

The Re-organization meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Thursday, January 2, 2014. Mayor Baker opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- present
	Comm. Seber	- present
	Comm. Gilheany	- present
	Comm. Higgins	- present
	Comm. Hipwell	- present

Bea Timpanaro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Seber, made a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting of December 30, 2013 as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker thanked everyone for coming out on a night like this tonight to hear whatever they have to say.

Comm. Seber said there really isn't much going on right now, he wanted to welcome Mayor Baker and Comm. Gilheany.

Comm. Gilheany had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said he guesses that people still don't get it, they are still having a lot of cars towed, he don't know what else to do. Asked Dennis if he knew how many cars were towed.

Mayor Baker said yes, he thinks Billy told him 16 and at least 3 of them were towed the last time and that really blows his mind.

Comm. Hipwell said he knows the snow is here, to help DPW out if you have a fire hydrant in front of your house try to shovel it out; he got a lot of calls in Public Safety about fire hydrants. Said starting today their new animal control officer is Nick Sgueglia.

Fire Chief Corrigan said they had a busy year. Said to start off the year right he wrote a letter to the Council and you Mr. Mayor which I will read (see attached). Said he gave a copy to everyone.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment.

Michele Duell said she knows Dave is busy but she has an issue with Greenwood Avenue. Said her garage is off of Greenwood and it's constantly left like this by the city people (showed a picture). Said she can't get a car out of her garage.

Comm. Higgins said all the snow is up there because it's on that corner.

Mrs. Duel said she understands that and when there is snow removal it usually gets taken care of but there hasn't been snow removal in a couple of years on that street, on their corner. Said she understands that they only park their summer car in there but if there was a fire next to the apartment building next door they couldn't get their \$30,000 car out of the garage, it would be a loss to them.

Dave DeMarco, 52 Warsaw Avenue, asked how much is owed in taxes for the home owners or building owners. Said he knows one building owner that owns multiple buildings and he thinks that he has not been paying. Asked if that is part of our deficit and is that what's causing some of this 18%.

Comm. Seber said no, right now for the properties they are moving on for foreclosure, they are talking about 58 of them right now, it's probably in the million dollar range, however, from accounting standpoint that money is accounted for. Said so on your book that is a receivable, that money is accounted for so it's not a part of the problem. Said what the problem is, it hurts cash flow but it doesn't hurt the bottom line, it's already been accounted for.

Mr. DeMarco said but you are borrowing money because that money isn't there.

Comm. Seber said not necessarily, they borrowed money, they borrowed two bonds because South Street Hill was a 2 1/2 million dollar project and they borrowed some initial money for the two bridges that are going to be replaced, one on Main Street and one on Francis Street.

Mr. DeMarco said he thought the State took them over.

Comm. Seber said no, we own them. Said the county actually owns every bridge in the city. Said from what he understands is several years ago when they did an analysis of all the bridges it was clear to them the bridges that had to be replaced and two that didn't. Said the county is replacing a bridge on Central Avenue in the spring, the one near DiSiena's. Said the reason they borrowed the money is because those grants are reimbursable grants, in other words you pay the money and then you apply for reimbursement to the State and you get your money back. Said they needed some money, short term up front because they didn't have \$700,000 lying around so that's the reason those bonds were put in place.

Comm. Higgins said the interest comes to them but that's not on the books, right.

Comm. Seber said it's part of the budget, the interest and principal are part of the budget but as far as the back taxes they really aren't part of this problem, it's the terms of the bookkeeping part of the whole thing, obviously the cash wise doesn't help them. Said they budgeted another \$60,000 this year in additional penalty and interest on those and he thinks that will be well in excess of \$60,000 when it is all said in done, it will probably be in the \$150,000 range. Said that should help a little bit on the books. Said he has no evidence but he's convinced that one of the problems they faced over 10 or 11 they started getting these grants, they are all reimbursable grants, the dock project

for example, Dave's crew would do the work down there, we would then make application for a reimbursement and we get our money back. Said he's not certain going back to 10 and 11 that these reimbursement requests were put in but he has no evidence. Said hopefully working with Comm. Gilheany over the next few months they will be able to figure this out. Said he just doesn't think they were managed properly. Said so what happens is you incur the expense whatever it might be and it shows up on their books as an expense but there is no revenue to counteract that expense so the city eats it and that drives your deficits up.

Ms. Timpanaro asked how far can they go back.

Comm. Seber said they are okay, they can still go back and get it, the State is pretty forgiving when it comes to this stuff and its only a couple of years back. Said 2011 was the last he say. Said they have two line items, one is revitalization and the other is engineering and they were over 2 million. Said an engineering bill did come in.

Mr. DeMarco said that was pretty disgraceful if we didn't get reimbursed.

Comm. Higgins said nobody did say it's been reimbursed.

Mrs. Timpanaro said at least they have a place to look.

Comm. Seber said they went from 1.6 million dollars in a fund balance in 2010 to 0 in three years. Said there is something wrong. Said he would put the blame on the Finance Office but now they have someone in place of it.

Mr. DeMarco said he wasn't against the fire department, he's against spending money we don't have. Said why do we pay engineers so much money.

Comm. Seber said to get these grants we need the engineers and most of the money they get paid comes out of grants. Said he wanted to vote for a 2% tax if things were different. We don't know if we have the money.

Mr. DeMarco said they will raise our taxes 18% and they don't know what they have.

Mayor Baker said they are working on that.

Kim Dunn said personally she appreciates both meetings being held at 7:00, it will help people to attend. Talked about the website and how the agenda should be on it a couple of days ahead of time. Talked about the budget and asked what the column of other expenses was.

Comm. Gilheany said other expenses are basically contractual.

Mrs. Dunn wanted to know what the \$25,000 in a contingent fund was for.

Comm. Gilheany said it's for contingent expenses and it's not a whole lot of money. Said she will set up the budget to show the expenses. Said the fire department and police department have their own line items. LOSAP is the retirement for the fire department. More discussion was held on the budget.

Mayor Baker said next was Final Consideration of Ordinance 2014-1

Comm. Seber read FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE 2014-1

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

Roll Call: Mayor Baker - yes
Comm. Seber - yes

Comm. Gilheany said she had a problem with this because there is a 3% increase in it for non-contractual employees.

Comm. Gilheany said they are giving 2% to CSEA for their contract. Said she has a problem giving increases especially 3%. Said her vote is no.

Comm. Higgins - yes
Comm. Hipwell - yes

Comm. Seber read RES. NOS. 1-10-14 ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS
FOR 2014

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 11-14 CHANGING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
FROM 3:00 P.M. ATG THE CENTRAL FIREHOUSE TO 7:00
7:00 P.M. AT THE MECHANICVILLE SENIOR CENTER ON
THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Introduced by Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Gilheany.

Roll Call: Mayor Baker - yes
Comm. Seber - yes
Comm. Gilheany - yes
Comm. Higgins - no
Comm. Hipwell - yes

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 12-14 MECHANICVILLE CITY COUNCIL
APPOINTS CHARLES KERLS CHAIRMAN OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE
IMMEDIATELY

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 13-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

Introduced by Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Mayor Baker. Roll Call:
Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mr. DeMarco said he knows the 2% is for city garage workers but who gets 3%.

Mayor Baker said the city hall workers. Thanked Attorney Serbalik, who resigned at the end of the year, for coming back without hesitation to help them out for about 6 months.

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:29 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.