

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, April 16, 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

Nick Izzo led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Seber made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 2, 2014 and the special meeting of April 9, 2014, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said they are working to try to get together a lease for the Little League, they thought they had an agreement but every time it goes back to the lawyer it comes back with something else changed. Said it won't affect their season, it will start the same as normal but they are trying to firm up the lease. Said they had it before with the A and B field but they just started using the C field and the other area in there. Said they are hoping to have it for the next meeting but they can't promise that. Said Dave and he have been brainstorming, they have people putting a lot of junk out at the curbs, they want to work with people picking up, however, it's to help you pick up if you are cleaning out your garage and have a few things to put out. Said they have people ripping down sheds, piling it at the curbs, knocking down fire pits in their backyards and putting it out front. Said that's not what this is for and for that reason they will try to continue doing it as long as they can but they are also looking at maybe changing it a little bit, they are contacting other agencies in the area, Colonie and a few others to see what they do, some of them charge but they don't want to do that, it may be what they will have to do but they definitely need changes.

Comm. Higgins said they are filling the dumpster every week.

Mayor Baker said that's a lot of money. Said he believes if you are a landlord and you are taking rent on your property you should be able to take care of your properties yourself. If you have someone that moves out and wants to put a couch out, something like that, that's one thing but lining a street from one end of the house to the other is ridiculous. Said he and Dave talked about it.

Comm. Higgins said about two years ago somebody lined the street on Park Avenue and he charged them, it was dump truck after dump truck, they paid it.

Mayor Baker said they have the ability to do that too, they are trying to work with the people. Said they are looking to maybe charge, maybe not charging but limiting what's out there, telling people with rental property you have to take care of it. They don't care if they bring it over to the city garage and put it in the dumpsters but having

their tenants put it out there and expecting the city to pick it up all the time is wrong.

Comm. Higgins said they don't want a whole house, it's ridiculous. Said on lawn and leaf pickup he wants them in bags instead of plastic.

Mayor Baker said that will be a requirement, if they put leaves and grass out it has to be in biodegradable bags, not in plastic bags. If it's in plastic bags he will have to tell people to take care of it. Said they are not trying to be awful people but we don't have a lot of money, we don't have a lot of help.

Comm. Seber said they finally got a court date for the tax foreclosure proceeding if they get to a point where there are properties left that have to be auctioned and there will be some. Said it won't be until August 7th to go through the County Court so it won't be until the end of August or the first part of September before they put a sale on any properties that may be still on the list. Said they still have 15 properties which they said at the last meeting. Said there are 4 vacant parcels that they will have to take a real look at and see if they are worth selling. Said there is a property on New York Avenue that has been through this before but unfortunately has to go through the process again. Said there are another 8 or 9 properties that are owed and if they don't pay the taxes they will go to the tax sale. Said he mentioned at the last couple of meetings about the generator study. Said Barton and Loguidice are doing the work, their engineers haven't yet communicated or been on site with the school but there are a list of things that the school will need to provide to them. Said they are getting that information together, they will forward it to the school; they said the study should go really quickly. Said they have a time frame which should be the next month or two so that's where that stands.

Comm. Gilheany asked Mark if he wanted to respond to Kim's questions that she sent him.

Comm. Seber said some he can, he can talk about the Micro Program. Said they have had 2 micro programs in the last year four years or so. Said they are grants for small businesses, 5 employees or less. Said they got about \$400,000 that they distributed over the last 4 years to probably 15 or 20 businesses. Said this is actually a positive number, as part of the grant they get administrative costs back and Camoin Associates are administering the grant for us and their fees are paid through the grant. Said this is a reimbursable grant to the business owners so they need to go out and spend the money first, show us proof that they spent the money and then they will get reimbursed for the money they spent. Said part of the money that would come to us on a periodic basis is money for administration. Said he thinks it revenue, it's not expense so he thinks that's why it's in parentheses it means it's actually revenue, not expense. Said he thinks they budgeted \$30,000 for revitalization and basically that is money we pay Barton & Loguidice. Said there was a Revitalization Committee here in the city, they disbanded a couple of years ago or so, to come up with ideas for revitalization with priorities, things along those lines and Barton & Loguidice were part of that. Believes Camoin did some other administrative work so he believes the \$30,000 was the cost of that program. Said Barton & Loguidice does a lot of work for them. Said they are getting better at itemizing bills, sending them for specific things, sometimes they still get

crossed over so some of the stuff doesn't get coded correctly for obvious reasons. Believes they had \$450,000 grant about 5 years ago to do testing or remediation of hot spots that are contaminated at the Industrial Park. HRP, Engineering which is an Environmental Engineering group out of Malta did all the work for us. Said he doesn't know how this wound up in 2013 because they were done probably two years ago. Said in terms of this \$9,103 he really doesn't know but that is what that code is for, they had a contract with our environmental engineer.

Comm. Higgins said they found an old oil tank behind the fire house and DPW Garage which may be the cost of taking that out.

Comm. Seber said as for planning he can't tell them. As far as the Federal Program Administration, especially with the Home Grant, they are administering that in house. Gave them an overview of the Home Grant. Said Dave, John Holland and Gina Kenyon are doing the administrative work internally, they are doing site visits to determine what can be done and the rules are very strict. Said everything will be paid through the grant. Said if they have other questions they can give him a call. Said he believes the EOC Category in the budget is where all the grant work is put in. Talked about money they budgeted in 2013 for grants. Said the Micro Program is done, the only thing they are waiting on is the final audit by the state. Said they went through this a couple of years ago and did real well so he is anticipating it will be the same.

Comm. Gilheany said she wanted to discuss the resolution that was coming up on the Deputy Commissioner of Accounts receiving additional compensation. Said it was put in as a resolution because she refused to sign off on the payroll that included additional pay for the Deputy Commissioner. Said if they go to the employee handbook the Deputies are Management Employees and in the handbook it says that Management Employees are exempt from earning and receiving overtime and compensatory time. She has nothing against Emilia, she is sure she is a hard worker but you are playing favorites here. She asks her Deputy Commissioner to come in the evenings to work with her, she does not get overtime. You have Judy who is not even management who puts extra time in to come and take the minutes of the meetings and she doesn't get additional compensation. Said she is management, she is surprised that Mark doesn't want extra pay for that day. Said it states right in the handbook that a salaried employee doesn't get paid for any additional time worked. Said they have an obligation to the community to follow the rules here, they can't keep continuing to try to be nice, they have to have a conscience here, and they have to do what is right. Said she emailed the Mayor and Comm. Seber asking them what that phrase meant to them. Said Dennis gave her his personal opinion but didn't tell her what it meant and Mark didn't respond because they know what it means, it means you are a salaried employee; you don't get paid for extra hours.

Mayor Baker said for years the hours of the day work were part of her job. When Comm. Guilianelle was here he decided he was going to open up on Saturdays for a couple of hours to help the people that worked out of town to come in and pay their taxes. That was never part of the job, that was an additional piece they added to the job. He believes she is entitled to get money for that as he told her.

Comm. Gilheany said according to the resolution it is required so I would say that makes it part of her job.

Mayor Baker said according to the resolution you are supposed to be around 7 hours a day during the week day but you're not. What's the problem with that?

Comm. Gilheany said excuse me, I am part time Dennis. Said she gets paid \$8,000, there's nothing that says she is supposed to, check her time, she's in there 7 hours every week.

Mayor Baker said it says 7 hours a day.

Comm. Seber said it says 7 hours a day in the Charter and the Code as it relates to the Retirement System. Said he wanted to get back to the resolution. Said first of all his Deputy does work, probably more overtime than anybody in city hall. Said she has been here on weekends doing payroll, she goes on vacation and comes back on a Friday to do payroll and she never asks for money. One day last week she was there 6:30 in the morning and stayed to 4:30, she didn't ask for any money, she understands it. Said this goes back 15 years, he talked to Comm. Guilianelle who instituted this back in '99 or 2000; he said he thought it was done by resolution. Said he looked for a resolution but couldn't find one so to resolve the issue they will do a resolution tonight so that's what they will do, the council will vote on it.

Comm. Gilheany said she is very well compensated, she just got a 3% increase, she gets longevity pay, she gets 100% of her health insurance paid and she is also reimbursed for her co-payments. Like she said, she feels that they are playing favorites here, you do for one, and you do for all. A management employee is salaried, you either are or you aren't.

Comm. Higgins said he doesn't know if they noticed but over near Price Chopper all the lights were out so he called the power company to fix the 6 lights that were out and found out that the wires were ours. Said they had a broken wire somewhere, probably from the frost. Said the Park Avenue lights are out, probably the same thing, but those are a little trickier. They think they found where the short is so they will take that light out. Said a lot of their storm drains are collapsing from the salt and bad weather. Said a good thing is out of that \$40,000,000 Gov. Cuomo put in for roads and stuff we will get \$10,300 to help with the storm drains. Said a couple of his trucks are in very bad shape. Said he and Dennis are looking at getting rid of the road grader.

Mayor Baker said they have another municipality that is interested in purchasing the tract less which works well for them.

Comm. Hipwell said there will be new officers coming in at the Senior Center so they have to do an audit on the books. A guy came in today and said the books look pretty good; they will definitely have an answer for next month's meeting. If everything goes good, what he told him today is that the books look in excellent shape so right now

everything looks good.

Comm. Gilheany said Comm. Hipwell is putting together a committee to review the Employee Handbook and she thought if anybody here is interested in being on the committee and feels they have something to contribute give Comm. Hipwell's office a call.

Comm. Hipwell said right now he is going to do, he doesn't want anybody to get mad at him, but right now he's not taking anyone from outside, it's going to be employees only in city hall. Said he has 5 people right now in city hall and is not taking any outside people at all. Said he talked to all the Commissioners on this.

Mayor Baker said he's in charge of that committee so it's as he wishes.

City Attorney Serbalik had nothing to report at this time.

Fire Chief Corrigan said he wasn't going to talk much about the fire house; they have been busy with the EMS and everything else. Said he was asked by the Mayor to review their 2013 expenditures and he did do that. Said there were really 4 accounts that were a large part of their overage and one was a wash but as Jodie explained to him the accounting principles that when they have an insurance reimbursement it really should increase their budget by resolution and they did so it looks like their budget for equipment is over by \$7,000 but it's actually under by almost \$2,000 if you take into account the insurance reimbursement so that's positive. Talked more about all their expenses and what put them over budget. Said in 2012 they gave \$17,000 of their operating budget back to the city to fix the roof on their building, to buy materials, that was money they could have used to replace equipment which they did because they knew how desperate they needed this roof replaced. Said in 2013 they got rid of Station 2 which streamlined their operations and made them better responders and there was a savings there. Said in 2014 they gave \$10,000 more back in their budget, they were actually under budget and if you look at his operating budget it's less than streamlining the city, you pay less than streamlining for fire protection for the city. Said they are doing their best with what they have. Said he presented to the Mayor some things to save money. Said truck 411 is their oldest truck and to get rid of it they would probably get more money selling it for scrap metal than auctioning it off. Said their boat is currently out of service and he doesn't want to invest money into that boat, they need something better so he is trying to work with vendors who will take a trade on this boat and get them something that is more effective and he's trying to get that done without incurring any budget cost to them. Said there are some energy efficiencies that should be taking place at their building. Said they can't secure their back doors which is part of the reason they need a security system it wasn't just for the fire fighters, it's a public building, city council meetings have been held there, public groups use the building, they worry about everything that goes on in that building.

Comm. Seber said regarding the security system, he was on the council back then, these are the cameras we're talking about, for whatever reason we need the cameras. Said he as a councilman didn't know they were in until well after they were in so he

doesn't know who made the deal.

Chief Corrigan said the Mayor is their boss.

Comm. Seber said he understands that, they went to the Mayor. Said he doesn't think the council was included in that conversation. Said he has no idea to this day why we need cameras over there but they are in.

Mayor Baker said he just wanted to add that the 411 is essentially out of service.

Chief Corrigan said he wouldn't put 2 cents into that vehicle. Said they should have a reserve apparatus when they have their ISO reading, the city does get points for having a reserve apparatus.

Mayor Baker opened up the floor to public comment giving them five minutes. Asked everyone to turn off their cell phones.

Dave Hicks, First Avenue, said some stuff that came across hasn't been resolved yet because of questions. Said the sewer bill he pays the city a couple hundred dollars and he also pays the county over \$300.00, he talked to Jodie and she hasn't found out anything yet because she has not had a chance. Asked if anyone knows why we get double billed on sewer.

Comm. Seber said the county bills them because they own the lines and we bill you because we maintain the lines, our lines. Also part of that county charge is the cost of the sewer plant at the end of the city here. Since he's been here the county rate went from \$110.00 per unit to \$167.00 per unit so they have gone up 42% because they expanded the facility down here. Said the City of Mechanicville pays the least in the county in terms of sewer unit. Said we maintain our lines so that's the cost of that.

Mr. Hicks said he understands that we are metered for the water for whatever sewer plant it goes into.

Comm. Seber said no, it used to be that way it's not that way anymore. It's a flat unit charge.

More discussion was held on sewer charges.

Mr. Hicks asked about tax revenue from the businesses of Mechanicville what percentage do they receive from all of the businesses together.

Comm. Seber said he didn't know from the top of his head.

Mr. Hicks talked about the handbook and the reason for it is to eliminate arguments. Said if you go outside the book then you are doing all sorts of different things so the book is null and void so there is no sense having it. Like Jodie said whatever is going on if it's stated they are not to get overtime it's in the book, it's the

deal. Asked about the boat for the firemen and how the Chief said something about security for the door.

Chief Corrigan said the rear door of their building is rotted out and needs to be replaced; right now it's not secure.

Comm. Higgins asked if it was necessary to have a boat.

Chief Corrigan said it's not necessary; most of those boats would not be effective. Arvin Hart's boat is meant for rescue and for the river.

Comm. Seber said that Pan Am has paid their taxes in the city. Said he asked that a couple of weeks ago.

Kim Dunn asked if we had an assessment for the John Ahearn building yet.

Mayor Baker said he talked to him tonight and he should have it in writing by next week.

Mrs. Dunn said she knows we had another police officer retire recently.

Mayor Baker said he hasn't gone yet officially so after the next meeting he may have an announcement to make. Said their plan is to add dispatcher's to every shift.

Mrs. Dunn asked about the bridge plan and the presentation they held at the last meeting.

Comm. Seber said it will be sometime in the fall. Said they are working on the issues they talked about at the presentation. Believes the final plans went into the State last week. DOT is overwhelmed.

Mrs. Dunn asked if they are replacing a part time bus driver because someone resigned or retired.

Comm. Hipwell said no, Eunice Haney is going in for her surgery for cataracts and then she is going to have knee operations. Said Terry Higgins can't do overtime so he needs a driver.

Mrs. Dunn said she kind of enjoys the new council, it's been a little more professional but what she saw tonight bothered her greatly, obviously they are not all on the same page at the same time, she doesn't care if they hate one another but that should never be obvious to anyone out here so she thinks they should rethink their actions out here and stop being petty. Said as far as the additional payment just because you did it for the past 15 years they all know people voted for a change, they want to see something different, you are going down the wrong path so you need to give it to them, right, wrong or different it doesn't make any sense so if you want people to have confidence in you step up and do the right thing all get together and try to redirect the city because you

can't keep doing the same thing and expect not to have the same situation at the end of next year.

Emilia Izzo, Mulberry Street asked how he knows when people have stuff out, do they call him.

Comm. Higgins said he drives around.

More discussion was held on this.

Mrs. Izzo asked when it became a law that we were open on Saturdays for taxes.

Mayor Baker said under Paul Guilianelle.

Comm. Seber said for the convenience of the people.

Mrs. Izzo said they can't put a check in the mail and mail it; they can't go to the Post Office and get a money order. She thinks two wrongs don't make a right. Said she loves his deputy but thinks we have to pull the reigns someplace.

Mr. Hicks talked about the city changing computer systems. Asked what the reason was.

Comm. Higgins said it might never happen but micro soft has security breaks.

Discussion was held on security systems.

Comm. Seber said they are talking about a network, not individual computers. It's complicated.

Mrs. Dunn talked about people putting stuff out on the curb and the liability issues.

Bea Timpanaro, South Main Street, said she thinks people would be happy to pay for the service; they just have to come up with a regulation that is reasonable. Said if it's over an amount she wouldn't mind paying.

More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 40-14 CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS TO RECEIVE
COMPENSATION FOR THE TWO SATURDAYS THAT THE
ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE OPEN

DURING TAX COLLECTION

Moved by Comm. Seber, seconded by Mayor Baker.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 43-14 APPOINTING CHARLOTTE F. ROSE TO THE POSITION OF PART TIME BUS DRIVER AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$14.82

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 43-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.