892,673.00 (14.58%) and take the tax levy then and the tax levy after the amendments which is \$7,581,203.00. The difference is \$311,470.00.

The first Resolution would be to amend the budget by \$311,470.00, for the items that was discussed and agreed to by the City Council. The finalized budget will have the changes included. This brings the tax increase to 9.9% from last year.

AMEND 2010 MAYORS PROPOSED BUDGET

RESOLVED, the initial proposed budget is hereby amended and reduced in the total amount of \$311,470.00 applicable to several items discussed and approved on this date by the City Council.

Motion by Council Member Kelly to approve the amended Proposed Mayor's Budget for 2010, Seconded by Council Member Leake.

On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Pasti – Yes, Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor Gold – Yes. Six Ayes, One – Excused.

The Budget of 2010 The Tax Levy of \$7,581,203.00

RESOLVED, that the Budget for the year 2010 shall be a tax levy of \$7,581,203.00.

Motion by Council Member Leake to approve the Tax Levy for 2010 of \$7,581,203.00, Seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Council Member Casale asked if the 9.9% is for the homeowner only. It was confirmed, and the Non-Homestead would be 2.42% (commercial)

On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – No, Council Member Kelly – Yes, and Council Member Pasti – Yes, and Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor Gold – Yes. Five Ayes, One – Nay and One – Excused. Motion passes.

Contact the County Legislature that the City of Beacon wishes to remove the Sales Tax Exemption, Charge Back for Elections and that the City of Beacon receives its fair share of a Resource Officer as other Towns and Cities receive.

Resolved, that the City of Beacon Mayor will contact the County Legislature that the City of Beacon wishes to remove the Sales Tax Exemption, Charge Back for Elections and that the City of Beacon receives its fair share of a Resource Officer as other towns and cities do.

Motion by Council Member Leake for the Mayor to Contact the County Legislature, Seconded by Council Member Kelly. All present voted in favor.

City Administrator stated that the one item that the Council would need to go over is the Water / Sewer and add in for the extra pay week for the year 2010, in addition agreed to the West Point Revenue for Sewer toward the project the City of Beacon has. The rate increase got both is seven percent.

That the 2010 Budget for Water and Sewer for water will be 2,692,125 and for Sewer 3,507,239 which is the levy amount

RESOLVED that the Tax Levy on Water is in the amount of **2,692,125** and for Sewer 3,507,239 which is the amount of tax levy amount for the 2010 Budget

Motion by Council Member Leake, for the Tax Levy on Water is in the amount of **2,692,125** and for Sewer 3,507,239 which is the amount of tax levy amount for the 2010 Budget, Seconded by Council Member Kelly. Motion passes

Council Member Casale – Asked if all the outside users do their rates get increased as well, for example Fishkill Correctional. **City Administrator** stated that we have existing agreements with them, further **City Administrator** stated in the agreement their formula does increase, but will double check which ones and how much. To answer the question, to the extent that the City of Beacon is able to pass a law, the City will enact on it, based on the existing agreements that the City of Beacon may have.

On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, and Council Member Pasti – Yes, and Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor Gold – Yes. Six Ayes, and One – Excused. Motion passes.

Local Laws and Ordinances: None

APPOINTMENTS:

Resolution 2009 - APPROVE: Appointment of Dareshanie Graham to the Human Relations Commission – Two Year Term. Term to Expire 12/31/12.

Motion by Council Member Fredericks, regarding to approve the appointment of Dareshanie Graham to the Human Relations Commission, Seconded by Council Member Kelly. Motion passes.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Amend the Sewer Fund Budget by transferring \$80,993 from the Water Pollution Control Refuse Removal expense (Code: G8130.446600) to the Water Pollution Control Digester Cleaning expense (Code: G8130.446601). This is necessary due to the fact that there was no method of determining the extent of the cleanout prior to actually doing the job.

Motion by Council Member Fredericks to approve Budget Amendment, Seconded by Council Member Pasti.

Council Member Casale questioned if the project was done, and if it helped the odor. **City Administrator** stated that she thinks it may help with it, and was completed not too long ago. **Mayor Gold** stated that the City of Beacon will find out if it helps when the weather warms up a little.

Council Member Casale questioned **City Administrator** did we transfer the money from the Refuge Removal Expense. Does that mean the City of Beacon had that much money left over from 2009? **City Administrator** stated yes this year.

On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Pasti – Yes, Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor Gold – Yes. Six Ayes, One – Excused.

Amend the General Fund budget for the Fire Department by transferring \$20,000 from the General Fund Contingency expense (Code: A1990.400001) to the Administrator Consultant - Efficiency Study expense (Code: A1230.452015). These funds will pay 50% of the cost of the energy efficiency audit. The other 50% will be paid by NYSERDA.

Motion by Council Member Pasti to approve Budget Amendment, Seconded by Council Member Fredericks. On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Pasti – Yes, Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor Gold – Yes. Six Ayes, One – Excused.

Amend the General Fund IT Budget by transferring the following from:

1. IT Professional Licenses and Permits (Code: A1220.444100) \$2,000
2. Finance Purchase of Equipment (Code: A1325.250000) \$1,100

This total of \$3,100 will be transferred to the IT Purchase of Equipment (Code: A1220.250000). This transfer will allow the IT Consultant to cycle out three heavily used city office computers for replacement in 2009.

Motion by Council Member Pasti to approve Budget Amendment, Seconded by Council Member Fredericks. On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Pasti – Yes, Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor Gold – Yes. Six Ayes, One – Excused.

Amend the General Fund Budget for the Highway Department by transferring \$14,241 from the Highway Blacktop expense (Code: A510.411300) to the following:

A5110.105000	Overtime	\$13,768
A5110.112500	Meals	\$ 473

This transfer is needed to cover the cost of additional overtime and meals during the extensive roadwork projects during the fall of 2009.

Motion by Council Member Pasti to approve Budget Amendment, Seconded by Council Member Casale. On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Pasti – Yes, Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor God – Yes. Six Ayes, One – Excused.

Amend the General Fund Budget for the Highway Department by transferring \$24,630 from the Highway Gas and Oil expense (Code: A5110.413000) to the Snow Sand and Salt expense (Code A5142.417600).

Motion by Council Member Leake to approve Budget Amendment, Seconded by Council Member Fredericks. On a roll call – Council Member Fredericks - Yes, Council Member Leake - Yes, Council Member Casale – Yes, Council Member Kelly – Yes, Council Member Pasti – Yes, Council Member Thompson – Excused, and Mayor God – Yes. Six Ayes, One – Excused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: On any item on any issue you would like to discuss. Maximum of five minutes to speak.

John Berry – 26 East Main Street – I know when the Charter was revised and written; the City has to look into all contingencies. Mr. Berry stated that he had a real problem for over a year now, with **Council Member Thompson** absence. Is there a contingency within the Charter to replace somebody missing this many meetings. I do not think it is fair to the taxpayers, especially with an at large Council Member who has not been here to represent the City of Beacon. I would like the new Council come January to look into this issue and possibly review the Charter, now that it has happened, it will never happen again.

Mayor Gold took this time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. The Council will not have no further meetings in 2009, the next meeting will be on Monday, January 4, 2010 which will be a workshop and then a Council Meeting if there is anything to vote on.

REPORTS

City Administrator: Meredith Robson – Reported that there is no separate report for this evening, due to the Proposed Budget that she has been working on with the Finance Director, Toni Tracy.

Council Member Thompson: Excused

Council Member Leake – This is my last City Council Meeting and would like to leave with a few thoughts. The TOD I have every confidence in this City Council that a right decision on the Zoning proposal, however her biggest concerns are traffic issues with this development and the proposed retail space. I urge this Council to make sure that these issues are clearly defined to insure the prosperity of our Main Street and the City of Beacon. The University Settlement Camp there is a definite vision that hopefully in the future it will become a place of recreation, education and entertainment for all our City's Citizens, including young and old. However, in the mean time I urge the Council to keep acutely aware of the amount of money that the City is spending in comparison of the amount of monies coming in from revenue. Now Cablevision, my pet peeve bill, as the price goes up and the channels keep disappearing. There must be a solution to this problem. On a lighter note, please do not forget the swings at Riverfront park. I will not discuss the Firehouse issue, as I felt there was a rumor that was blown totally out of proportion, with the first meeting that the budget was discussed at an earlier workshop. On a personal note, this goodbye is a bitter sweet, I will miss you the people, especially those who attend meetings every Monday Evening. And wish to see more of the residents here. And last but not least to this Council no matter how many issues we agreed on or disagreed on, we always worked as a team. And Mr. Mayor if a position opens for Sergeant at Arms, I would like to volunteer her service. I know Council Member Kelly will vote no on this issue with me gone, he will not have to worry about being cut off on

this talks, so “Good Bye, and Good Luck” I know that this Council will make the right decisions, and wish my successor Mr. Jerry Landisi, I trained him well. Thank you everybody, and Happy Holidays!

Council Member Kelly: I would like to try to set the record straight regarding the budget and the difficult decision confronting us this year. Next year may be harder. We have reduced spending this year over last year. We need to keep our tax increase below ten percent. Next year we may face layoffs /furloughs and drastic reduction in overtime. The City Budget is primarily driven by personnel cost. City services are labor intensive. Let me address the firehouse issue as well.

A few years ago we had a firehouse study that recommended a new fire house consolidating all three houses. All the firehouses spoke in favor of the recommendation. I strongly supported the consolidation although I was oppose to building it in the Park. I hope we can move in this direction in the future, but the budget this year or next year does not support that initiate. However, if consolidation come to pass it will mean one fire houses and the closing of all three or possibly two fire houses. I think we are making the right move by studying it before acting on any closing.

Lately, I want to say it was a pleasure to serve with Council Member Deanna Leake. She will be missed. Even though we are from different parties and despite our public differences we like and respect one another. I also want to say farewell to Council Member Eleanor Thompson. She mentored me in my first term and convinced me to run in the first place. I wish her the best of health.

Council Member Casale:

1. I would like the City Administrator to look into a Cable Franchise Audit. Doug Woodworth has sent me an email saying his company does this for a percent off any money he finds for the City of Beacon.
 2. I ask the Mayor, and Administrator, to work with the Recreation Director and the City Schools to work with Martin Luther King so they can start a basketball program for eight to twelve year olds and thirteen to seventeen years old. This would be important for our kids in Beacon.
 3. I want to thank Deanna Leake for her years of service.
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Council Member Pasti:

The 2010 Budget

There were several things that I wanted to address in tonight’s report—among them a continuation of my report at the last meeting about green jobs in the Hudson Valley—but because of tonight’s vote on the budget I am going to postpone comments not related to the budget until a January Council meeting.

In the past several months the Council has heard many suggestions from residents as to where budget cuts might take place so as not to disable the City or drive residents who cannot afford a tax increase from their homes.

As we undertake our approval of the 2010 budget tonight, I want to reiterate the four budget-related questions that I brought up at the November 2nd Council meeting that, along with input from the residents of Ward 4, have guided my own decisions relative to the budget:

1. First, does this expense support an essential City service, including emergency services like Fire, Police and Ambulance, or highway and road maintenance?
 2. Second, does this expense support an investment in the economic well-being of the City?
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3. Third, does this expense provide critical services to individuals in our community who are in need?
4. And fourth, can funding to support this expense be raised through means other than taxation, such as through individual donations or through grants?

If we cannot keep our 2010 tax increase to a number that is less than 10%, I want residents to know that we have tried very hard to keep this increase as low as possible without endangering necessary or critical services in the City. In addition, I promise to work very hard in 2010 to help the new Beacon of Hope Community Fund and its Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund raise funds to help support those people in our community for whom this tax increase will be a challenge. With many communities in the Hudson Valley region looking at tax increases of 25% or more, I think we have done very well in spite of the challenging circumstances around us. Let us hope that in the new year the local and the global economy will improve, and that we will recoup some of the losses in revenue that we have seen this year.

Thank You to Deanna Leake and Eleanor Thompson

At this last council meeting of 2009, I want to thank the two retiring Councilwomen--Deanna Leake and Eleanor Thompson--for their service to this community. Their presence on the Council has been an example to me and to the women of Beacon who wonder if service on the Council is for them. You are part of the reason that I sit here today. Thank you very much for all that you have done for Beacon.

Council Member Fredericks – The years 2008 and 2009 have been a wonderful experience for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed being on this Council and working with the Mayor and fellow members of the Council. I believe each and every one of us works very hard for our City. It has been my pleasure talking with so many constituents, not enough, but many. Perhaps I will have more calls in 2010-2011.

I am very sad to be saying goodbye to wonderful council women. It really isn't goodbye for me since we are dear friends and I shall continue seeing her. Louise, as in Thelma and Louise, has helped me so very much in the past two years. I appreciate her mentoring me and talking over certain things we have been involved with. Deanna is a committed. Hard working person and cares

City Attorney: Richard Wolf

Mayor Steve K. Gold: Regarding the budget, the Council, City Administrator and the Director of Finance have worked very well in preparing the proposed 2010 Budget. This budget started out as a fourteen and half percent increase in taxes. They did everything they could do to decrease the tax increase imposed on the residents. There were approximately eighty residents at the Town Hall meeting which was very beneficial. It was a very hard for me the Mayor compared to last year, as the economy turned bad during my second year as Mayor. Because of the diligent efforts that our City Administrator and the great Department Heads who looked at their budgets and squeezed out as much as they can and rung out every penny that they could, that in itself shows team work spirit. And at this moment the City is looking at an eleven point seven percent tax increase that this Council is going to see if there is any other decisions that can be made to bring down the tax rate below ten percent.

I have been on the Council for ten years before I became Mayor, and Council Member Leake has been on the Council for four terms a total of eight years. Council member portrays herself as a very professional person who is not here for any political reasons at all. The only reason she is here is to represent her people in her ward. Council Member Leake has done that in such an admirable, professional, honest, straight forward way. Thank you Council Member Leake for all the great years that I the Mayor have worked with you.

ANNOUNCEMENT – Mayor Gold stated that he has just heard from Legislature John Forman, the County Legislature voted on the Board of Election budget and they are going to pass on the cost for voting machines to the cities and towns, which represent thirty seven thousand dollars which we did not have in the budget. We are the last Municipality to vote on the budget. There has not been enough notice for other municipalities, to put this charge back in there budget. There will be further discussion regarding this. I would not be surprised if there was a movement by the towns and cities, in some way to project this. We the Council will need to make a decision to include this in our budget.

There will be a swearing in ceremony on January 1st at 1pm here at City Hall, for all Council Members.

CHECK LIST:

NEXT WORKSHOP: January 4, 2010

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: January 4, 2010

Motion to adjourn meeting by Council Member by Council Member Frederick, Seconded by Council Member Leake.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Swift

Executive Assistant to Mayor Steve K. Gold

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council will hold a public hearing at the Municipal Building, One Municipal Plaza, Beacon, New York on December 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter is reached on the agenda, to review and discuss the proposed 2010 budget for the City of Beacon. A summary of the budget follows:

**CITY OF BEACON
2010 BUDGET SUMMARY**

ARTICLE NO. 302 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEACON THAT THE FOLLOWING SUM COMPRISING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR 2010 BE AND THE SAME BE HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO MEET THE AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR THE YEAR 2010.

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2009 REVISED BUDGET	TOTAL	GENERAL	WATER	SEWER
also 12/14/09 change	17,101,104	17,101,104 *	2,882,218 *	3,507,239 *
APPROPRIATIONS				
Use:	8,139,385	8,139,385	2,882,193	3,483,325
TOTAL REVENUE			109,642	59,914
			2,892,126	3,607,239
BALANCE OF APPROPRIATIONS	8,961,719		0	0
less:				
ADDITIONAL FUNDS NEEDED (Part of tax levy)	1,281,802	HOMESTEAD	NON-HOMESTEAD	
(May be fund balance appropriation)				
Tax Levy	7,680,817			
Estimated Uncollectible Tax Levy	190,248			
Estimated Collectible Delinquent Taxes	283,880			
Adjusted Tax Levy	7,838,185	8,543,573	1,992,612	
Base Proportion	400.00	73.8087	26.0843	100
2010 TAX RATE		6.817546	8.328119	
2009 TAX RATE		\$ 2.88607	8.069788	
Assessment Roll-06/29/09		858,701,698	238,351,873	1,182,953,439
Assessment Roll-12/29/08		1,023,370,264	241,001,677	1,264,371,941