

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Mayor Baker opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

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

Sam Carabis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 5, 2014 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said he didn't have much to report today but he will speak for Comm. Higgins who is in the hospital. He had some serious surgery but he is really doing well. Doesn't know when he will be home but it can't be soon enough for him. It appears that he will be out until it stops snowing. Said he wanted to talk a little about snow removal. He has always been a supporter of the DPW but he wants to tell them that they have 5 people out and they have been working without much overtime, they had some for the big storm, they are working hard and doing a good job. Said they ask people to stop blowing snow into the street, stop plowing snow into the street because he is going to instruct the Chief of Police to talk to his people about starting to cite people that are doing that because it's creating a problem in the streets. Said if we have another big storm and he hopes to God we don't, he's going to instruct the DPW crew to push the snow all the way back to the curb. It's going to create a problem for homeowners because it's going to fill your sidewalks, can't help it. We need to widen them out and it's not really good government if we don't do it that way. Next storm we will be pushing curb to curb.

Comm. Seber said they will be making everybody's day this weekend, the tax bills will be mailed out on Friday; again they have until March 15th to pay them without penalty. Said he will announce this later, he will put an ad in the Express, the Account's Office will be open the 8th and the 15th, which are Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. until noon to collect taxes. Said their next council meeting which is the 5th of March we're going to have a public information meeting regarding the two bridge replacement projects they have scheduled for actually the spring of 15. Said these public information meetings need to be done to be compliant with the grants. Said the two bridges are the ones on Francis Street and the one on North Main Street right across from City Hall. Said their engineering group will be here with a presentation and an explanation and will answer any questions anyone might have regarding those projects. Said there is a resolution here tonight but they did have an auction yesterday on Station 2, the minimum bid was \$115,000 and that's what the successful bidder was \$115,000; it was the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Emergency Corp. Said the council will be entertaining the resolution in a little while accepting that bid. Said the plan here is once this is finalized, hopefully

within the next 30 days, and John Ahearn has moved all of their equipment and everything out of their facility, probably in the spring of this year they will be selling that building and hopefully get it back on the tax roll and generate some more revenue for the city. Said that's the plan.

Comm. Gilheany said that she would get them numbers for 2013 and right now they are looking at being in the red about \$550,000 of that she does want to comment that this is a preliminary number, there are some items in here, approximately \$190,000 that she is hoping she can take out of there and put in as capital projects for the docks, she's got to review everything in here for the docks. Said even if that \$190,000 came out and she is sure all of it will not, we are still in the hole \$350,000 and the council needs to make some measures in the current year budget to make up this money. She apologizes for not having anything for them but she was still working on a few of the numbers tonight like the sales tax that she was hoping was going to be more for the current month but it wasn't, she put that in there. Said if they would like, she has the revenues and expenses, she will do up a new spread sheet, if they want to leave her their email address at the end of the night, she will email them the details of the numbers. In the meantime, for the next meeting, she is going to review the \$190,000 that she is hoping she can move to Capital Projects and also give them some detail on some of the numbers that are over budget.

Comm. Hipwell said he wanted to thank the Mechanicville Fire Department with the rest of the City Council for the outstanding job they did shoveling this past Sunday. Asked home owners to help them out , he has been getting calls on homeowners walking around town and bicycles, be extra careful with the warm weather coming, he doesn't want somebody to get knocked in the head or anybody to get hurt. Said they had a dog issue from Saturday to Monday, please have your dog on a leash. The dog almost got hit by a car, no tag on him. His animal control officer was going to bring him up to Ballston Spa on Tuesday; the owner finally came up and said his dog was missing so he took it.

City Attorney Serbalik had nothing to report at this time.

Chief Waldron said he had 2013 Annual Report for the Police Department. First he wanted everyone to know the Police Force is 99 years this year the same as the City Government, next year is 100 Year Anniversary for the City and the Police Force as a whole so he did kind of a picture of then and now of the Police Department to kind of calculate what is what, some significant things is that bridge going into Hemstreet Park, it's a significant area. Said they will go into the accident reports, when the snow levels are high you see a lot more leaving the scene of an accident and this past year 50 people have hit cars and left the scene. Normally it's minor things, mirrors that you see dangling off a car when you go by. Said 268 accidents and thankfully no fatals. Wanted to point out one thing, the intersection of Third and South Street where the new stop sign is has had zero crashes; this is the first time in forever that there has not been a crash at the base of that hill. Said the measures that the City Council, Traffic Safety Committee and people put together, it worked, it is absolutely the smartest thing because the crashes have been reduced.

Dave Hicks asked who decided to put the stop sign there in the first place. Said all they had to do was make Third Street one way north to spring and it would solve the whole problem.

Chief Waldron said it was a nightmare coming out to Third, there was a lot of discussion whether to make from Spring Street to South Street one way to eliminate it and it just wasn't cohesive to do it. They felt that the stop sign would be appropriate, the engineers and DOT also said it would be appropriate. The grade and the type of asphalt that they use will help as far as traction is concerned getting up and down the hill. Said the only discussion that was on the table was whether to make it an all around stop but of course they chose not to, they felt that the buses should have a continued movement going forward especially in tougher weather rather than coming from a complete dead stop and going up the hill. Said he hoped he answered his questions, he may not like it but they did discuss it and what's there is the best thing for the city. Said he compiled all the accident data and he said where is the worse intersection, Central and Park Avenue, Hill Street right by McDonalds and by Micklas Jewelers, those areas, for whatever reasons, a lot of crashes take place there and you are most likely to sustain an injury on South Central and Harris Avenue for whatever reason by Bubbles a lot more accidents have occurred where injuries have resulted so if you get in an accident down there is a good shot you will be injured in that accident. Said on South Central Avenue is where you will most likely get a ticket.

Mayor Baker said you will most likely get a ticket there because people are travelling too quickly, would that be the reason there are more serious accidents there.

Chief Waldron said that could be yes. Said the highest traffic count is on Central Avenue. Said anytime in front of McDonalds you could get up to 16,000 cars in a 24 hour period, it's very busy.

Comm. Seber said where is South Central and Harris.

Chief Waldron said Chauvin Hill is Harris Avenue. Said there was a pretty significant impact crash there this year, a bicyclist was hit there. (See attached report).

Kim Dunn asked about a felony.

Chief Waldron said a felony is pretty serious, felonies are prison, misdemeanors are jail.

Mrs. Dunn asked if domestic violence is a felony.

Chief Waldron said it could be if they use a weapon. Said people are really desperate so they resort to commit some serious offenses. Talked about sex offenders.

Comm. Seber asked if Level 1 sex offenders are restricted where they can live.

Chief Waldron said no they are not; Level 3's are the most restricted. Said he loves history so he wanted to share a little of the past of Mechanicville. Said Mechanicville is a beautiful place, it always attracted many people back when. Said they even had Mayor Thatcher of the City of Albany who was marching on Park Avenue. Said when you look back you say we were very prominent and we were. Said he wanted to remember Tom Higgins who was a dear friend, a hard worker, one of the best Mayors and he thought how fitting it was to do something with him. Said this is one of his photographs, that's his office seat, that's where he sat. Said he shot that photo 30 times, he was a great Mayor and he deserves that.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment, 5 minutes, step up to the podium; identify yourself so our secretary has your name.

Dave Hicks, 1st Avenue, asked if there is a certain cell phone that they need to have to be reimbursed because they are charging \$40.00 a month where a TracFone is \$100.00 a year for your minutes and 10 or \$20.00 to reload it.

Comm. Hipwell said the city bought the animal control one, not this one but the one before; she lost it and was using it for her own personal use. Said after she lost it they didn't go out and buy another one. Said when the guy took over he was using his own phone. Said there was an agreement between him and Mark that they would go out and buy one but they just pay the person \$40.00 a month for city use and not for personal use.

Mr. Hicks said okay but it's a little on the excessive side.

Mayor Baker said they are covering it right now but they are looking to put him on a plan for the whole city.

Kim Dunn said \$40.00 is pretty excessive for a cell phone. Talked about the auction yesterday where a deposit was supposed to be given but wasn't.

Comm. Seber said the City Attorney said they could wait until after their actions.

Mrs. Dunn said she didn't agree with that. Said they won't be able to start any work or anything until that final payment is made, is that correct.

Attorney Serbalik said the offer isn't accepted until the council votes on that tonight. Said as far as the closing goes, it's required to be done by 30 days but it's conceivable it won't occur within 30 days if there is a problem with the title or whatever but it doesn't affect the acceptance of the bid by the city as long as they are prepared to perform according to the contract, it's a done deal. More discussion was held on this.

Mrs. Dunn said it blew her mind that they didn't bring the money with them knowing they would most likely get the building. Asked when were they notified that Clifton Park/Halfmoon wasn't going to be running any EMS calls within the city, they were actually going to be using the facility down on the Waterford Road.

Comm. Seber said recently, he didn't know exactly when. He was the point person on negotiation. Said there is going to be a transitional time, long term they will have a presence here, they are going to own the building, they will be committed to the city. Said he didn't find out until recently where they would be responding from and they still have administrative control over their operation which is understandable. Said she is right, in the transitional period there may be some inconveniences. Said he was told by not only them but other police and John Ahearn that their response time is still 3 to 5 minutes. Just telling her what he was told from the Fire Department and EMS people since they took over. Quite frankly he didn't even know they took over until about two days ago, he was away, he's not making excuses, he's not saying they didn't communicate, he's just saying he didn't know about it. Said he thinks long term this contract is really a good one for everyone, he really does.

Mayor Baker said he also wanted to add in that they could have responded from Clifton Park; they made arrangements to go to the Waterford Road so they would be closer for us. Doesn't think it will be a problem. Said they have been responding very well.

Mrs. Dunn said it was stated in the Gazette that someone is going to get \$78,000 who is going to get that.

Mayor Baker said they don't know the answer to that yet however the Supreme Court Judge will make that decision. Said its money that will go to the squad, meaning John Ahearn, what happens with that after, whether they give it to us or what they do with it, we don't know that yet.

Comm. Seber said they read the same article.

Mayor Baker said until the Supreme Court dissolves them completely it is their money, that's their equipment.

Jim Thompson, 354 South Main Street asked how long John Ahearn has to stay in that building, the parking lot and exits from the building are very difficult at this time. Said they have a lot of older gear in there and equipment that they don't want, how long are they giving them before the building goes on sale.

Mayor Baker said they don't know yet.

Comm. Seber said they will be fair.

Mayor Baker said he talked to Larry yesterday, he wanted to have some area cleaned out so they could get in there, he took care of that for them.

Mr. Thompson talked about the fire department assisting on calls. Asked how soon they can start renovating the building.

Mayor Baker said as soon as the sale is final.

Attorney Serbalik said as far as the city goes in closing the property we will have to do some title documents which will probably take 3 or 4 days. As far as the city is concerned we will be ready to close within that 3 or 4 day period. Said as a buyer they would want to make sure they are getting good title to it, they would most likely have a lawyer order a title search or title insurance policy and that can take from 2 to 3 to 4 days, that's assuming that the title is clear, there's no reason to think that the city doesn't have good title to it. Said he thinks the city bought it from Nick Tancredi back in the 70's.

Mr. Thompson said they are ready to go in there this week and start renovating.

Attorney Serbalik said if Clifton Park/Halfmoon wanted to go in early under early occupancy agreement, if they wanted to take that risk and make sure all the insurances were in place, they could go in tomorrow. Said if for some reason the property didn't close, they would be out the money they would be putting in. Said that could certainly be arranged or an option if they wanted to enter into that agreement.

Mr. Hicks said he heard that there is a roof needed on that fire station and that Mechanicville was going to put it on that before they sell that.

Mayor Baker said that's false. Said they are doing all the repairs.

Comm. Seber said it was discussed in negotiations but it's not going to happen.

Mrs. Dunn asked how many properties are in the tax sale.

Comm. Seber said right now they are at 57 or 58 still. Said there was almost 70 when they started.

Mrs. Dunn asked about Barton & Loguidice doing the survey on the generator at the school.

Mayor Baker said it is happening.

Comm. Gilheany said as far as the grants go, they had talked to Camoin way back when, other than the dock they said we spent the money on the other ones, it was all spent. Said she didn't have any grant papers to even look at right now, I'm not sure who has them.

Mrs. Dunn asked if at the next meeting the council will have some kind of plan how they will make up the \$550,000 in the red.

Mayor Baker said they all have been looking at it but haven't figured it out yet.

Comm. Gilheany said she had a question on the ambulance. They said they were going to be in Mechanicville, there was going to be an ambulance station 24/7. Was there a date.

Mayor Baker said there is an agreement that there will be one here once their building is done.

Comm. Seber said their ambulance doesn't fit in this current location so they can't use it. Said according to them it doesn't comply to their standards.

Comm. Gilheany said she didn't hear a date, she just heard they would be hear 24/7.

Comm. Seber said they will be, hopefully sooner than later, if they can get them in earlier to start work, even if it's a side agreement. Said he was told they are not going to wait until spring, they want to get in there now and start doing stuff on the inside.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 28-14 REIMBURSING THE CITY'S ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER \$40.00 PER MONTH FOR THE USE OF HIS PERSONAL CELL PHONE

Introduced by Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Mayor Baker.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- yes
	Comm. Seber	- yes
	Comm. Gilheany	- abstained
	Comm. Hipwell	- yes

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 29-14 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO CONVEY THE FIRE STATION NO. 2 PROPERTY TO CPHM SUBJECT TO THE "TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE" PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 30-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Comm. Seber said he made a mistake on the minutes; he really wasn't here last time so he is going to abstain from that vote.

No new or old business.

Attorney Serbalik asked for a short executive session on a pending litigation matter.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Mayor Baker, moved that the meeting be closed at 7:40 p.m. to go into executive session. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the executive session be closed at 8:00 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 8:01 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

