

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Chief Waldron led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester asked everyone to stay standing for a moment of silence for Anthony Denier, a home town boy that was killed in Afghanistan last Saturday.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2012 and the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2012, seconded by Comm. Chauvin. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Seber said they were notified this week by the Saratoga County Treasurer's Office that back by popular demand are the Certificates of Residency which is a good thing. Said they are going to have a budget hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting on the 19th at the Fire House with the hope of acting on the budget. Said it will be published in the various newspapers.

Comm. Chauvin said they have a rough draft of the budget and there are copies if anyone would want one.

Comm. Higgins said Monolith Solar put their panels on the City Garage and now they have to wait for NYSEG to put their new meter in and they will be up and running.

Comm. Higgins said from the City Council they want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe one.

City Attorney Serbalik said tomorrow they will meet at 1:30 with the City Engineer on that property for the pump house problem. Said the surveys are ready and they should probably act on that very quickly.

Comm. Higgins asked if it was staked out so they can see it.

Mr. Serbalik said yes, the property itself is staked out the property itself for the pump house and the access easement.

Comm. Seber said they are replacing two pump stations, one behind City Hall

and one behind a residence on Ferry Street down by the river. Said there's a question on Ferry Street on who owns the property, what the easements are so they had to have a search done on who actually owns the property.

Chief Waldron said the bids came in for the police car and there is a resolution on the agenda tonight awarding the contract to Jack Byrne Ford and Mercury who was the lowest bidder. Talked about when they go to Albany Airport to get Lance Corp. Anthony Denier and how they will have a motorcade which will block of several street but it's the very least they can do. Said they will know by tomorrow morning which day he will be coming back. Said he met with his mom two times and she wants everyone to know how much she appreciates everything they are doing. Said he gave his life on foreign territory to protect ours, there is no greater honor. Said he's gotten so many calls from people who want to line the streets on that day including across the county and across the State who want to come in and be here for that. Said they will get the information out as soon as they can so everyone will know the route.

Mayor Sylvester said tomorrow they will have a limited number of American Flags they will hand out to people that line the streets and they can get them at City Hall. Said they bought all that they had.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:09 p.m. to go into a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Getting Public Input Into A Pending Resolution to Install a Stop Sign on the South Side of South Street Where It Intersects Third Street, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said it was duly published in the newspaper.

Mayor Sylvester said the purpose of this hearing is they have a brand new road and it's almost like a raceway now so they have to slow the traffic coming down that hill so this is the purpose of putting that stop sign in there. Said people wishing to speak should state their names and addresses.

Comm. Higgins said the purpose isn't to slow traffic down, it's because you can't see coming off of Third Street, that's why they put the sign up.

Mayor Sylvester called upon Tom Beard, Engineer from Barton & Loguidice to speak.

Mr. Beard thanked them for coming and said he believes they like the road. Said as engineers they have a lot of standards they have to follow. Said the project was funded with 80% of the money from Federal Highway Program. Talked about the phases of the construction of the road. Said it cost over 3 million to get the road fixed, it's a long term fix, said they did a lot of things in there to handle the water flow from the hill. Said the Highway and Transportation Officials set forth minimum criteria for the intersection. Said the minimum distance for this type of road, assuming 35 miles per hour coming down the hill, is 390 feet that you need to have as a minimum, if you don't have that you are in a nonconforming feature. Said right off the bat they are at 220 feet

away from the minimum criteria. Said when you do a project like this, especially when it's labeled a safety improvement project, you are using special funds that are allocated for improving safety for the whole project in general. Said this is a multi-modal which includes having accommodations for bicyclist, pedestrians and other modes of transportation. Said they went back and forth with this 2 years ago on what to have for bike routes, size of sidewalk and they came up that they wanted to have the students and people on bicycles to have their own walkway separated by a curb and away from traffic especially since it was a route to a school. Discussed more about people who would ride bikes there. Said they made the sidewalks 10 feet to accommodate 2 way traffic. Talked about the railings and walls. Said they tried to achieve the most site distance as possible. Said they decided that the Stop Sign was appropriate, it was installed because of the limited site distance they have looking right up the hill. Said if anyone feels nervous about it, he apologizes, it's one of those things they were going to try to not have to do it but it is required by standards. Said it does provide safety throughout the whole corridor, speeds will be slower on the hill but this not why it's going in and speeds will be slower on the other end of South Street from Third to Central. Said that's why it's being recommended and that's why it's there right now as a temporary basis until they go through the process here.

Mayor Sylvester asked if anyone had any questions and to state their name.

Woman on Washington Avenue said in regards to coming down the hill with the stop sign is fine, who is responsible for the salt and sand at the bottom of the hill.

Comm. Higgins said the city.

Woman asked who plows the hill.

Comm. Higgins said they do, it's there's to Prospect Street.

Woman asked about no parking at the bottom of the hill to Harris Avenue, there are three cars.

Comm. Higgins said nobody really parks there, they can't get into their driveways.

Woman said that is an issue coming down the hill. Asked if there were any suggestions on one way coming down Third making it a one way to Spring.

Mayor Sylvester said he brought that up but figured most people on Third Street would go ballistic.

Woman said it's going to be an issue that traffic concept. Said it looks beautiful, it's great. Asked if they will get any street lights on the side of the sidewalk.

Mr. Baird said yes, there will be three lights right along the sidewalk against the wall. Said if the stop sign does become permanent there will be a continuance flashing

red beacon.

More discussion was held on parking at the bottom of the hill and it was said it will be looked into.

Man in audience said going up the hill is steeper now, you have people coming down the hill before the plows are out, the hill gets very slick so you have someone trying to slow down so with that stop sign you might be opening up a can of worms with cars coming down that hill for a lot of accidents.

Mr. Baird said he understands his point. Said about the grade it's not much different but it is a little better.

Man said he just feels there will be more accidents now but it is much better.

More discussion was held on this.

Another man in audience said he thinks it's a fantastic job. Asked if there was going to be a fence on that step up and down on the north side of the walls.

Mr. Baird said there will be protection with a fence on the wall.

Discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber said the stop ahead sign he thought was going to be up closer to the cemetery.

Mr. Baird said that is the standard book distance offset for that sign, they can't take that one out but they can put another one and that will be done.

Woman on South Main Street said she thinks it looks really nice but shouldn't have parking at the bottom of the hill.

Todd Woods, represents the School District, said they have done a great job and he knows what kind of hard work this is and wanted to compliment them. Secondly he wanted to complement them on getting their money from outside of the community, they all pay taxes and it's nice to have some of the money come back into the community. Said they appreciate them including the school district in their conversations about safety, it's number one on their list all of the time and it was nice talking to people who had something to do with it. Said they wish the hill was arranged differently but you can't take it down and they did a lot of things to help that. Said they are worried about the hill themselves, they are not so worried about the stop sign as they are about slowing the traffic on that hill because of kids crossing the street, that would be an improvement. Said the top of the hill isn't in their control, they will contact the county to see if they can have that 20 mph lengthened. Said again they really appreciate the cooperation and the improvement to the city. Thanked them for the job, said it was nicely done.

Mayor Sylvester asked if he heard anything on the sidewalk they are looking to put in.

Mr. Woods said at the meeting their were mixed feelings from the community. Said they would like to see it done because they feel it will be safer for kids. Said they were talking to the Town and if they do do the sidewalk they will bring it up to their property to meet their sidewalk. Said he doesn't know where they are on the situation.

Bernie Kraszewski, 245 South 3rd Street, said he lives 3 houses from the corner and everyday when he pulled out of his driveway before that stop sign was put in cars coming down that hill cut that bend very short and came into the other lane and had to slam on their brakes sometimes to go by him as he backed out of his driveway and it affected many coming out of their driveways but now it has curtailed many speeders. He thinks the stop sign is great there.

Sam Carabis, Elizabeth Street, said it's a beautiful road, said someday they may want to consider putting a sign there saying Welcome to Mechanicville.

Mr. Baird said the cost of the project is \$3,000,000 and the cost to the city is \$150,000 for their information.

Lady in audience asked where the storm water is going.

Mr. Baird said the pipes within the old road were rusted and the joints were broken in a number of locations in the catch basins so eventually the water would have slid down to the park they were filled in. Said right now all the water that comes down goes into the unit that was embedded in the concrete. Explained how it is stored and let out.

Discussion was held on traffic light, left turn sign and snow removal.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the public hearing be closed to re-open the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Chauvin discussed the budget. Said total appropriations next year \$4,851,000 and change. Estimated revenues \$2,338,000 and change. Property taxes and tax levy will be \$2,098,485 and they will be using an appropriated fund balance of \$414,456. Said to balance their budget there will be a 2.29% tax increase at this point. Said it's under the tax cap and the budget itself is lower than last year.

Comm. Seber said they had a budget hearing last week and representatives from the Rescue Squad were there and they were looking for more money. Said two years ago their contribution to the Rescue Squad was about \$100,000, the last two years has been about \$125,000. Said they came to them asking for approximately \$180,000, said it's very important to them to have additional funds to help them survive. Said Pete put

\$170,000 in the budget this time which is about a \$45,000 increase which is quite large. Said he was hoping they had representatives here tonight, they need to sit down with them the first quarter of next year to try to get an understanding of their situation. Said he didn't get the impression that their financial picture is going to improve over the next year or two. Said they all want to see them stay in business but they can't afford to be putting 30, 40, \$50,000 a year to sustain their existence.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment.

Lady in audience asked if they reinstated Chief Dunn because his name was on the agenda.

Mayor Sylvester said that was a typo.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 83-12 DIRECTING THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS TO INSTALL A VEHICULAR STOP SIGN AT THE SOUTH END OF THIRD STREET AT IT'S INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH STREET

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 84-12 PERMITTING THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE NEEDED REPAIRS TO THE CENTRAL FIREHOUSE ROOF FROM ERIE MATERIALS AT A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$17,000

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 85-12 AWARDING THE 2013 FORD TAURUS POLICE INTERCEPTOR TO JACK BYRNE FORD FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$22,989.24

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 85-12 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:57 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.