

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, January 15, 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

Michele Duell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 2, 2014 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said later on they will hear a resolution for Sergeant Rocco who's going to retire from the Police Department. Said he wanted to give them a brief set of knowledge. Said he's been with us for 24 years, he originally came on as part time in 1985, he was here for a little over a year and then went to the Sheriff's Department full time. Said when he retired in 1991 he came back to the Police Department full time. Said he was promoted to Sergeant after Tom Salvadore retired and he has been Sergeant since 1993. Said he believes he's probably one of the longest tenured Sergeants they've had down there. Said he just wanted to thank him for his service and wish him and his family good luck in the future with whatever his endeavors are.

Comm. Seber said every year he gives an Annual Report of what took place in the Account's Office for the previous year 2013. Said he gave a copy to Judy so she didn't have to write it down (see attached).

Comm. Gilheany said the only thing she has to report is that she went through and did a calculation on the salary increases that were voted in under the budget. Said they know she wasn't happy with the 3% increase for non-contractual but the cost of the new CSEA contract for salaries and fringes was \$17,302 and the cost for the non-contractual increases was \$15,042 which totals \$32,344 and the only extra money we had in the budget was \$25,000 so therefore we have to find a way to make up another \$7,300. Said she wants the council to consider, she's not saying tonight but she will work up some numbers, increasing the percentages that the non-contractual employees pay for their health insurance and also the dental and vision since they have to cover this somehow.

Comm. Higgins said for the last three weeks they have been salting with two pickup trucks, they have two dump trucks that are down, they got one of them back up and running today so they were salting, they should be able to get there a little quicker. Said it's been a struggle.

Comm. Hipwell had nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Baker said when it's time for public comment, 5 minutes please and go to the podium to the microphone, identify yourself and where you live.

Dave Hicks, 1st Avenue said he can't see where this 18% of taxes came into effect. Said he had a lot of questions. Asked if he could fire them off and they could answer after.

Mayor Baker said absolutely because they may not be able to answer them all tonight and they will have to get back to him.

Mr. Hicks read his list (see attached). Said he can't understand how decisions were made to purchase these or buy these or have these products and he can't see any benefit to the residents of Mechanicville for any of these things. Said he would also like to know where the ideas came from to buy these. Asked who had these delusions of grandeur. Said we have fiscal issues and we're doing this, it doesn't make sense.

Mayor Baker asked if he could leave a copy with the clerk of the board because he didn't want to miss any of his questions and they will get back to him with some answers.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street, said prior discussions were that Clifton Park/Halfmoon were going to lease Station 2 but if she read this correctly we were going to sell Station 2, said she's a little confused. Asked if John Ahearn was staying where they are.

Mayor Baker said for now but hopefully they will buy the building, it's going to bid.

Mrs. Dunn said she is very troubled about the 3% raise given to people and that they never heard anything about that. Said not that she begrudges the people a raise, it has nothing to do with people involved and she has to wonder if someone didn't say anything about it, would they have never known. Said coming out with an almost 18% tax increase that people are trying to absorb and to tack that on it, how fiscally responsible is that. Said they have 1 PD retirement, 4 to 6 were mentioned, are there any more on the horizon and depending on how many we get, are you going to replace those positions, full time, part time, whatever.

Mayor Baker said probably another 4 that are possibly going to retire, 2 will be replaced with dispatchers and 2 with police officers.

Mrs. Dunn asked if they are cutting back on services.

Mayor Baker said no, there will still be the same amount of people on the road, there won't be a police officer at the station, the dispatcher will be at the desk.

Mrs. Dunn asked who was in charge of getting the reimbursements for the grants. Asked if any bills have been paid on the South Street Hill Project.

Comm. Seber said the Finance Department was and still is responsible for getting reimbursements on the grants. Said early on there were some bills paid on the South Street Hill. Said they are currently holding several bills until the issues are resolved to their satisfaction. More discussion was held on that.

Mrs. Dunn asked if we were borrowing a million dollars.

Comm. Gilheany said unfortunately yes.

Mayor Baker said they are hoping they don't have to borrow a million dollars.

Comm. Gilheany said it's up to a million.

Mayor Baker said the 3% she talked about earlier was in the budget that they prepared before the first of the year and neither Jodi nor he was on the board then and to be truthful he didn't know they were raising it. Said he probably wouldn't have objected, he would have thought they deserved a raise but he doesn't know if he would have agreed with it.

Mrs. Dunn said she understands that the two of them just came on but it just looks bad for everybody. Said her last question is in this lengthy contract #9 will respond to dispatch service to locations with a 1991 dispatch service. Asked if that is 7383 versus 911.

Comm. Seber said in talking with the Clifton Park People, that's an internal way of dispatching. Said as far as the public is concerned if they call either the Police Station or 911, you will get the service.

Mrs. Dunn said she hopes someone has some great plan for getting them out of the mess they're in because it's not looking good from where she stands.

Chief Waldron wanted to congratulate Alex Dunn, he graduated from the Police Academy on January 10th after 6 months of arduous training, said he's ready to hit the road. Said he's the youngest person on the day shift, lucky for him. Said Sergeant Peter Rocco, he also wanted to echo what the Mayor has already said. Said he has worked with Pete all those years he has been there, it's been a pleasure working with him, he is just one nice guy. Said through all his triumphs and tragedies he has always been there. Said he's the type of guy that the only signed contract is a handshake and a handshake means everything and that's how Pete Rocco is. Said he wants to wish him and his family the best upon retirement. Said he also wants to reach out to Officer John Bellard who resigned effective yesterday, he was sworn in at the City of Albany Police Department. Said it seems like when they get a good candidate, somebody really nice, somebody recognizes it and then they get hired somewhere else. Said congratulations to John Bellard and his wife, he wishes him the best in the City of Albany. Said he wanted the council to know that the Dodge Charger has been a nightmare for them. Said they were out and the car just died right on the road way. Said they had it towed and had Haney's take a look at it and they wanted to find out if it was under warranty. Said in

talking with the Dodge Dealership they discovered they had purchased an extended warranty, which he normally doesn't do, but for some reason he did it with this car, they replaced the whole engine without charge. Said the only thing they ended up paying for was the oil change. Said he just wanted everyone to know, they had two snow emergencies in January, kind of very close to one another, they ended up towing 27 cars, 25 cars that were slated to be towed, people actually came out and moved the cars while the tow truck was coming. Said if they know there is going to be snow, the best thing they can do is call the City Garage at 664-7171 to find out if the snow emergency is in effect. Said snow emergencies will be put on the city's website, on the city's new sign on Central and Mabbett Street, they will also try to do reverse 911 calls to everyone in the city so that everyone is aware that the snow emergency is there and they will call all the radio stations and news channels to let everyone know.

Mr. Hicks said didn't we have a PA system installed years ago.

Chief Waldron said yes.

Mr. Hicks asked why can't a snow emergency be broadcasted over that PA.

Chief Waldron said they can do that but a lot of people wouldn't hear it unless you live on Burke Street. Said if people can't reach the city garage they can call the police station, we're always open, give us a call.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 14-14 APPOINTING NICOLO SGUEGLIA
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Comm. Hipwell said he just wanted to clear up one thing, in their budget for this year it says \$8,600, he took two line items out of his budget and jacked it up to \$9,000 so he isn't getting a raise, he's just taking two line items out of his and putting them in here. Said just to let everyone know that today is the 15th of the New Year and Nicky already has 10 calls on animal control, loose dogs, barking dogs, whatever. Said he thinks the guy will work out real well so he will make the motion for him.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 15-14 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CLIFTON
PARK & HALFMOON EMERGENCY CORPS INC. TO
PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES PREVIOUSLY
PROVIDED BY JARS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

Comm. Seber said maybe Larry can help him. Said as he understands it, the paperwork has been completed between John Ahearn and Clifton Park, it still has to be approved by the Department of Health and the Attorney General's Office before it becomes official. Said they didn't want to be in that position when that happened to not have a contract with Clifton Park. Said while the wording may be a little premature, he

thinks that is what is going to happen very shortly. Asked if that was correct.

Mr. Whalen said yes, both parties signed the paperwork and right now it's with the Health Department and Attorney General and they are in the process.

Motion made by Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said the \$170,000 figure is what they are paying currently and it's a guaranteed figure for the next 5 years from the budget.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 16-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO
TO ADVERTISE AND SET A DATE FOR SALE OF FIRE
STATION NUMBER 2 LOCATED AT DEPOT SQUARE

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

Comm. Seber said on February 18th, here, at 2:00 p.m. they will do the sale of the property. Said there is going to be a minimum bid. Said they are currently in the process of getting an appraisal done on the property, they should have it within a week. Said they will come up with a minimum bid that they will require to be part of the sale.

Mrs. Dunn said they way she understands it the only bids on it have to be from an EMS. Asked why they don't just sell it to Halfmoon and Clifton Park, who else would come in and bid on it.

Mayor Baker said others could.

Comm. Seber said it's their obligation to have a public bid but it's within their rights to put these restrictions on it. More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 17-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ISSUE
TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

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

Mayor Baker said they are going to try to change the agenda a little bit and possibly put a second visitor comment towards the rear of it because of questions that come up all the time and people want to talk during it. Said it's basically money to operate the city for the next 3 months, it won't be a million dollars.

Comm. Gilheany said they have almost a million dollars in delinquent taxes right now so that has a big impact on our cash flow.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 18-14 CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTS THE

RETIREMENT NOTICE OF SERGEANT PETER ROCCO

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 19-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Mayor Baker said they will be looking at the agendas and look at changing them a little bit. Said he will try to streamline it like the School Board's agenda, they have a much better flow to their agendas so they are looking to do something like that. Said he would like to give everyone a chance for a second comment.

Comm. Hipwell said there is a scam going around the county especially with seniors. Said he notified the Chief of Police. Said seniors are paying guys to do plowing and they are taking off and not plowing.

Chief Waldron said he actually said something to the Express. Said to tell anyone that comes knocking at your door to go away, you don't want anything, never give out cash. Discussion was held on this.

Mayor Baker said the house on Penrose Avenue that was damaged by fire has been boarded up. Said it's under new ownership and it will be taken care of shortly. Said the Building Inspector stayed on top of that and did a good job.

Emilia Izzo said she wanted to complement the people for having two meetings at night.

Mayor Baker said it's probably convenient for some people but not others but feels night time meetings are the best way to go.

Mrs. Dunn said the agenda should be on the website ahead of time.

Mayor Baker said they have been working on it but today he can tell her there were resolutions that didn't show up until 1:00 so it's hard to put it on there. Said they are looking at it.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.