

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Central / Fire Station, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, October 17, 2012. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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

Jay Silverman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2012 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said on October 22<sup>nd</sup> a presentation will be held at Longfellow's for the food pantry. Schuylerville Media Event from 10:00 to 11:00 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and Then from there down the river on the Tugboat with Bryant Stratton.

Comm. Seber said water collection is going on. Said he attended a construction meeting today for the South Street Hill Project and during the meeting they were informed that he project is running approximately 10 days late. Said they were hoping to get the hill opened by October 30<sup>th</sup> but it looks like the week of November 19<sup>th</sup> when they will be able to put traffic on it.

Stephanie Proper said that's more than 10 days, she doesn't understand that.

Comm. Seber said they think perhaps the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> but he told them to tell him the truth and they feel comfortable perhaps as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> but they certainly feel comfortable the week of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Said he spoke with the Superintendent today and the school knows of the change.

Ms. Proper asked if they are going to do longer Saturdays and Sundays.

Comm. Seber said the work schedule is going to stay the same.

Ms. Proper said she heard yesterday that they were going to be doing longer hours on Saturdays and starting on Sundays.

Comm. Seber said he requested from their engineers a more detailed explanation of why the delay but he hasn't gotten it yet.

Comm. Higgins said he knows talking to the guys on the wall that they wanted to do a 100 blocks a day but they only did that one day, they are averaging 70 – 75 a day.

Comm. Seber said he knew it was related to the wall but he's going to get a more detailed explanation of why.

Comm. Higgins said he has gotten a couple of calls from people saying they can't see going up the hill but 3<sup>rd</sup> Street will be extended out a little bit. Said if you come down Third Street and you look you can't see up the hill but the road will be out further so the stop sign will be out further. Said the sidewalk will be 14 feet from the wall so it will be out that much further beyond the wall so you can see up the hill. More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Hipwell said starting November 1<sup>st</sup> they will be taking names for Christmas so if anyone knows of anyone that needs help they will be taking about 6 names right now to adopt families for the holidays.

Comm. Seber requested an executive session to discuss personnel as it relates to possible job change.

City Attorney Serbalik said they met with Bobby Fortune about a month or so again and they said they were interested in developing the railroad yard and they said I would be contacted by the lawyer or somebody and I just wanted the council to know that I haven't heard from anybody.

Comm. Seber asked if they made contact with the fire chiefs about coming to the night meeting.

Comm. Hipwell said yes and he does have something from him, this week has been a busy week for the fire department, the day of the cancer walk the did mutual aid call and it ended up being a barn fire which was really bad and then ended up going back for 8 hours on Monday for a total of 16 hours there and they did a great job. Said they had a bad crash last night and they spent over 5 or 6 hours there with the police department.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment.

Sam Carabis said the Community Center would be making a presentation. Said he is President of the Board and the purpose of them meeting is to bring them up to date on what is transpiring down there and some of their activities. Introduced some of their board members: Jay Silverman is one of their largest board members, Meghan Quinlan is their Director and Holly LaTorre is the Assistant Director. Said they've come a long way in 43 years and he was their first treasurer and at that time it was \$2,000 and now they are up to around  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars. Said at that time they had 2 permanent employees and now they are up to 30 and he personally thinks it's one of the most outstanding organizations in the community and it is contributing a great deal for our

people. Said Meg will tell them about some of the activities they have down there and what they are planning.

Meghan Quinlan, Executive Director, said they are all pretty familiar with their programs going on there, ranging from child care to domestic violence advocacy, youth programs, emergency assistance and a little of everything in between, she didn't want to go on and on about everything. Said they want to thank them for their continued support, they are at everything they have, every event, every outing, every invitation they make an appearance and they really appreciate that and the ongoing partnership with the city. Handed out to them a list of their programs. Said last year they had more than 9,000 people come through their doors so they are thankful that they are servicing a lot of people in our community which is a large number and neighboring communities. Said over 80% of the kids that come in their doors are from Mechanicville which is probably a low percentage because it doesn't include their child care programs that are all Mechanicville School District as well. Said additionally 70% of their food pantry and more than 80% of the seniors they are seeing in their programs are from Mechanicville. Said they included the Salvation Army vouchers on their list so they can see where those monies are going as well. Said they had discussed with Comm. Seber in the past how many people in Mechanicville they serve. Said they have over 50 kids showing up for open gym right now.

Comm. Seber asked what their major source of funding is.

Mrs. Quinlan said they a lot of bigger sources of funding, their child care revenue is a large percentage, United Way is over \$100,000 a year currently but they anticipate that will decrease greatly over the next 3 years, OCFs, DCJS family foundation donations are really a mish mash of a lot of diverse strings of funding. Said she doesn't think the city runs a United Way Campaign that may be a way to consider to help, not just them, but other community agencies that people can elect to have come out of their paycheck a donation back to an agency that they want.

Comm. Seber asked her to explain what the \$10,000 the city gives them is used for.

Mrs. Quinlan said in their budget it's used under their Office of Mental Health Grant, it offsets a matching fund for monies they get from NYS Office of Mental Health which in turn helps fund having someone at the front desk to answer information and referral calls from people who may be in crises or needing to get somewhere and also the Saratoga County Office of Mental Health is onsite at the Center one day a week so it helps fund the support for services like that.

Comm. Higgins asked if they have seen any difference with the solar.

Mrs. Quinlan said it wasn't hooked up yet, they are waiting for the electrician to come out and make the final connection.

Mr. Carabis said he spoke to them and they said hopefully the end of this week or

the beginning of next week they would be here.

More discussion was held on that.

Comm. Hipwell said Friday night they have that thing at Fraternal.

Mrs. Quinlan said they do to try to gave awareness to community members of what they try to do and to try to get people involved in helping at the Community Center, to sign up to volunteer.

Mr. Carabis asked if anyone had any questions. Said he wanted to thank Dave Higgins and his crew up there, basically it's a city owned building and if anything goes wrong up there Dave and his crew are right there to fix it. Said they really appreciate it and he's a great asset to the center. Said right now the library has a group called the Friends of the Library Group and basically they go out and raise funds for the library and they provide activities. Said their plans are to start Friends of the Community Center. Said they've had a number of people that have come in for the last 43 years that have helped them. Said even though they don't have time to be a member, they have time to come in and volunteer as far as the food pantry and as far as fixing up the building and so forth. Steve Cerone is always there to help them out if they have any carpentry work, he's a great guy and he's known him for years. Said they are going to put together a list of all the people that have helped them. Said 43 years ago a few of them got together and started this and one thing led to another and it has grown from \$2,000 to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars in activity. Said they always said the easiest thing to do is start an organization but the hardest thing is to keep that organization after it is started. Said it was wild and hectic when they first started but now it's more organized and it really fills a need whether it's a food pantry or a place for kids to meet and they certainly appreciate the help the city has been giving them and backing them up.

Mayor Sylvester asked if anyone else had any comments. No one did.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 74-12 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
CHIEF OF POLICE TO WAIVE THE PENALTY FOR ALL  
PARKING TICKETS CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING FOR  
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2012

Mayor Sylvester said this will be without penalty or interest added to this. Said there is \$32,000 out there in tickets, if they all were to come in and pay them all at once it would be \$16,000. Doesn't know if they will send police to the doors to collect them after this period or go through Motor Vehicle so that when they go to renew their license or registration they won't be able to unless the ticket is paid with penalty.

Introduced by Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin.

Comm. Seber said he still doesn't understand why they are doing this, doesn't understand why they aren't taking a more aggressive approach now rather than waiting for two months. Said the tickets have been outstanding since 2005, he wished Joe was

here, he understands they want to collect the money but there are other ways to collect the money it seems to him. Said they could do it through Motor Vehicle.

City Attorney Serbalik said ordinarily if someone doesn't pay a ticket the court would notify Motor Vehicles and they would suspend that person's license and if that person is caught driving with a suspended license they have to pay the ticket and there are additional processing fees as well.

Comm. Seber asked if they get notified by Motor Vehicle.

City Attorney Serbalik said they are supposed to be notified by Motor Vehicle that they are suspended as effective date.

Comm. Seber said he thinks they should take a more aggressive approach.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 75-12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Comm. Seber said he understands this is for the operation, not a bus.

Comm. Hipwell said right.

Introduced by Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 76-12 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No old or new business.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell moved that the regular meeting be close at 3:30 p.m. to go into executive session. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the executive session to re-open the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Seber, made a motion to adjourn the

regular meeting at 4:01 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.