

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at 1 Municipal Plaza on June 21, 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:

Meredith Robson, City Administrator

Nick Ward-Willis, for City Attorney

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.

Dennis Pavelock, 34 Judson Street. He listed the areas he covered for fireworks fundraising, and presented a check to the city in the amount of \$2,114.69. Added to the amount contributed by the city, this yields an amount larger than the display will cost. He and the donors requested that this balance be a line item toward fireworks in the 2011 budget. He went on to address, without specifics, what he called an “unfounded suspicion” against him – the Council should not be in their positions if they do not trust their volunteers or employees; such a lack of trust may indicate why the City has what he termed a lack of volunteers.

Tom Baldino, 19 North Street. Plastic garbage is causing fish to choke to death in waters around the world. With this in mind , he asks that the Council bring reusable, non-plastic bottles to meetings.

Kathy Deutermann, 27 South Brett Street. Thanks to the Mayor and Council Members Landisi and Casale for attending the first meeting for the new Community Watch group in Ward 1. Thanks to Council Member Landisi for spearheading the successful first meal at Forrestal and Ham Fish. Also, the upcoming LOOP Bus changes will negatively impact Beacon, with fewer buses being run here. The City needs more public transportation – not less. The most significant change is that the Beacon-to-Fishkill bus that goes to Wal-Mart will no longer be run on Saturdays. They also tried to cut out stops at Forrestal, but after some pressure from Forrestal’s social worker and County Legislator Alison MacAvery, the stop was restored in compliance with ADA law. It is unclear if there will be stops at Main Street going forward; seniors use the bus to get to Main Street, so this will hurt them. When we lose a service like this, we never get it back.

Keith Milkove, 23 Dennings Avenue. He spoke of the City’s Commission on Human Relations, of which he is a volunteer member. Its purpose is to promote a climate of tolerance and understanding in the City. They look into incidents of tension and conflict, and accept complaints from residents who believe their legal rights have been violated. They seek to represent all ethnic and religious groups within the city, and are looking for new members. The Commission can be reached at 838-5094.

Jim Korn, 19 South Brett Street. He would like to volunteer for the TOD ad-hoc committee under formation, and would be willing to work as its secretary or as its liaison to the City Council.

Hank Dutch, 98 Spring Valley Street. The Strawberry Festival was great. Keep it up.

Lou Amoroso, 40 Vail Avenue. He would like to see an impact statement regarding development along the Fishkill Creek, as the City is the biggest polluter of the Fishkill Creek. He also objected to the special meeting called the previous week. He believes the proposed Dog Park should be located at a piece of parkland on Simmons Lane.

Esther Carrington, 71 Beacon Street. Regarding her previously-stated problem with reckless drivers near school buses, a police patrol was implemented but too early in the day to be of use. This needs to be addressed when school starts again in September.

Public Hearings:

Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 200 of the Beacon City Code Regarding Taxicabs (adjourned from the meeting of June 7).

Mr. Ward-Willis explained that significant revisions had been made to the proposed law, but as 10 days had not passed since the Council received them, the law cannot be voted on tonight. He also walked the Council through the changes made.

Motion by Council Member Landisi to adjourn the public hearing; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Discussion: Council Member Casale asked why there was nothing in the revised law about drug testing, which the Council had previously discussed. Mr. Ward-Willis replied that if it was missing, it was an oversight and he would get a revised draft to the Council. Mr. Casale also asked about the situation at the train station in which cars are only parking partway into their spots, thereby blocking the ramp. Mr. Ward-Willis was not sure how that would be regulated by the City; MTA controls the parking at the train station. He said that language could be added to stipulate how taxis must park at a taxi stand, and this would likely be sufficient.

All voted in favor. Public Hearing adjourned.

Administrator's Report

1. Email has been down at City Hall since Thursday night; IT staff is working on it.
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Council Members' Activity Reports

Council Member Pasti, Ward Four

1. Several residents have asked her about access to Beacon parks, including Hiddenbrook. It remains closed due to winter storm damage. DPW is working on this; an announcement will be made when it reopens. She said the administrator is assembling a full list of parks and hours for people looking for recreation options.
2. Beacon Riverfest is happening this Saturday, June 26 at Riverfront Park. It's being organized by Local 845, a music production company based in Beacon, working with the Beacon Arts Community Association. It will last until dusk, rain or shine. The event's website is www.beaconriverfest.com.
3. She attended the county's hazardous waste disposal event on June 5 and was impressed by the process. The next dates for disposal is July 10, October 9 and November 6. The cost is \$5. They also provided her a list of safe cleaning supplies that keep hazardous wastes out of the water supply; she will pass this on to the City for posting on the website. It is also available at www.dccrra.org.

Mayor Gold added two items to her report: the University Settlement Camp is now open dawn to dusk each day, and Riverfest is also sponsored by the City of Beacon.

Council Member Casale, Ward Three

1. Thanks to whoever finally got the streetlights working on Main Street again.

2. He would like to see the DCRRA stage a hazardous waste disposal event in Beacon or at Dutchess Stadium; this would likely increase participation among Beacon residents.
3. He received an email from County Legislator John Forman, indicating that Legislature Chairman Rob Rolison would be at the Howland Library on Thursday, June 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This would be a good time for people concerned about the bus changes to air their opinion. Mr. Casale also recommended that the Council send a resolution to the County asking that they refrain from reducing mass transit. The future demands more mass transit; this is not a good time to be taking it away.
4. He would to break down how much was spent on police overtime for the biathlon held in the City this past weekend. Mayor Gold replied that the organizers covered the cost – not the City. Mr. Casale said that the City should be given cost breakdowns ahead of time, since these are not budgeted ahead of time.
5. He still sees brush all over the city. What's happening going forward? As the brush dries out, it will become a fire hazard.
6. He is still waiting on an answer as to when the building at the girls' softball field will be finished – residents resent that they could not leave a building in that condition without penalty, but the City can do so.
7. Has a price been obtained for the fence down at the South Avenue tennis court. It's a safety hazard.
8. We agreed to put swings in at Riverfront Park – was is the estimated time of completion for that?

Mayor Gold replied that he met with the Beacon Chamber of Commerce ahead of time regarding the Biathlon, and they agreed to pay the overtime costs. Ms. Robson indicated that Zep's crews will be out on rainy days doing brush pickup. Regarding the softball concession stand, contractors were set up to do the job but fell through so the process has been delayed.

She believes the City has a quote for the South Avenue tennis fence; she'll check on that. She also believes the the swings are in the works, and will verify.

Council Member Fredericks, At Large

1. She does not have a report tonight, but has a question: can the milling at Memorial Park be taken down to Long Dock, as the road there is terrible. Mayor Gold stated that the milling at Memorial is being reduced; there is another supply at University Settlement Camp. Long Dock is owned by Scenic Hudson, and the City cannot give items to a not-for-profit organization. The City doesn't want to sell it, as it's a valuable resource that should be held onto. Ms. Robson added that the city received its CHIPS number; most or all of that money will go to roadwork.

Council Member Mansfield, At Large

1. Work continues on the Visitors Center. The deadline for completion has been extended. He offered thanks to the carpenters who have helped out: Joseph Ayers, Emmit Marin, Stefan Petrick, Randall Martin, Pat Freeman, Shane Nobel. Brother's Pizza, Homespun Foods, and Pleasant Ridge II all donated food. Mayor Gold added that Mr. Mansfield has been at work on this every day, and the project simply could not be going forward without his dedication.
2. He recently arranged with the Open Space Gallery and 15 artists to replace his signage by the train station: it is now a newly-painted Welcome to Beacon sign.
3. Congratulations to the Beacon Under-16 boys soccer team for winning a New York State championship.
4. The bike race was great, as was the Strawberry Festival.
5. Compliments to the Fovea Gallery for the opening of a photojournalism display on Rwanda. He recommends it to City residents.

Council Member Casale recommended that the soccer team come to a council meeting for a community segment so they can be honored for their championship performance.

Council Member Kelly, Ward Two

1. Thanks to the Building Department for looking into a constituent's complaint regarding a neighbor storing tires on his property. The constituent now realizes that the property was grandfathered into compliance with City codes, meaning there is no violation.
2. A resident's complaints about 40 Vine Street are getting worse as the weather grows warmer. He would like the Building Department to call the neighbors to investigate the nature and extent of the problem; he will follow up tomorrow.
3. He attended the Sloop Club-sponsored Strawberry Festival. It was a great event, and footage can still be viewed on Channel 22.
4. He would like to echo Lou Amoroso's suggestion about the area that should be considered for a dog park. It would be far superior to the barracks property. Regarding the barracks property, it was decided to the city under the stipulation that it be used as parkland. He would like to see it integrated into Memorial Park as quickly as possible. He was happy to hear that a field may be built there.

Council Member Landisi, Ward One

1. There has been a delay in the St. Luke's/MLKCC project: a form was left out of the initial bid package. The package is being re-sent with the form included, so hopefully a response will be coming soon.
 2. He attended the startup Community Watch meeting for Ward 1. Volunteers are forthcoming; captains are being selected for each street from North Avenue down to Cannon Street.
 3. The first hot meals for seniors have been provided. All Fridays for the remainder of the year are taken care, by four organizations who have volunteered to cook: St. Rocco's Society, St. Rocco's Ladies Auxiliary, Beacon Elks Club, and Beacon Ladies Auxiliary.
 4. Residents in Ward 1 have expressed many concerns about the brush.
 5. He and Council Member Fredericks attended a meeting in Ward 1 with about ten residents about the TOD. Good ideas were presented.
 6. Thanks to the Building Department for resolving some overgrown lawn problems in Ward 1.
 7. He requested that a workshop discussion be held on meeting attendance for the Council, since this was brought up at a recent council meeting.
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Mayor's Activity Report

1. Today, he participated in an artists' activist meeting along with Council Member Pasti and Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro. Thanks to all of BACA and the Beacon Chamber's great work, it was easy for him to talk about Beacon's success.
2. Thanks to the Beacon Chamber and Pat Manning for their work with the Biathlon this weekend. A nice touch was the \$1000 award to the winner, with the stipulation that the money must be spent in Beacon.
3. On June 19, the Mount Beacon Incline Railway Society took a trip to Paterson, New Jersey to meet with a company that specializes in historic railroad track construction. It was an informative trip. They have a bid into the Railway Society and while it's too early to think about awarding contracts, it's good to know that a proud, family-owned company with a background in this kind of work is located close by.
4. On June 16, he attended the City of Beacon and Dutchess County Office for the Aging's Senior Picnic; everyone had a really good time.
5. He attended the Community Watch Ward 1 meeting organizing meeting at St. Rocco's, and thanked Kathy Deutermann for her excellent work in informing and involving people in things like this that benefit the community so much.
6. On June 12, he represented the City at the Elks' Club's annual flag event. It was both interesting and patriotic. He hit the Strawberry Festival after that, and set up a Transit-oriented Development information table.

7. Relating to the TOD: the Council has decided to go to individual wards with a slide show explaining the advantages and disadvantages of the TOD, with further opportunities for the public to give feedback.
 8. A concern group called Beacon Deserves Better put together a TOD-related meeting on June 10, which the Mayor attended along with Council Member Mansfield.
 9. On June 9, he and Ms. Robson attended a roundtable discussion at Pace University on greenhouse gas inventories and carbon footprints for municipalities.
 10. John Nolon, a nationally-known land use law professor at Pace University, has agreed to come to Beacon for this coming Monday's Council workshop. He will be discussing TODs in principle, as well as reviewing ideas and options for Beacon. Beacon Deserves Better is familiar with his work.
 11. On June 8, he met with a Clearwater representative regarding their Green Cities initiative. They'll be forming a committee to identify areas in Beacon where stormwater management can be improved; there is a grant for doing this work.
 12. He also attended the most recent Planning Board meeting. Thanks to them for the difficult work they do.
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New Business – Resolutions

Resolution #90 of 2010: Consider Rescinding Resolution No. 87, incorrectly adopted at meeting of 6/7/2010, related to the adoption of a fee schedule.

Mr. Ward-Willis explained that the Local Law accompanying this matter was not voted on, so a Public Hearing is to be set for the Proposed Local Law and then the Council can vote on it without fear of technical violations.

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

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #91 of 2010: Set Public Hearing for Tuesday, July 6th, to Consider a Proposed Local Law in Regards to the Adoption of a Fee Ordinance.

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

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #92 of 2010: Set Public Hearing for Tuesday, July 6th to Consider a Proposed Local Law in Regards to the Adoption of an Arcade Ordinance.

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

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #93 of 2010: Consideration of the Authorization for the City Administrator to Process Certain Real Property Tax Refund Applications.

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

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Resolution #94 of 2010: Consideration of the Adoption of River Pool Agreement.

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

All voted in favor. Resolution passed.

Announcements

1. The swimming pool at the University Settlement Camp is closed until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.
 2. The annual Fireworks Celebration at Memorial field has been scheduled for Saturday, July 3.
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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.

Esther Carrington, 71 Beacon Street. Despite many rainy days since the last council meeting, her neighbor's brush still hasn't been picked up. Perhaps the City should hire young kids on a part-time basis. Meanwhile, leaf bags are not being picked up anymore – yet many residents still have them out on their property because they never got picked up. Residents without vehicles can't move them, nor can they be disposed of as regular garbage. She also does not feel a call-in system for shrubbery pickup will work. Lastly, why is there no parking for the visitor's center? Is it just going to be for pedestrians coming up from the train station?

Kathy Deutermann, 27 South Brett Street. Thanks to Mr. Casale and Zep Thomaselli for watering the plants early in the morning. She indicated that the proposed price for swings she heard at a Recreation Meeting was outrageous, and that cheaper options exist. Lastly, National Night Out is coming up on August 3. Donations are still being sought; thanks to the Mayor for his pledge. She requested that the Council free up leftover funds from last year's event so that they can be used this time.

Next Workshop: June 28, 2010

Next Council Meeting: July 6, 2010

Executive Session to Discuss Litigation and Personnel:

Motion by Council Member Kelly to enter executive session, second unknown. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned after executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian D. Kelly

Interim Executive Assistant to Mayor Steve K. Gold