

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Central Fire Station, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

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

Sam Carabis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said the mail he got was a Merry Christmas from the Governor and the President. Said Barton and Loguidice have made a donation to the food pantry in Mechanicville and HRP has sent us a Christmas card.

Comm. Seber said Merry Christmas to everyone.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said they had water main break on Road Lake Avenue which is fixed. Said one of their salt trucks rotted out, the chain that moves the salt rotted. Said they will bring it up to Arrowhead in Glens Falls tomorrow and see if they can put a new one in, rebuild it hopefully. Said during the storms they had a lot of the trucks breaking down and not working so they had a little tough time to get everything plowed and salted. Said people just aren't complying with the odd/even parking, doesn't know how many cars have been ticketed or towed.

Comm. Seber said you would think after the 3<sup>rd</sup> season, said he's been told that the same people do it over the years.

Comm. Higgins said they have a lot of people that when they plow they throw the snow right back in the road. Said he went around one guy four times and asked if he got his point and he said no, do you expect me to pick it up there and put it on the curb, said he said yes and drove away and saw him throwing it in the road again.

Comm. Hipwell said he had nothing to report at this time.

City Attorney Serbalik asked for an executive session after the meeting for a litigation matter.

Mayor Sylvester asked Chief Waldron to stay for that.

Chief Waldron said to go along with Comm. Higgins they towed 22 cars for the snow emergency and issued 36 parking tickets.

Comm. Higgins said he did get a few complaints from people saying it wasn't on their website; they will have to figure a way to get it on.

Comm. Seber said he knows Kim that handles it in his office has been in touch with your office, the Water Plant and Mary Lou downstairs to give them access to the front page of the website so if an emergency comes up they will have the opportunity to put the message on.

Comm. Higgins said Kim told them to they can sign up on that page to give an alert.

Comm. Seber said yes, they are going to find out how that works.

Comm. Higgins said everyone has complained that they didn't get the reverse 911.

Chief Waldron said the Lieutenant has said that the county has changed the usage policy regarding when you can use reverse 911 and a local snow emergency will not cover that. Said he's looking into that because he finds that hard to believe and even if it is they will use it to kick it off.

Comm. Seber asked if we control it.

Chief Waldron said we control it, we send out the message, we record it and then it gets sent out. Said one of the things that came up was the no parking zones, there are 45 of them in the city and some cover large areas. Said from Boston Avenue all the way to the city's incorporated lines there is no parking on this side of the road. Said so when they do this odd/even parking even though there is no parking there so you don't park there. Talked more about no parking on certain streets or sides of the roads. Said all parking signs are void during a snow emergency. Said only when there is no parking on either side of the road you can't park there, your car would be towed no matter what.

Chief Alonzo gave his report for November saying they responded to 22 incidents. Said winter time brings them their carbon monoxide alarm, natural gas leaks inside the house. Said they responded down to the McDonald's fire in Waterford where they spend about 4 1/2 hours, his guys worked hard and their chiefs were very appreciative. Said this month has been fairly busy as well. Wished them all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, said it's been a pleasure working with them for the past year. Said as they know Jim Corrigan will be taking over the first of the year as Chief and he will be Deputy Chief. Said he has the new Assistant Chief Dave Zecca here with him today. Thanked them for all of their support and he looks forward to keep working with those of them who are still here.

Comm. Seber said they are going to have a public hearing and a vote on the budget on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center. Said hopefully that will be the final touches on the budget.

City Attorney Serbalik said then he's introducing the budget today.

Comm. Seber said yes, it's a tentative budget. Asked if there was a protocol to do that.

Attorney Serbalik said no, there's a tentative budget prepared and it's available at your office for review if anyone wants to see it. Said you can't introduce it the same day.

Comm. Seber said yes, he understands that. Said so they are introducing the tentative budget today for a public hearing on the 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Said it will be available in his office and he wants to put it on line as well.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment.

Sam Carabis said the library is putting up the new electric sign and the Senior Center can use it. Said in case of snow emergencies it can be put on the sign.

Comm. Higgins said the sign is coming on Friday; they will unload it at the garage and then make arrangements with Baker to install it.

Chief Alonzo said he spoke with Ms. Gilheany today on the tentative budget and they went through it line by line and made some additions and deletions and basically their budget will be down \$5,500 from last year, it's the best they can do. Said he wanted to work with her one last time going over some stuff.

Comm. Seber said since they are talking about the budget unfortunately he missed the budget meeting. Asked Chief Waldron if he had any sense of retirements this year, is there any opportunities to scale that budget down realistically based on retirements.

Chief Waldron said if they can count on retirements, absolutely. Said they have been asking, begging for information on retirements. Said he just has no clue when people will retire. Much discussion went on about police department retirements and how they are operating on 2010 level and how the budget is really tight and how much they will save if police officers retire.

Mary Lou Anatriello, Gilbert Street, asked if a date has been determined as to when that burned down building on Penrose Avenue will be torn down.

Attorney Serbalik said he spoke to the Building Inspector in November and they sent a letter out to them saying the building had to be corrected or down by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Anatriello said it's quite an unattractive piece of property. Said she doesn't know too many communities that allow those kinds of structures to remain for a long period of time, the fire was in October. More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Hipwell said he would look into with John tomorrow.

Attorney Serbalik said he would talk to him as well.

Mrs. Anatriello talked about the parking on the corner near the Ugly Rooster is practically in violation everyday throughout the day. Wishes that could be enforced a little better.

Chief Waldron said he's pro business and tries to give a lot of latitude. Said he knows that area has been an area of concern. Said he even thought about alternate parking.

Mrs. Anatriello asked if there have been many accidents there, cars that have been sideswiped or mirrors taken off.

Chief Waldron said believe it or not, not there.

Sam Carabis said that house on Railroad Street, a few doors below Bove's, that is petitioned off with tape and so forth, will that be auctioned off.

Mayor Sylvester said it's all done, it's been bought and paid for, GA Bove owns it and they will be tearing it down.

Mrs. Anatriello said the Christmas Decorations look lovely on the poles on the street. Asked if they also did the gazebo.

Comm. Higgins said yes.

Mrs. Anatriello said the Community Center looks good with the reindeer that Mert made a long time ago and gave to the center.

Mayor Sylvester said they will be tabling the resolution for Bryant Stratton because they have to discuss the contract with their lawyer.

Attorney Serbalik said he called them but they never got back to him.

Comm. Hipwell said they came down today and talked to him and Mark.

Comm. Seber said they had some questions on the numbers so they wanted us to wait until they got back to us.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, made a motion to table Resolution No. 85-13. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 86-13 A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 30, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER TO ACT ON THE 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 87-13 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the regular meeting be closed to go into executive session for a litigation matter at 3:30 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

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

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, adjourned the regular meeting at 4:02 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.