

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at 1 Municipal Plaza on July 6, 2010, was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council Members Present:

Steve Gold, Mayor

Charles Kelly, Ward Two

George Mansfield, At Large

Marlene Fredericks, At Large

Jerry Landisi, Ward One

Randy Casale, Ward Three

Sara Pasti, Ward Four

Also Present:

Nick Ward-Willis, City Attorney

Excused:Meredith Robson, City Administrator

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak for up to four minutes on any subject matter on which the Council can take action.

Hank Dutch, 98 Spring Valley Street. He pointed out a potentially-confusing segment of the Towne, Ryan and Partners retainer agreement for the Hudson Baylor matter. Additionally, while he thinks the HydroQual study is a great idea, the price seems very high. Could it be done in-house for half the amount, either with existing staff or a newly-hired engineer? Lastly, he spoke of the big Silo Ridge development in Amenia, where the developer is providing the sewer plant. Perhaps it dovetails with the direction the Council is looking at with regards to projects in the city.

Kathy Deutermann, 27 South Brett Street. Thanks to everyone for contributing to the fireworks; it was a nice evening. The Friday senior meal sessions are going well right now. Anyone who is a senior or who is disabled is welcome to come to these meals. Additionally, she reiterated the need for a resource officer in our schools, an opinion she says is shared throughout the community. The district has the money earmarked and is just waiting for the City's action. Along similar lines, the DARE program needs to return as a means for the police to get to know the kids at the elementary school level.

Dennis Pavelock, 34 Judson Street. The East Main Street bridge by the Roundhouse is not being patched properly with cement, making it both an eyesore and a quick-fix. Regarding fireworks, he reiterated that any funds raised should be put toward next year's fireworks – anything else would be misappropriation of funds. He announced that he and Kathy Deutermann will be judging vegetable gardens and awarding prizes. He also commented on the University Settlement Camp pool's closure. Not enough effort was put forth to keep it open, unlike the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, who have kept the Spratt Park pool open.

Chris Ruhe, 37 Dutchess Terrace. He presented a letter to the Council from the newly-constituted Beacon Forest Renewal Committee. Their goal is an incremental reforestation of the landfill by the sewage treatment plant. This will include trails and a canine exercise area, and will bring recreational and environmental advantages.

Candelario Diaz, 803 Meadowridge Circle. It's great that the taxi ordinance is ready to be voted upon, but the key is enforcement. Soliciting at one's cab and pulling all the way in to parking spots are the key rules for enforcement.

Flora Jones, 36 Melio Bettina Place. Thanks to the mayor and his administration for all the hard work they've done for the City, particularly with regard to today's extremely hot day. She also requested that the City become part of the reverse-911 system if it's not already.

Public Hearings:

Proposed Local Law : Consideration of a Proposed Local Law Providing for the Removal of Fees from the City Code and the Adoption of a Fee Schedule.

Motion by Council Member Mansfield to close the public hearing; seconded by Council Member Fredericks.

Discussion: None.

All voted in favor. Public Hearing closed.

Proposed Local Law : Consideration of the Local Law Regarding the Regulation of Amusement Centers.

Mayor Gold recommended adjournment, since the Law's text was not yet finalized by the City Planner.

Kathy Deutermann, 27 South Brett Street. Were rumors of excessive noise at the existing arcade true? It may be that these amusement centers could violate the City noise ordinance.

Dennis Pavelock, 34 Judson Street. Lake George has two arcades on their main drag, and they're great. We should have one in Beacon, expanded beyond the existing facility.

Noah Rosaler, 276 Fishkill Avenue. The present facility is not just an amusement center, but a museum as well. It's well-run, with no noise outside the facility.

Mayor Gold explained that the goal of this discussion was to change the law to allow businesses such as the one in question to apply for a Special Use permit.

Motion by Council Member Pasti to adjourn the public hearing to July 16; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Discussion: None.

All voted in favor. Public Hearing adjourned.

Administrator's Report

The City Administrator was on vacation.

Council Members' Activity Reports

Council Member Pasti, Ward Four

1. She has asked previously for the City to publish a list of parks/recreation facilities and their hours in the newspaper and on the City website. She repeated her request.
2. Thanks to the Building Department for improving or eliminating a number of derelict buildings, such as 45 Rector Street.
3. Due to the heat, questions have arisen about temporary pools and the noise emanating from them. **Mr. Ward-Willis** indicated that he would consult with the Building Inspector.

Council Member Casale, Ward Three

1. Thanks to the Junior Girls Softball Organization for finishing their clubhouse. It made the whole area look a lot better.
2. Thanks to Robert Riley for watering the flowers while he was gone.
3. On June 24, he attended a meeting at the Howland Library. Leadership members of the County Legislature, along with the city's legislators – John Forman and Alison MacAvery - attended the meeting to hear from Beacon residents about local issues. Primarily, residents expressed concerns about the cutbacks in LOOP service. Given that the City of Poughkeepsie has its own bus system to supplement LOOP service, he is asking the Mayor to set up a committee to evaluate how Beacon can create its own public transportation – especially with an eye toward putting it in place ahead of the TOD, so that the latter can work properly once it's constructed. This is the first time in his memory that County leadership has come to Beacon to hear residents' needs and concerns. **Mayor Gold** thanked him for the committee suggestion and described the committee currently in place, which has been meeting for several months and includes key local figures such as Dutchess County IDA Executive Director John MacEnroe, Dutchess County Tourism Director Mary Kaye Vrba, Beacon Chamber president Ron Iarossi, and BACA president Linda Hubbert. **Council Member Casale** indicated that local riders should be included as well. **Mayor Gold** indicated that interested persons should contact City Hall.
4. There is still a lot of brush around the city. DPW needs to be focused on this, not grass-cutting at this time.
5. Thanks to everyone for donating toward fireworks.

Council Member Fredericks, At Large

1. Thanks to Flora for offering a compliment to the city's officials.
2. Paul Yeaple of Poppy's won money on a show called "Chopped" and would like to talk up Beacon when he appears. Perhaps the City can help him to this effect.
3. The old Beacon Theater is reopening, and a new bakery is opening at 157 Main Street.
4. On Lafayette, the speed limits signs say 15 mph – but she's seen cars driving very fast down the street. Those constituents would like more police keeping an eye on it, as children play there. Duncan and Judson are still waiting for their signs.

Council Member Mansfield, At Large

1. The Visitor's Center is moving along; he spoke of the lack of any costs to the taxpayer in this project. He's hoping to open the doors at the end of the month.
2. The new welcome sign by the train station has recently been installed.
3. RiverFest was enormously successful.
4. While the sewer study will cost a significant sum of money, he welcomes it as a major step for the future of the City of Beacon. Someone has to step up and fix the sewer system.
5. Thanks to fireworks donors and for Dennis Pavelock for collecting the donations.

Council Member Kelly, Ward Two

1. He has received numerous calls regarding the changed bus schedule, particularly at Forrestal Heights. These cuts hurt seniors more than any others – they need to switch buses at the Poughkeepsie Galleria to get to Wal-Mart on weekends, and they are dropped off further from the Wal-Mart than previously. He is glad to hear that county legislators were present at a meeting to listen to concerns on these issues. This is an essential service for residents and needs to be prioritized. He agreed it would be a good idea to have citizens, likely from public housing, on the transportation committee.
2. Private funding for the swimming pool, in the manner seen in the fireworks fundraising, would follow in the spirit of voluntarism and create something valuable for the City. This is a means to overcome the services-versus-taxes question that faces the City.

Council Member Landisi, Ward One

1. Attended RiverFest; thanks to everyone who helped make that a great event.
 2. He was present for the ribbon-cutting for the new welcome sign; the artists did a great job with the sign.
 3. Attended the fireworks show – great crowd. Thanks to those who donated to the fund. He agrees with Dennis Pavelock that any leftover funds should be saved for next year's fireworks.
 4. All bids have been returned for the MLK/St. Luke's project. The bids were lower than expected; MLK's board met to approve the necessary improvements. The plan is start in September.
 5. He has received many calls regarding brush pickup. He has several volunteers, and he would like to help as well.
 6. At 7:00 on July 14, Wards 1 and 2 will have a meeting at Tompkins Hose to discuss the TOD. The same will take place on July 21 for Wards 3 and 4 at the VFW Memorial Building. These are intended to hear residents' concerns and incorporate their ideas into the process.
 7. West Church residents have called to ask him for the minutes of the last Traffic Safety Committee meeting; he would appreciate a copy of those minutes.
 8. The Knights of Columbus are not involved with the meals for seniors program as Ms. Deutermann stated earlier. Involved organizations are: St. Rocco's, St. Rocco's Ladies' Auxiliary, Elks Club, Elks Ladies' Auxiliary.
 9. He is still waiting to get council members' attendance requirements on a workshop agenda.
 10. He also would like a status update on the basketball court; he would like this discussed again at a workshop.
-

Mayor's Activity Report

1. He just came from an event honoring Steven Evans for his work with Dia and the City. He is moving on, and the Mayor thanks him for his contributions.
 2. Thanks to Professor Nolon for attending the last workshop. He was informative and well-received.
 3. The Council will discuss a line-item for the 2011 fireworks at an upcoming workshop. In that vein, thanks to Dennis for collecting donations and helping the City get past the needed \$5,000 mark. Thanks also to Main Street business for their donations prior to that.
 4. RiverFest's food vendors and musicians were great. Close to 2,700 people were present.
 5. The City is continuing discussions with the school district to get resource officers into the schools; the police department has shifted to SROs rather than old-style DARE program.
 6. The City Council looked at every means possible to include the swimming pool in the 2010 budget; at \$20,000 the Council opted not to do so. This was one of many tough decisions made to keep taxes as low as possible.
 7. Chris Ruhe's efforts to plant trees at the landfill are great. The Conservation Advisory Commission will work on this rather than the City Council.
 8. The brush situation is dangerous and unattractive. The administrator has been working on this; the mayor will speak further with the highway superintendent to accelerate pickup.
 9. The Council has done well to ensure that old properties have been maintained for their eventual reuse; the reopening of the Beacon Theater is a key result of this.
-

County Legislator's Report(s)**John Forman**

1. The June 24 community meeting at the Howland Library, featuring the leadership and local legislators, focused largely on the chaotic LOOP bus situation. He has reached out to Cindy Ruiz, the county mass transit administrator, in the hopes that she could come down to Beacon for a meeting. He is also contacting Mr. Traudt of the Beacon Housing Authority in the hopes that a meeting can be held at Forrestal Heights.
2. Thanks to Kathy Deuterman for scheduling the first meeting for the 1st Ward's Neighborhood Watch meeting and to Council Member Landisi for opening St. Rocco's for the occasion; the legislator was in attendance.

3. Thanks to Dennis Pavelock for his fireworks fundraising.
4. Hedgewood provides a mental health van for its residents, but not veterans. He'll make phone calls to the Mental Health Department as well as Veteran's Affairs to find out why this is happening.
5. He volunteered for the Beacon Biatholon, making a donation and working as a traffic coordinator.
6. The Board of Elections will host a new voting machine demonstration at 413 Main Street tomorrow.
7. A press release today from the county executive provided information on cooling center hours and locations: Beacon's center will be the Dutchess County Community Action Agency, from 2:00 to 9:00 with light food and cold drink.
8. Regarding the county/city sharing for elections costs: the expected revenue has been reduced from \$988,395 to \$602,096 – in theory, this represents the true cost of running the elections. He expects a vote in the legislature in the near future. The formulate is yet to be finalized. Mr. Forman described his opposition to this cost-sharing mandate, comparing it to similar state mandates passed onto counties.

New Business – Resolutions (parentheses indicate time of discussion on webcasts, available at <http://vimeo.com/channels/40154>)

Resolution #95 of 2010: Consideration of a Retainer Agreement with Towne, Ryan & Partners for Hudson Baylor matter (1:25).

Motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Pasti.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #96 of 2010: Consideration of an Agreement with HydroQual, Inc. Regarding Sanitary Sewer Overflow Study (1:29).

Motion by Council Member Pasti, seconded by Council Member Kelly.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #97 of 2010: Consideration of a Retainer Agreement with Keane & Beane Regarding Delinquent Real Property Tax Mattes and In Rem Proceedings (1:33).

Motion by Council Member Landisi, seconded by Council Member Kelly.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #98 of 2010: Consideration of Agreement with the DC Dept. of Emergency Response Declaring the City a Mutual Aid Plan Participating Agency (1:38).

Motion by Council Member Pasti, seconded by Council Member Mansfield.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #99 of 2010: Consideration of a Resolution for Submission to the Town of Fishkill Regarding the Re-Levy of Delinquent Water/Sewer Charges on the City's Behalf (1:39).

Motion by Council Member Landisi, seconded by Council Member Kelly.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #100 of 2010: Consideration of the Extension of the Agreement, dated February 1, 2010, with JPK Environmental, Inc. Concerning Wastewater Facility Services (1:44).

Motion by Council Member Pasti, seconded by Council Member Mansfield.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #101 of 2010: Consideration of the Removal of Fees from the Code of the City of Beacon (1:47).

Motion by Council Member Landisi, seconded by Council Member Mansfield.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #102 of 2010: Consideration of the Approval of a Fee Schedule (1:48).

Motion by Council Member Fredericks, seconded by Council Member Kelly.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Proposed Local Laws

Resolution #103/Local Law #11 of 2010: Consideration of a Proposed Local Law Amending Chapter 200 of the Code of the City of Beacon regarding Taxicabs (1:52).

Motion by Council Member Kelly, seconded by Council Member Landisi.

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Second Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak for up to four minutes on any subject matter on which the Council can take action.

Jim Korn, 19 South Brett (2:04). What's happening with the TOD ad-hoc committee? Regarding upcoming meetings, how are they being publicized? **Mayor Gold** replied that they would be advertised in the newspaper and website.

Lou Amoroso, 40 Vail Avenue (2:06). He has received the city attorney's correspondence, and would like to meet with the mayor, attorney and any additional available council members after the meeting.

Next Workshop: July 12, 2010

Next Council Meeting: July 19, 2010

Motion by Council Member Fredericks to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Mansfield (2:06).

All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Brian D. Kelly

Assistant to Mayor Steve K. Gold