

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Comm. Hipwell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2010 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester read his correspondence: Letter from Time Warner Cable requesting the city going green with them through email instead of paper. Said he has a Proclamation of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth that he will read later.

Comm. Seber said if people go to our website they can view tax bills and 2010 delinquent tax bills. Said they will add the new tax bills to the website.

Comm. Chauvin said next Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m. at the DPW Building, they will hold a budget workshop.

Comm. Hipwell thanked the Mechanicville Fire Department and Police Department for a job well done in finding a missing two year old boy. Said the Council wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chief Corrigan gave his report for the months of October and November.

Paul Loatman, City Historian, gave a rendition of the life of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth who was born in Malta and raised in the City of Mechanicville and was the first Union Officer to be killed in the four-year long struggle in the Civil War. Col. Ellsworth was a friend of President Abraham Lincoln and he commanded a regiment of New York Fire Zouaves which participated in the invasion of Northern Virginia on May 24, 1861. He talked about the upcoming exhibition of the 150th Commemoration of the Civil War: The Death of Ellsworth which will be held from April 29, 2011 through March 18, 2012. Said on May 15, 2011 they will do a reenactment of the funeral. Said the Mayor has a Proclamation Proclaiming May 24, 2011 as Col. Elmore E. Ellsworth in the City of Mechanicville. Feels we should run the flag high.

Kevin Robert gave a report on the John Ahearn Rescue Squad for November.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:20 p.m. to go into a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2010-7 Amending Section 183 of the Mechanicville City Code Relating to No Parking Zones, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said the notice of the public hearing was published. Said the intent of this hearing is to provide some additional parking at the North End of North Main Street for some of the businesses that have opened up around there recently. Said a month or so ago no one understood or knew that there was a no parking zone in that area and it was discovered that there were no parking signs put up there and this is to try to eliminate that situation and create some additional parking for the businesses down there.

Mayor Sylvester said he would open it up to public comment. Said where this is located if where the old Mintzer Gas Station was and there was no parking from what used to be Adam Street up to the Selkis Block. Said those two things are no longer there. Said they are not going to close that property off. Asked if anyone had anything to say.

Peter Lynch, Attorney for Mike McBride who is the owner of the property at 92 North Main Street. Said this particular provision of the ordinance that prohibits parking technically prohibits parking in front of Mike's entire lot and it was the former gas station site. Said the reason why they are here is to point out to the board that before no parking signs went up what happened was people would park literally 100% across the front of Mike's lot and he couldn't get access to the lot at

all. Said it was already in the ordinance no parking there. Said that provision of the ordinance, no parking in front of his site, which was a former gas station site, is entirely consistent with the fact that across the street a couple of doors up is a Getty Station which has streets for ingress and egress. Said Mike bought the property in 2004 and it has a wide range of potential permitted uses within that zone, including a gas station so he is very interested in making sure that he can preserve the in and out of the premises. Told the Mayor he certainly gratified in his opening statement here that you were going to consider maintaining that in and out, ingress and egress of that property. Comm.. Seber indicated the need for parking for other businesses on the street. Said the no parking zone potentially begins on the south end of the property. They ask that they amend the ordinance by maintaining the no parking zone for the first 50 feet of the site in front of his site. Asked their consideration of that.

Mayor Sylvester said they will make sure he has ingress and egress out of there. Said he was discussing with Comm. Higgins about possibly paving that piece of what used to be Adam Street so that will be another entrance on that side there in case somebody puts something in there later on but of course it will have to go to the Planning Board.

Mr. Lynch said they want to have some flexibility.

Mayor Sylvester said he wants it on the south end and they see no problem with that. He has to have access to the property, they will not deny him that.

Mr. Lynch said if they could consider the 50 foot they would appreciate that.

Mayor Sylvester said that was no problem. Asked if anyone had a problem with that.

Comm. Seber said one problem, he personally prefers they do the ordinance change as written and then make the provisions separately rather than amend it. Said Mike can find out what he needs and we'll do it tomorrow.

Mayor Sylvester said Dave will paint that spot yellow where you want it, put signs up and the police will ticket anyone blocking your access to the property.

Mr. Lynch said the thing is if you pass the ordinance now and lift the no parking ban, he doesn't know what authority they would have to put no parking signs up.

Mayor Sylvester said they normally do that, so many feet back from the corners and for handicapped and nothing prevents them from doing that.

Comm. Seber said they will accomplish the goal. Said they will get Dave down there tomorrow and stake out a place and get it all set for you.

Mayor Sylvester said they try to work with all businesses in town.

Tom ? of Bella Rosa Boutique said parking is crazy and there are a few businesses in there that haven't got much space. He respects that they need access to his property but the fact is that it's not a gas station now. Said 50 feet is too much, believes they can made a driveway out of 25 feet. Said maybe they can give him access from one of the side street so they don't block the front.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment.

Paul Loatman said one thing he forgot was that they did ask the Halfmoon Fire Department to turn out for that celebration and also Stillwater and Schaghticoke.

Mayor Sylvester asked if he knew how many bus loads will attend this re-enactment, will they march.

Mr. Loatman said he didn't. Said the original funeral came from where the Elks is down to Railroad Street, down to

the Dutch cap and over south street up to the old entrance. Thinks they are too old to follow that course today. Said they may congregate in the cemetery. Said the Chamber offered to help in any way they can.

Mayor Sylvester read the Proclamation proclaiming Tuesday, May 24, 2011, as Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth Day in the City of Mechanicville and urges Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, to proclaim that day as Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth Day throughout New York State.

Comm. Seber read Final Consideration of Ordinance 2010-7 Amending Section 183 of the Mechanicville City Code Relating to No Parking Zones. Said it takes 10 days after he publishes it so it will be about the 15th that this ordinance takes place.

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

Comm. Chauvin read RESOLUTION NO. 85-10 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.