

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Mayor Baker opened up the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Baker said before they do the Pledge he wanted to announce a couple of things, number 1 if you have a cell phone please turn it down because the last couple of times they were disturbed by the cell phones ringing. They are only doing one public comment tonight, everybody gets to talk but one time tonight and that's limited to 5 minutes per person.

Roger Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mayor Baker said he didn't really have a lot to report tonight, they've been working on a lot of things. Mark will talk about the fire house on his time.

Comm. Seber said a couple of quick things, they are in the last phase of water meter readings, the bills go out on April 1st and you have until May 31st to pay the bill. So it's a two month billing cycle. We're down to 15 parcels on the foreclosure list; we came down from 68 or something so we seem to be headed in the right direction. Said actually 4 of those are vacant property; we have to decide whether we want to go to sale on those, what we have to do with those. Said some of them are fairly small, we're down to 15 parcels and we're proceeding now and Val knows more about the legal end of this thing. Now we have to get the court date so that we can take possession of these things so we can go to tax sale. Said we are probably talking about a summer tax sale when this thing is all set and done, if there are any left, let's hope there isn't any of the remaining 10 or so left. Said also they closed today on the Station 2 Firehouse with Clifton Park. Said it's taken sometime but they have the checks, they are all accounted for and Clifton Park/Halfmoon now has possession of Station 2 on the West Side. He wanted to welcome them to the city; wanted to thank Eric and Joe, it's been a long process but he thinks they came up with something pretty good for both the city and them and he is looking forward to working with them in the future.

Comm. Gilheany said she really didn't have anything to report tonight, she is still planning on providing, at the next council meeting, the final 2013 year end report.

Comm. Hipwell said he had one thing, he doesn't know if anyone watched the news tonight, there is a scam going around in Saratoga County again especially for the

seniors. Told the seniors in the city to be careful because people are calling and saying they need money to bail their grandchildren out of jail, it's nothing but a scheme so be extra careful. Said if they are not sure, call the Mechanicville Police.

Attorney Serbalik had nothing to report at this time.

Supervisor Richardson said last night the Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted the Economic Plan for Saratoga County; the plan is now in place. Said that will begin as they move through the summer. Said it's a matter of putting together a plan, an executive of people that will run this new program for economic development in Saratoga County.

Comm. Seber asked if that was county wide or focused on the Malta Area.

Supervisor Richardson said it's a county wide plan. What happened was every Supervisor was invited to meet specifically with John Roberts who is the Director of Tip and everybody gave all of the assets for their different communities, what was going on and what was available as well as probably a little over 100 other individuals and companies such as the different Chambers of Commerce as well as the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation, the different farmers who are involved and things of that nature because it's going to take in the economic view of Saratoga County just not Luther Forest Technology Park where Global Foundries is. Said its tourism and farms, we're one of the largest farm areas in New York State so all of that will be taken into consideration.

Comm. Seber asked if there was anything for us, anything we can look forward to you think.

Supervisor Richardson said nothing specific right now but as we move forward they will be looking to help us fill the different vacant lots in Mechanicville and different buildings that we have openings. Said it's all part of bringing not only new companies but reviving older communities like Mechanicville, Waterford and Stillwater, everybody is involved.

Mr. Baker said excellent, he spoke to Mr. Connors about it but he knows he is at the county to so obviously if there is anybody interested in offices or anything like that we have space for them in Mechanicville and we welcome them gladly.

Supervisor Richardson said they tell that story to everybody on a regular basis.

Chief Corrigan said to keep everybody updated they are at 119 calls for the year, 65 of them have been EMS related, 54 have been normal fire calls. Said the fire department has been maintaining their budget, they have been very careful about their expenses. Said he gets the Mayor's approval for basically anything just to make sure they are in agreement that they need it and he doesn't see any reason why they won't be under budget this year. Said he wants to touch base a little about EMS, he knows there have been concerns from citizens on how things are being handled and it's been

beautiful having Clifton Park/Halfmoon step in. Said they had 3 EMS calls within 19 minutes on the 17th, the fire department responded to the first call within 2 minutes and the other calls they had EMTS within minutes. Said it's great that Clifton Park/Halfmoon have 5 ambulances to work with versus them having two, they have been well to work with and very open to help them train to become better providers of medical services and they will continue to respond to calls as needed.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment and asked everyone to go up to the microphone, identify themselves for the record and they have 5 minutes.

Dave Hicks, First Avenue, said he got this email from Jodie, in the red we have \$426,338; he thinks that is absolutely ludicrous. Said he thinks the previous council or whoever was in charge of all that stuff should be held responsible for it. Said there is a lot of stuff on it that he would like to have broken down on what they were actually for, why they went over and who was responsible for that. Asked how he would get that.

Mayor Baker said they don't know the date, the answer to that, he can ask them like he is, he also requested to NYCOM, which is the New York State Conference of Mayors, don't take this but he knows he will because he knows him too well but if we spend all of our time on those details we can't get to the things that we need to get to on a daily basis.

Mr. Hicks said okay but he could probably pick out 25 of them that he thinks were exceedingly heavy that should have been looked at.

Comm. Gilheany said he can send her a list and she will respond in writing to his questions.

Kim Dunn, South Main Street said they talked about having an appraisal done on the former John Ahearn building on Central Avenue, has that been done yet.

Comm. Seber said it's in the process.

Mayor Baker said they are not out of there yet, so no it has not been done. Said it will be soon, they are down to the last 10 things they have to get out.

Mrs. Dunn asked the target date they will have that for sale and will it be the same way that Station 2 was handled at an auction and anyone can bid on it.

Comm. Seber said the appraisal shouldn't take more than a couple of weeks, the one on Station 2 didn't. Said they are looking for a couple of months from now, early spring maybe to have a sale. Said it's not going to have nearly the restrictions that Station 2 had, they are looking for a commercial use for the building, it's on Central Avenue and yes, it will go up for auction and anyone can bid on it.

Mrs. Dunn asked if we were still on schedule for getting an ambulance actually physically located in the city by June.

Mayor Baker said he spoke to them today; their closing was today, they intend to start almost immediately doing the renovations when everything gets final cost with the guy they got for renovations. I would say that there is still, at least in the general area of July to be in there or June.

Eric Hanchett said yes. Said the city has been extremely gracious in allowing them into the building, they have had 4 or 5 different specialty contractors in there as early as last week for a second round. Said they are waiting for their proposal to them, including drawings and what not. Said they are expecting a couple of weeks on that. Said as soon as they moralize that and the snow clears off the roof they will put a new roof on the place. Said obviously he can't control the schedule of the contractor but the sooner they get in there the happier they will be, the happier you will be and the happier the city will be so they are still shooting for the June/July time frame.

Mrs. Dunn said she has asked a few times about the B & L survey study for the generator for the school district, has that been done yet.

Mayor Baker said he hasn't heard another word.

Comm. Seber said he sent them last week a copy of the resolution that we passed so they've got what they need to start, whether they actually started now, he can't tell her but they have all they need from the city to move forward with the study.

Mrs. Dunn asked if the city is going to provide additional funding for that project.

Comm. Seber said it's \$2,000 a piece from Stillwater, Halfmoon and the City, it's a \$6,000 study and as far as the work itself, it's his understanding that the school, in another year or two, are looking to go out for a larger bonding project to do, more work on the school, and at that time that will probably be included in that, that's his understanding, that may change, that's not in stone. Said they are not spending any more money on this. Said it will probably be up to the school district whether or not they go forward with putting something on their school. Said he's upset that the school district didn't kick in \$1,500.00 towards the study. Said he voted yes for it but he wanted the school to kick in \$1,500.00, it didn't happen, but ultimately it will be up to the school district to decide what they have in their project.

Mrs. Dunn said she had sent an email to Jodie which they are all now aware of, she spent about 3 hours going through this, being extremely specific on her questions she wanted answered. Said as a taxpayer she has the right to know the answers. Said Jodie promised to get the answers to her by the next meeting.

Comm. Gilheany said she would.

Mr. Hicks asked if the railroads passing through town pay their taxes and he sees DPW cleaning all the weeds down there, do we bill the railroad for that.

Comm. Seber said he didn't know they cleaned up railroad property. Said the railroad pays very little in the City of Mechanicville in the terms of taxes, they are mostly in Halfmoon. Said he doesn't know if they paid their 2014 taxes, he hasn't seen the list yet but they certainly aren't more than a year back. Said he keeps list of '11 and '12 and they aren't on those lists. Most of their taxes are in Halfmoon. Said there is some property in city, don't get him wrong and as far as he knows they are current on that property, he doesn't know about '14, he hasn't looked at the list yet. Said when he first got here they were way behind but they got them to pay a couple hundred thousand dollars probably in '08 or '09. Said he doesn't know if they are current with '14, he will check it out and at the next meeting he will have it. Said to call him, he didn't care.

Mayor Baker said he heard that if the city did work on there, it wasn't during his time, that they had to add that to the bill. Said the last time they tried, they get chased off by the railroad.

Comm. Seber said we were kicked off of there.

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 36-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Comm. Seber said he had to say something. A \$74,000 payroll is one of the lowest he has seen since he has been here. Said he just wanted to point that out because it was noticeably low, it's usually around \$90,000.

No new or old business.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.