

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Comm. Seber opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Sylvester - absent
Comm. Seber - present
Comm. Chauvin - present
Comm. Higgins - present
Comm. Hipwell - present

Sam Carabis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2011 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said his office will be open this Saturday and next Saturday the 5th and the 12th from 9 to noon for tax collection. Said the bills actually went out on the 18th this year which is 10 days earlier than they normally do which allows people another week or so to pay the bill and also gives them some cash flow before the 1st of March so that worked out pretty well. Said they have added a feature to their website which is called Browse Aloud which is a free service which allows people with mild vision impairment, low literacy levels, dyslexia to use our website because it reads the information to them. Said it's a really neat feature, how much it will be used no one knows but he felt it was an opportunity for the council to expand the number of people that would have the potential of using our website. Said they have been trying to increase the amount of information they put on it, assessment data is on it and many things along those lines. Said it would be an assistance to help people in the community.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time but he wanted to offer a moment of silence for Tommy Richardson's mother-in-law Mary Luther.

Comm. Hipwell had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said yesterday they started doing core samples up at the reservoir for dredging and they should be done on Friday and it takes three weeks to get the samples back. Mr. Serbalik said the EPA dock contract was signed.

Comm. Seber said they are covered in case something happens in the reservoir.

Comm. Higgins said they borrowed a vehicle off of him, asked if that would be covered on the policy.

Mr. Serbalik said yes, they are named on the policy.

Chief Waldron thanked Comm. Chauvin for his moment of silence for Mary Luther who gave her son to the city which is a price no mother should ever have to pay, she was a true champion and big supporter of the police department and he expressed his deepest sympathy to the family. Mary and her husband George were outstanding citizens of Mechanicville. Said there were two stolen cars over the weekend; they believe they have the people who are now in the Rensselaer County Jail now. Just a good reminder to people to please lock your cars, very rarely do they knock out a window or hot wire your car anymore. He handed out his annual report and went over it (see attached).

Comm. Seber thanked him for his report and asked if he would drop a copy off to the press as they were not there tonight for people to know what's going on.

Mimi Izzo asked how they know that a sex offender moved into town.

Chief Waldron said they are required by law to file their new address with the police department or they can be arrested.

Deputy Chief Corrigan gave the fire department report for the month of February (see attached). Thanked Comm. Higgins and Chief Waldron for the enforcement of the snow emergency, it makes a big difference to them.

Comm. Seber asked for a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:20 p.m. to go into two public hearings, one on the Charter Revision and the second on Ordinance 2011-2 to Amend Section 158-43A of the City Code to Lower the Unit Sewer Charge from \$90.00 to \$80.00 Per Unit.

Motion made by Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber called upon John Franck to explain the Charter Revision.

Mr. Franck said they were originally supposed to meet in February but because of the snow storm and it being very icy they cancelled it until tonight. Said they had a presentation in November and the first public hearing in January. Said there are two parts, part 1 they discussed about maximizing efficiency while stabilizing your form of government. Said the main thing is changing your form of government or amending what you currently have. Said all things are suggestions and it comes down to the people in this room, the Mayor, Council, Chief of Police, Fire Department who have to work together to come up with potential efficiency. Said the main thing you are looking for something for a change in your government. Said the Commission form of government started here in 1950. Said the Charter definitely needs to be amended. Said 3 of the 4 departments have deputies now.

Comm. Seber said Public Safety just changed to a deputy and it's the person that was in there.

Mr. Franck said there are basically three options facing the city with this type of government, you can leave the commission form of government that you currently have but try to modernize it, the second is to consider a city manager/council form of government and the third is a Mayor/council form of government. Talked about the forms of government. Said the commission form of government saves money and a manager of the city can cost a lot of money. Talked about the pros and cons of each. Said expenditure wise these guys do a very good job here. Said this would have to be placed on a ballot and the earliest this could be on a ballot is this November and they are pushing that a little bit and even a new form of government wouldn't take place until 2013 because you have to go through one full budget cycle. Said this is the last public hearing, they will bring their information to the city attorney and will also have a sample charter for the Mayor and Council. They want to get this finalized so they know what to have on the ballot.

Comm. Seber asked if anyone had any questions. Said he is disappointed that there aren't many here tonight. Wanted to thank John and also Sam Carabis and Paul Loatman who have been there at every meeting. Said they had a committee of 9 or 10 when this first started but for various reasons it got down to 3 or 4 but these gentlemen were at all of them and participated as he expected they would. Said he and Mayor wanted to keep politics totally out of this so that is why

they wanted a totally separate committee. Said they never attended any meetings on purpose. There were no questions so Comm. Seber moved into the second public hearing to amend the ordinance on sewer. Asked if anyone had any questions.

John Caruso wanted to know why the water usage was turned into units because he is paying more now.

Comm. Seber said they weren't here when they did it but as he understands it but they are basically mirroring what the county was doing using a per unit charge. Said overall it was saving people money.

Mr. Serbalik said it was adopted to save the city money. Said at that time there were a lot of commercial, restaurants and stores that were upset about it.

Comm. Seber said the minimum for a commercial building is 4 units. Said there are buildings that only have one bathroom and no traffic and are charged for 4 units. Said the county makes the fees. Said overall people are saving money.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the public hearing be closed at 7:55 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber opened up the meeting to public comment.

Sam Carabis thanked Chief Waldron for his help in an incident.

Paul Loatman said the commission form of government started in 1915.

Comm. Seber read FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 2011-
2 TO AMEND SECTION 158-43(a) OF THE
MECHANICVILLE CITY CODE SEWER CHARGE

Introduced by Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Higgins.

Roll Call: Comm. Seber - yes
Comm. Chauvin - no
Comm. Higgins - yes
Comm. Hipwell - yes

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 24-11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARTON &
LOGUIDICE FOR REVITALIZATION WORK IN
MECHANICVILLE

Introduced by Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Chauvin.

Roll Call: Comm. Seber - yes
Comm. Chauvin - yes
Comm. Higgins - no
Comm. Hipwell - abstained at this time

Comm. Seber said the resolution does not pass.

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 25-11 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

Introduced by Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative – all.
Negative – none.

No old or new business.

Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:04
p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.