
BEACON CITY COUNCIL NEWS

by Steve Gold, Councilperson Ward IV

Winter 2006-07

Dear resident, The Council sent out a city-wide Beacon Newsletter this past summer; many residents approved. I thought it a good idea to continue a newsletter, which is something I have done almost every year in office. This edition is a condensed version and in some cases an annotation of what I consider to be the resolutions of 2006 that have the greatest impact. If you wish to see them in their entirety, and read reports from the Mayor, Administrator and Council members, I personally post them on www.cityofbeacon.org. Feel free to reach out to me to discuss any of these topics at 831-4261 or Steve@GoldforBeacon.com. Of course you are also well represented by At-Large Councilpersons [Lee Kyriacou](#) 831-8318 and [Eleanor Thompson](#) 838-4261 and Ward Representatives: Ward 1: [Elizabeth Foster](#) 831-2029, Ward 2: [Charles Kelly](#) 831-8721, Ward 3: [Phil Shea](#): 831-4158 who are also interested in learning your opinions.

February 21, 2006

Resolution No. 5 of 2006: Amended the 2006 General Fund Balance for the Police Department in the amount of \$22,543.00 for body armor. These funds were used to replace 32 bullet proof vests so that all officers vests met the NIJ standards. (Officer Hopper was protected by one of these new vests when he and Officer Martinez apprehended a criminal who fired his gun point blank at Officer Hooper.)

Resolution No. 9 of 2006: Resolution Expressing the Importance of the Historic Preservation of the Tioronda Bridge. Note: This resolution proclaims the Councils determination to preserve and protect the bridge. It was eventually removed and placed in storage where it will be restored and replaced onto its historic stone supports. I have written numerous Free Press articles on preserving the bridge, and stand with other Council members in this effort.

March 6, 2006

Resolution No. 25 To comply with new Federal guidelines the Council recommended to the County Board of Elections the replacement of lever voting machines with paper ballot optical scan (PB/OS) voting machines as they are more accurate, are half as expensive, last twice to three times as long, take up much less space, require less special handling, and are user-friendly compared to computer voting machines. (This was a resolution that I personally researched and authored for the Council)

March 6, 2006

Resolution No. 20 of 2006 - Authorize Mayor to sign Agreement between Poughkeepsie Dutchess Development, Inc. and City of Beacon for the Administration of the Poughkeepsie Dutchess Empire Zone. Note: This resolution offers wonderful opportunities for business on Main Street and other areas in the zone to apply for low cost loans and employment incentives.

Resolution No. 37 - of 2006 - Support of the Purchase of a New Rescue Fire Truck. Note: This was for the rescue truck which is sent to all fires and car accidents. It's designed to hold volunteer firefighters for some emergency trips. The old truck was dangerous for the firefighters to ride in and in

poor condition.

Resolution No 38 - of 2006 - Authorize the Re-construction of North Chestnut Street.

Resolution No. 41 - of 2006 - Approve Agreement with Susan Roeller Brown as Consultant – Grant Proposal Writer in support of the City's Efforts to Acquire and Preserve the Property Known as Hiddenbrooke.

April 17, 2006

Resolution No. 44 of 2006 - Resolution Opposing Proposed Rate Increase By Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation.

May 1, 2006

Resolution No. 50 of 2006: The salary for each of the six Council members was increased from three to nine thousand dollars, and for the Mayor from six to twenty five thousand dollars to take effect for the next Council who will take office in Jan 2008.

Resolution No. 51 of 2006 - Amend Chapter 99 Section 99-15. This resolution will allow any person who observes a dog in violation of this article by barking, to file a complaint under oath with the Dog Control Officer. Previously only the dog warden could file a complaint, now anyone can.

Resolution No. 56 of 2006 - Authorizing the Replacement of the Water Line on Mountain Lane. Note: After difficulty in fighting a house fire on that road it was apparent to me that adequate water pressure has been lacking in this area since it was developed. I considered this to be a dangerous situation and brought it to the attention of the Council where it was ultimately passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 60 of 2006 - In Favor of Wind Power; Change our purchase of electric energy for the Municipal Building so that it includes twenty-five (25%) percent of wind power for the balance of 2006; and to take active steps to encourage and promote the use of energy conservation, energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy technology choices by area residents as part of our overall commitment to encouraging clean energy production and environmental protection.

June 19, 2006

Resolution No. 78 of 2006: To sign an application for a transportation/historic preservation grant for the Tioronda Bridge. Author's note: If accepted the funds could be used to restore the bridge for pedestrian/bicycle use and not vehicular traffic. I vigorously pursued this grant when I learnt of its existence. It was eventually turned down by the DOT because of a pending grant which would rebuild the bridge for vehicular use. I hope the public will join me, and other members of the council, when the time comes to prevent vehicles from using a restored bridge.

July 5, 2006

Resolution No. 85 of 2006 - Approve appointment of Detective Lieutenant Glenn Scofield as Captain of City of Beacon Police Department effective July 10, 2006

Resolution No. 93 of 2006 - An Anti Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Resolution for the Beacon School District. Bullying is a problem of such importance that forty nine State Legislatures have passed anti-bullying laws throughout the United States. The Beacon Council received a letter from a resident defining this as a problem in our school district and how it extends onto our city streets. I wrote the text of this resolution which the Council passed unanimously.

August 7, 2006

Resolution No. 99 of 2006 - Supporting an Independent Safety Assessment of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.

Resolution No. 101 of 2006 - Adopt City of Beacon Five Year Capital Plan

August 21, 2006

Resolution No. 103 of 2006 - Resolved, that the City of Beacon formally requests that the zoning laws in the Town of Fishkill be reviewed and amended if necessary to prohibit residential development on the steep slopes of Mt. Beacon and the Fishkill Ridge; and be it further resolved that the City of Beacon requests "Lead Agency Status" in any future State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) proceedings concerning development and/or zoning changes affecting the slopes on Mt. Beacon and/or Fishkill Ridge. Note: This was a resolution I wrote after discovering that Fishkill allowed a home to be built on the Beacon side of the Fishkill Ridge. It disturbs and disrupts the landmark scenic backdrop of Mt. Beacon.

Resolution No. 104 of 2006 - Approving The Language For The Permissive Referendum Concerning the Open Space Fund Subject Bond Proposition. In brief it read: In order to conserve land that protects scenic views and the water quality of rivers and streams and to protect natural areas and wildlife habitat from development, shall the City of Beacon bond resolution in the amount of \$1 million be approved. This bond resolution was ultimately passed by the voters in the November election.

September 5, 2006

Resolution No. 115 of 2006 - Approve appointment Detective Sergeant Musmeci to Detective Lieutenant

October 2, 2006

Resolution No. 128 of 2006 - Authorize City Engineers To Prepare Bid Specifications For The Tank And Air Filtration System To Reduce Odors From The Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Resolution No. 130 of 2006 - Create a full-time Clerical Position, Account Clerk Typist II, in the Finance Department.

October 16, 2006

(I presided over this meeting)

Resolution No. 137 of 2006 - Adopt Negative Declaration Regarding Proposed Acquisition Hiddenbrooke (Formerly Ursuline) Property. Note: This declaration was required in order for the city to acquire the property for park usage.

Resolution No. 140 of 2006 - Establish a Policy of having the Most up to Date Recycling Program in the Hudson Valley Region.

Resolution No. 152 of 2006 - Authorize Appointment of Kathleen Martin as Assessor of the City of Beacon Effective Immediately. Note: The city receive funds from the State since we will be sharing this assessor with the Town of East Fishkill.

November 20, 2006

Resolution No. 153 of 2006 - Authorize Mayor to Accept Bid and Execute Contract with I. & O. A. Slutzky, Inc. General Contractors for the Tioronda Bridge Historical Trusses and Superstructure Removal. Note: This action became necessary as city engineers determined that the bridge was in jeopardy of falling into the Fishkill creek. The bridge was successfully removed with the historic bow trusses saved. They will be kept safe until we receive funds to restore them along with the historic stone supports.

Resolution No. 154 of 2006 - The Council accepted the concept of Main Street Park Benches which will be Gifted To The City by Beacon Arts Community Association

Resolution No. 155 of 2006 - Authorizing that Meadow Ridge II, L.P. and Meadow Ridge II Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. agrees that it will make annual payments in lieu of real estate taxes with respect to the Land and the Improvements to the City in the amount of \$30,000 (This is a larger amount than required by law for this Federally supported senior residence.)

December 18, 2006

At this meeting we passed the budget for 2007. It represented a five percent increase over last year. We also agreed to continue membership in the County Drug Task Force. Research shows that each year the force conducts an average of eighteen arrests in Beacon. - END -