

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held at 13 South Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was available via live teleconference. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <https://vimeo.com/398141528>

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

Mayor Kyriacou opened the meeting with an announcement about COVID-19 which can be found attached at the end of these minutes.

Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair said that residents should check on their neighbors. There is a group called Mutual Aid Beacon with 80 volunteers. People can get in touch with them at 845 206 9836 or email mutualaidbeacon@gmail.com. He said that purchasing gift certificates from local businesses is one way to support neighbors in small business throughout Beacon.

Councilmember Mansfield said that as a bar and restaurant owner that was forced to shut down, he agrees with the measures being taken by the state government. There are a lot of people living paycheck to paycheck who will now be living without those paychecks.

Councilmember McCredo proposed putting forth a resolution on behalf of the Council to the New York State Legislator urging them to pass an economic stimulus package.

Mayor Kyriacou took a moment of silence for those who have passed away because of COVID-19 and for those on the front lines.

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

Speakers:

Graham Lawler

Mr. Lawler thanked the Council for their commitment to protecting the public from COVID-19. He spoke as a

representative of the Beacon Hosts group. He asked the Council if they have a recommendation about whether or not the Air B&B community in Beacon should temporarily shut down to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Councilmember Grant

Ms. Grant said that she would encourage people to follow instructions from the CDC which was to stay home unless it is necessary to go out.

Stosh Yankowski

Mr. Yankoski suggested the public should stay positive during the pandemic. He quoted The Beatles, saying “obladi oblada”.

Regarding the Transition District he said that he would be weary about allowing daycare centers with unregulated amounts of children.

Regarding short term rentals he said that the Council should consider one-month leases as long term.

Mr. Yankowski commented on the community forums, saying that there was not enough emphasis on the pace of development in Beacon. A former mayor at the forums suggested a building moratorium.

Theresa Kraft

Submitted for the record:

Like most residents of Beacon, I follow along on social media and local blogs and I'm hearing a lot of chatter asking why the City of Beacon has yet to send out any official messages through its new Swift911 alert system regarding the coronavirus. They're also asking. Why on earth were the bars allowed to continue and host their pub crawl events even though the Permitted fundraiser parade was canceled? We should not value profit more than the public health of our residents. These events fell within the restrictions announced Friday March 13th by Governor Cuomo and Dutchess County Executive Molinaro regarding public gatherings. No pun intended and I won't 'Harp' on it, but their blatant disrespect for the law should not go unpunished. Karma and payback are not good - they're now mandated to close completely. Let's hope we have the luck of the Irish. Be well and stay home.

Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 134 of the Code of the City of Beacon Concerning the Historic District Landmark Overlay (Council Expected to Adjourn to a Later Date)

Theresa Kraft

Submitted for the Record:

I support the revisions to the local law to amend chapter 134 regarding the historic district landmark overlay. Again, I ask the residents of Beacon in these new expanded historic districts to please be open-minded and realize that this is not a burden to a historic homeowner, but it is a protection for your property. Study after study across the nation as conclusively showed that historic designation and the creation of historic districts increase property values. Owners of designated historic structures may make very significant changes to their structures. It does not mean these laws are to prevent change, but to manage change. Historic preservation isn't just about house museums anymore. Preservation today also focuses not just on grandiose architectural landmarks, but on more modest homes, even those with social and cultural significance. Historic preservation laws do not infringe on property rights any more than do many other laws and private rules that Americans have long accepted. We are only keepers of these historic homes; we need to protect them.

- Motion to Adjourn to April 13 by Councilmember Mansfield
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Motion passes 7 – 0

Public Hearing to Discuss a Special Use Permit for 3 Water Street

Theresa Kraft
Submitted for the record:

I support approving this application for a Special Use Permit. Especially since the property is already merged into one parcel on file with Dutchess County records and the applicant is donating a small triangle area to the city of Beacon that will merge into the City's right of way. Even though this is just a tiny bit of green space visually it will go along. And, with the applicant's beautiful aesthetics for good design and materials, it's a win-win for that corner. Though too other viewers it may appear to be too much Modernism but it's done well, and its eclecticism fits within the historic overlay area and for that we should be grateful. I know I am, and I drive past everyday coming and going into town.

- Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Councilmember Mansfield
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Motion passes 7 – 0

Public Hearing to Discuss a Special Use Permit Application for 1182 North Avenue

Dan Kohler, Hudson Land Design

Mr. Kohler said that the application is for a single-family home with an accessory apartment. The applicant is no longer seeking to construct the previously proposed artist studio.

Theresa Kraft
Submitted for the Record:

I support this applicant's proposal for this property since the second parcel is landlocked. I believe this is really the only way to develop it, and their design sense is appropriate for the large Victorians in the area. In addition, it fits the zoning district requirements with this Special Permit.

Councilmember Aymar-Blair

Mr. Aymar-Blair asked if the public should have an opportunity to weigh in on the amended application.

Nick Ward-Willis

Mr. Ward-Willis said that the Council has the discretion to adjourn the public hearing. However, in his opinion, the amendment does not rise to that level. The applicant is simply asking for less than what the public was originally notified of.

- Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Councilmember Mansfield
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Motion passes 7 – 0

Council Reports

Councilmember Terry Nelson

Mr. Nelson thanked the first responders for all of their hard work during COVID-19. He also thanked Dara Silverman for starting Mutual Aid Beacon.

Councilmember Air Rhodes

Mx. Rhodes said it was really good to be able to call in to the Council meeting. They said there is no other city they'd rather live in. Beaconites are brave, creative, generous and resilient. They reminded the public to contact

them through email at arhodes@cityofbeacon.org

Councilmember Rhodes announced that there is now an LGBTQ Committee which is part of the Human Relations Commission. Contact Joe Waring or Mx. Rhodes if you would like to join the committee. Beacon's first Pride Parade is scheduled for June 20th.

Councilmember Jodi McCredo

Councilmember McCredo reminded the public to follow the guidance from health officials in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. She asked that residents be kind to their neighbors, and in particular, look out for those who are vulnerable to the virus.

Councilmember Amber Grant

Key Food will have senior shopping hours from 7 – 8 am. She said she was out trying to shop on Main Street to support the local economy. She told residents that they can also support the local business owners by taking advantage of take out or curbside pickup from shops and restaurants.

She reminded the public to complete the Census.

Councilmember Dan Aymar-Blair

Mr. Aymar-Blair thanked first responders and emergency workers for their work during COVID-19. He thanked all of the city employees for keeping the information coming from all of the different reliable sources.

The seven-day waiting period for unemployment applications was waived by New York State.

Beacon is a digital first Census community. He asked the public to use the time they have to fill out the Census.

He took part in a nation-wide conference call of municipal officials discussing ideas to lessen the burden of COVID-19. Zero percent interest loans for small businesses was an excellent idea that he heard. He would like to advance a letter or resolution to the state or federal government displaying Beacon's support for such a measure.

He asked Nick Ward-Willis if, during a declaration of emergency, municipalities gain decision making power.

Nick Ward-Willis said that New York State Executive Law Section 24 sets forth the ability for local governments to declare emergencies and issue orders. Even with a declaration of emergency, a municipality does not have the ability to supersede New York State laws.

Councilmember George Mansfield

Mr. Mansfield said that the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce has been putting together a list of resources of small businesses. Businesses can sign up on A Little Beacon Blog's website for updates.

Mayor Kyriacou

Mayor Kyriacou thanked the IT Consultant, City Administrator and Assistant to the Mayor for their work during COVID-19.

Anthony Ruggiero

Mr. Ruggiero thanked the city staff for all of their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. He reassured the public that the City of Beacon is implementing policy according to guidance from New York State and Dutchess County. He encouraged residents who would normally come to City Hall to call or email instead if possible. He said the public can call the police department if they see establishments open which should be closed according to Governor Cuomo's orders.

- Motion to Pass the Consent Agenda, (Resolutions # 1 - 5) by Councilmember Nelson
 - Second by Councilmember Mansfield
 - Consent Agenda Passes 7 - 0
1. Resolution Approving the Appointment of Robert Palisi to the Board of Assessment Review
 2. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 211, Article II, Section 10 and 12 and Article III, Section 15 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Vehicles and Transportation for April 20, 2020
 3. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss a Proposed Local Law to Create Chapter 106, Article 4 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding NY Stretch Code for April 20, 2020
 4. Resolution Setting a Public Hearing to Discuss a Local Law to Amend Chapter 223, Section 61.3 of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Noticing Public Hearings for April 20, 2020
 5. Resolution Setting Public Hearing to discuss a Proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 223, Section 41.18.E(7) of the Code of the City of Beacon Regarding Building Height for April 20, 2020
 6. Resolution of the City of Beacon City Council Regarding the Merger of the New York State Bridge Authority into the New York State Thruway Authority

Mayor Kyriacou read a portion of the resolution which can be found attached to these minutes.

- Motion by Councilmember Mansfield
 - Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
 - Motion passes 7 – 0
7. Resolution Granting a Special Use Permit for 3 Water Street
 - Motion by Councilmember Nelson
 - Second by Councilmember Mansfield
 - Motion passes 7 – 0
 8. Resolution Granting a Special Use Permit for 1182 North Avenue

Mayor Kyriacou said that he and his wife own a property across the street, however that does not preclude him from voting on this resolution.

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield

- Motion passes 7 – 0

9. Resolution Adopting an Ordinance as to SEQRA Determination for the Purpose of Bond Ordinances

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

10. Resolution Approving Budget Amendments

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

11. Resolution Authorizing a Bond for City Hall Improvements

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

12. Resolution Authorizing a Bond for the Lewis Tompkins Fire Station Generator

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

13. Resolution Authorizing a Bond for Sewer Lines and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

14. Resolution Authorizing a Bond for Water Supply Treatment and Distribution System

- Motion by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Second by Councilmember Mansfield
- Motion passes 7 – 0

Leslie Deschler

Ms. Deschler thanked the Council for everything they are doing. She said that there are a lot of people who are not taking COVID-19 seriously. She said Beacon needs to hear from their leaders at this time.

She said that closing businesses is scary but she believes that it is the correct decision and she trusts that Beacon can come together and work through this challenging time.

Mayor Kyriacou

Mayor Kyriacou thanked those who attended the meeting in person and virtually. He said that during his first term on Council, meetings used to be held at Lewis Tompkins House. The city will assess what to do next in terms of holding virtual meetings.

Next Council Workshop: March 30, 2020

Next Council Meeting: April 6, 2020

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to Adjourn by Councilmember Mansfield
- Second by Councilmember Aymar-Blair
- Motion passes 7 – 0



City of Beacon, New York
Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

845.838.5010 | Mayor@CityofBeacon.org
845.838.5009 | aruggiero@cityofbeacon.org

City of Beacon – COVID-19 Update – Monday March 16

BEACON, NY – The City of Beacon is working closely with Dutchess County and New York State to ensure public health and safety in connection with COVID-19, and wants to inform the community of the following current information and actions.

- 1. Public Information:** The City of Beacon recognizes that the best statewide health expertise is provided by New York State, and the best local health expertise lies with the Dutchess County Health Department. Accordingly, the City will where possible promptly re-communicate relevant, accurate information provided by these sources, whether electronically on the Beacon Public Access Channel (Channel 22) , the City of Beacon website (<http://www.CityofBeacon.org>), links in documents, or in printed form. The primary objective of the actions being taken by public health officials is to reduce the pace of transmission of COVID-19, to “flatten the curve” as many describe, so as to avoid exceeding the capacity of our hospital services.
- 2. City Preparedness:** The City is working closely with expert state and county governmental partners, participating in multiple daily calls and meetings involving communities throughout the region. Information is passed on to all city staff, including police, fire and other departments, and the community, and the City is taking the appropriate recommended actions to properly inform to safeguard our community, including actions and recommendations to reduce the pace of transmission of COVID-19.
- 3. Limiting Gatherings:** Today (Monday March 16), the Governors of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut announced a lower crowd capacity limit of 50 people for recreational and social gatherings (e.g., theaters, sporting events; but not e.g., libraries, retail establishments), effective at 8:00 PM tonight. This follows an earlier order from last Friday (March 13) with an initial limit, which was the lesser of 500 persons or 50% of venue capacity. Today the Governors also announced that restaurants and bars will close for on-premise service (but still allow take-out and delivery service), and the temporary closing of movie theaters, gyms and casinos. Dutchess County and the City of Beacon collectively have the authority to enforce this limitation through our police, fire and building departments, and will promptly begin doing so.
- 4. Schools:** All school districts in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties were closed for regular classes starting today (Monday March 16). The Beacon City School District is closed for two weeks. The City’s school-based recreation programs are also closed.
- 5. State & Local Government Workforce:** Today (Monday March 16), the Governor announced that 50% of non-essential state employees should not report to work, and if

feasible may work from home, and called for local governments to do the same (we understand this will become an executive order by the end of the day). The City of Beacon will implement this directive beginning tomorrow. We have identified executive, police, fire, water and sewer departments, and code enforcement officers, as essential employees. Other employees will be working for the most part on an every-other-day schedule.

6. City Facilities & Services: The following changes have been made regarding city facilities, board meetings and activities.

- **Essential Services:** Beacon Police and Fire Departments are unaffected by any mandated reduction in staffing; these departments have their own protocols with respect to staffing in emergency situations and interacting with the public. Water and Sewer Departments are unaffected, and trash collection is handled by a private contractor and is on schedule. The roles of Mayor, City Council and City Administrator are unaffected.
- **City Hall:** The window in the front entrance of our Municipal Building will remain open during regular hours for in-person service. Note that this window will as needed service in-person interactions with City departments located in the lower level of the building. Municipal buildings are being cleaned twice a day, and are safe for the public. Residents are encouraged to contact the City by phone or e-mail, where you will receive excellent customer service.
- **Board Meetings:** Meetings of the Beacon City Council, as well as other regular and ad hoc board meetings will continue to meet on schedule, with a change of location on a trial basis, from the Court Room at the Municipal Building to the much larger public meeting room across Route 9D at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Meeting Room located at 13 South Avenue. This will allow for appropriate “social distancing” in a larger venue; the City will monitor and limit public attendance as necessary. The City will continue to televise City Council and other board meetings, and has installed teleconferencing for meetings. Board members are or course free to make individual choices regarding attendance specific to their individual circumstances.
- **Recreation Programs:** The City has already discontinued after-school programs consistent with the school district decision. Other City-sponsored recreational activities are already seeing reduced attendance, and the City will discontinue all recreation programming.
- **Transfer Station:** The City’s recycling and transfer facility on Dennings Avenue will be open for some services, with details to be determined.

7. Some Accurate Sources of Information: Below are some links to accurate and up-to-date local information on health and safety. Take care to find and rely on accurate official sources, and not unofficial, informal or uninformed ones.

- Dutchess County Coronavirus Information Hotline: 845-486-3555
- NYS DOH Novel Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-3065

- Dutchess County State of Emergency:
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/Dutchess-County-Announces-State-of-Emergency.htm>
- Dutchess County Department of Health:
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>
- Dutchess Count Mental Health Services:
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/Mental-Health-Services.htm>
- NYS DOH
Website: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

8. Public Health Reminders: The City of Beacon wishes to repeat some official common-sense public health guidelines including personal hygiene, social distancing, and avoiding large public gatherings and events. These come from the Dutchess County Department of Health and the New York State and the New York State Department of Health.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please see attached COVID-19/Coronavirus Fact Sheet.



**CITY OF BEACON
CITY COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION NO. 51 OF 2020

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEACON REGARDING
THE MERGER OF THE NEW YORK STATE BRIDGE AUTHORITY INTO THE NEW
YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Fish Newburgh Beacon Bridge (the "Newburgh Beacon Bridge") spans the Hudson River between the City of Beacon ("City") and the Town of Newburgh; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Bridge Authority ("Bridge Authority") operates the Newburgh Beacon Bridge and other bridges across the Hudson River in the MidHudson region, which serve as vital links for the lives and commerce of numerous residents and businesses located in the City and in the Newburgh-Beacon economic area, who utilize the bridge crossings of the River on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew Cuomo, in his 2020-21 budget address, announced legislation to merge the Bridge Authority into the New York State Thruway Authority ("Thruway Authority"); and

WHEREAS, the tolls on the five bridges operated by the Bridge Authority are relatively low, and presumably reflect an efficient and well maintained operation by the Bridge Authority

WHEREAS, the City is concerned that a merger may result in either Bridge Authority revenue being used to subsidize Thruway Authority efforts, or in reduced Bridge Authority expense to offset higher Thruway Authority expense, or in reduced Bridge Authority operational staffing and capital efforts, thereby negatively affecting the Newburgh Beacon Bridge and the critical linkage it provides to the Newburgh-Beacon economic area

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Beacon encourages New York State to ensure that any actions involving the Bridge Authority and the Thruway Authority do not negatively affect the Bridge Authority's mission of providing five

efficient, well maintained and low-toll bridges crossing the Hudson River, and in particular the Newburgh Beacon Bridge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be delivered, by the City Clerk to the Hon. Andrew J. Cuomo, Governor, the Hon. Susan Serino, Senator for the 41ST District and the Hon. Jonathon G. Jacobson, Assemblyman for the 104TH District.

Resolution No. <u>51</u> of 2020				Date: <u>March 16, 2020</u>			
☐ Amendments				☐ 2/3 Required			
☐ Not on roll call.				☐ On roll call			
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
		Terry Nelson	x				
		Jodi McCredo	x				
x		George Mansfield	x				
		Amber Grant	x				
		Air Rhodes	x				
	x	Dan Aymar-Blair	x				
		Mayor Lee Kyriacou	x				
		Motion Carried	x				