

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, July 2, 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

Roger Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Baker congratulated Roger and thanked him for his service.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2014 and the special meeting of June 25, 2014 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative - none.

Mayor Baker said he and Dave met with NYSEG. Dave made a deal with NYSEG that we are going to do the blacktopping for the holes that they have dug for gas replacement and they are paying us for doing it instead of paying an outside contractor to do it. It will help us; we will put it towards the CHIPS funds so they will be able to do a little more blacktopping. Thanked Dave for setting it up and thanked NYSEG for thinking of us.

Comm. Seber said they sold the John Ahearn Rescue Squad Building the other day for \$95,000 at auction. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight for the council to accept it. The closing is supposed to be in approximately 30 days, probably by the middle of August there will be a new owner of that building. Also, Chief Waldron would like to amend the city code on fines as it relates to truck traffic. Said Joe can expand on it.

Chief Waldron said they are getting a lot of truck traffic that are not following the signs that they put up there. What happens is a lot of truck companies, as a matter of doing business, accepts the ticket and pays it. In our specific case the tickets are so cheap, \$50.00, it's not even worth the cost of pulling the truck over, tying up traffic, there's just nothing there. You have to put teeth in the law. They are destroying the streets, probably causing all these water main breaks that are occurring because of the heavy loads. Said there are plenty of signs. He pulled out of the station today and two dump trucks were going right by City Hall. So they are asking for an amendment to the existing code that we have to increase the penalties and fines from \$50.00 to first offense being \$150.00 to \$250.00 and the second offense from \$250.00 to \$350.00 and then \$350.00 and above. What happens with a lot of truckers they get the \$50.00 ticket and they send the money in the mail which they rather do than go around. That is why he asked for this and the city council has graciously accepted this and is going to try to set up a public hearing.

Comm. Seber said to do this they need to have a public hearing to change an ordinance or a code. We have one meeting scheduled so they will have to have a special meeting probably two weeks from tonight but we don't know exactly when it will be with the holiday and stuff. We didn't want to wait until August so they will set a date. Said he will post the public hearing notices in the paper.

Mayor Baker said they need to do this to protect our roads.

Comm. Gilheany said she provided a treasurer's report tonight, basically their cash position. She will be providing this every month in addition to the detail of our revenue and expenditures. We look pretty good right now. We did borrow a million that they just had to pay on June 30th but they are still looking decent.

Comm. Higgins thanked the firemen, police department, Town of Stillwater - Mark Minik for giving them a hand during the storm with water main breaks and the traffic situation.

Mayor Baker said Halfmoon called to offer assistance but they had a lot going on so he told them they had enough to do but he appreciated their offer. The biggest problem they had was the traffic situation. Central Avenue was closed and now we had the other main road to the city closed because of the water main break so that was the reason for the emergency, we could have handled it otherwise.

Comm. Higgins said they will have to close down that road again to repair it.

Mayor Baker said they will try to do it during non-busy hours.

Comm. Seber said the railroad didn't do them any favors either, they had trains going through. Unfortunately the railroads are kind of their own government, they just tell us to go away.

Mayor Baker said they did stop when they got a little firmer with them.

Comm. Higgins said they have been talking to engineers at the State about Central Avenue. They are trying to talk to them about doing something about the drainage situation.

Mayor Baker said they will have to do something before they pave it.

Comm. Hipwell congratulated the ladies softball team, they made the final four. Starting Monday next week the Park Avenue Playground will give a free lunch on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to any child that is up there.

Attorney Serbalik requested an executive session to bring them up to date on litigation.

Chief Waldron said he would also like to go into executive session to go over an issue that will be coming up. Announced the retirement of Sgt. John LeClaire who retired from the Police Department effective last Friday. Wished him and his family well. He gave 22 years of service to the city and anybody that knows him knows he went out of his way to help people and they will miss him. Dave DeCelle who is the investigator was promoted to Sergeant this past Monday and he will be working the midnight shift. He wants to thank Dave and he has no concerns with Dave, he is well qualified for the position. The Police Department has been changing immensely in the past 4 months, several retirements. The Mayor has asked him to explore ways to creating long and permanent reductions without compromising safety of the officers on the street. Said they came up with a plan to replace two full time police officers with two full time dispatchers that will be on the midnight shift and the 4 to 12 shift. The city will save \$1,000,000 for the next 20 years by making this change and they will still have two officers on the street. The city will be hiring 3 full-time police officers, one officer Paul Pecor has been sworn in already and the other two, Ian Foard and Zachary Pastore will be sworn in tomorrow and they will be going to the Police Academy next Wednesday. Said it's very difficult to plan for such events with all the retirements that are taking place and they have more retirements that are coming. The changeover will be totally different and cost a lot less beginning next year.

Wanted to let everyone know how they are moving forward, they have an awesome police force. On October 15th they will put on a dispatcher's exam and the people they hire have to be in the top 3. Thanked DPW and the Mechanicville Fire Department for their hard work during the state of emergency last week, torrential downpours, water main break and the train stopped at the railroad track, they spent 3 hours trying to get traffic through once the train passed. That caused the significant traffic jam. He spoke with the railroad again and they assured him that in the future he has to make one call and they will stop the train, take it apart and separate it if they have to free up the intersections or they can stop it before it gets there. They apologized immensely for that. Wanted to thank the community, he knows it's difficult and very stressful that traffic is backed up. Said the council has a resolution tonight regarding tag days, it's appropriate and needs to be done, they are afraid somebody will get hurt. Asked people to be patient during this construction time, they will try to do their best. There are RVs and boats parked on the street and the Mayor has given him a directive that anyone parked more than 24 hours to get them to move them.

Mayor Baker said Joe has expressed interest in retiring in a year from now and he is trying to get him to change his mind, he is doing a great job.

Mayor Baker made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:13 to go into a Public Hearing To Discuss And Potentially Act ON Amendments To Section 183-4 Of The City Code For Installation Of Stop Signs On Park Avenue On The East And West Sides Of 5th Avenue And Installation Of Stop Signs On 4th Street On The East And West Sides of Street, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative - none.

Mayor Baker opened up the hearing to public comments knowing several people have an interest in it.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street, even though she doesn't live there she thinks it's a fantastic idea, she is all for it for people's safety.

Jesse Radowski, 4th and 5th Streets, they see a lot of people flying down the road. He's a school teacher and he sees a lot of kids coming down the hill and walking in the middle of the street, they shouldn't be doing that, it's very dangerous.

Jay Haney, 4th and Grand Street, same thing, kids are coming down from the playground and they don't stop until they get to 3rd Street. You have people driving at 30, 40 miles an hour trying to fall into that small area and there are a lot of kids on that street.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Higgins, made a motion to close the public hearing and re-open the regular meeting at 7:20. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative - none.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment.

Dave Hicks, 1st Avenue, was curious about the water main break, heard they fixed it but it broke again. Asked what the scoop was on that.

Comm. Higgins said they had to shut the whole city down from about 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 in the morning when the water finally stopped.

Mayor Baker said that wasn't correct, it didn't break again; they just couldn't get the water down.

Comm. Higgins said the article in the Times Union was wrong.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks asked about public safety, if they had done anything as far as senior citizens were concerned. Asked if they got his email.

Comm. Hipwell said he did. If anything happens in this city to any seniors or anybody else they have three locations, one is here, the fire house and the Legion. The senior mid-rise has 105 people, not all seniors. The projects he called they only have 25 over 65 and 21 in Davenport. If anything happens we're covered. If anything gets real bad they can use the High School on top of the hill.

Mr. Hicks asked about people that didn't live in the projects, has anyone been in contact with them in this kind of weather.

Comm. Hipwell said he doesn't know who's here.

Mr. Hicks said that's something that should be in there because a lot of family members are either out of state or not here. Some of the older people are stubborn and think they can take care of themselves. Donovan Tree Service does grave digging and every time the weather gets heavy and there is a radical change in the weather their burials go up.

Comm. Hipwell said people do check on elderly.

Mrs. Dunn said she had several questions on the police department. At the last meeting they replaced the Rocco brothers and Juan Marrero so with John LeClaire retiring how and when will he be replaced and since Dave DeCelle has been moved up to Sergeant she can only assume that he will be the next one to retire because that's the way it's been going. We have no juvenile officer and no investigator so who will fill those positions.

Mayor Baker said all the jobs will be filled, two will be dispatchers, there will be full-time police officers on the street.

Mrs. Dunn said according to the Express, it stated that 3 officers were hired, 2 part time.

Mayor Baker said they are all full time.

Mrs. Dunn said only two are going to the Academy. It also said dispatchers are on all shifts and that is obviously wrong.

Mayor Baker said that is wrong they were on two shifts.

Mrs. Dunn said the agendas were not on the website and where the special meeting notice was no one would ever see it unless you knew it was coming up. You need two council meetings a month for everything that is going on.

Anthony Accetta, 52 South Main Street, thanked Comm. Gilheany for the sheet saying it's awesome. He was looking at the general checking account and the Capital Fund Account and it doesn't look like they are interest bearing accounts, is that correct?

Comm. Gilheany said that is correct.

Mr. Accetta asked if we were allowed to keep money in interest bearing accounts.

Comm. Gilheany said yes they are and they are looking to change it. We haven't had money in a while.

Mr. Accetta said if they put the general checking account in a money market account they would generate close to \$10,430.64 a year in pure interest. The Capital Fund would generate approximately 6,900 in interest, a quick way to make \$17,000. Just a little suggestion.

Comm. Gilheany said unfortunately we don't normally have that kind of money in the checking, a million of that they had borrowed. Thanked him.

Comm. Seber said there are certain grant programs that you can't put them in interest bearing accounts and he thinks the Commissioner is struggling with where we can put them because we need access to a bank on a daily basis so it's like you are limited to what you can get to.

Mr. Accetta said he not only checked out Sefcu but also TD Bank and Trustco, local banks, obviously you need access to money, all of those banks provide that even at 1.5% which is terrible but would still generate over \$10,000.

Mr. Hicks said the turnout was minimal for the auction. Asked why a sign wasn't put on the building so traffic going by could see it which would have probably generated more people. Now the paving to repair for your water line you won't do that until the bridge is done, right, because it will make a mess of everything.

Mayor Baker said they are not going to do a big job but they will fix it.

Comm. Higgins said they will cut it back.

More discussion was held on that.

Comm. Seber read FINAL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-2 AMENDING SECTION 183-4 OF THE CITY CODE, PROVIDING FOR TRAFFIC CONTROLS, BEING THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF A. PARK AVE. ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDES OF 5TH AVENUE AND A. 4TH ST. ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF GRANT STREET

Moved by Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative - none.

Comm. Seber said they are probably talking two weeks out before this is done. They have to publish it for 10 days.

Comm. Seber said he is not going to read all of the next 4 resolutions because they are quite lengthy, he will give a general idea of what they are about. They all have to do with North Main Street and the bridge projects. They are dealing with federal money, 80% of the project is federal money and 15% of the project is being funded by state money. When you deal with DOTs over the federal and state level there are very specific ways they need things done. These resolutions basically are only shifting money within the project to cover expenses for design, engineering, for right of way acquisition, acquisition, easements, things along those lines; it's not anything to do with construction. So these 4 resolutions just re-allocate money within the same project and they were sent to him by the Department of Transportation so it's

exactly what they want.

Comm. Seber read TABLED RES. NO. 56-14 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE IS
HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY
AGREEMENTS
WITH THE NYSDOT FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FRANCES
STREET
OVER ANTHONY KILL

Moved by Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative - all.
Negative - none.

Comm. Seber read TABLED RES. NO. 57-14 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE
IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY
AGREEMENTS
WITH THE NYSDOT FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT NORTH MAIN
STREET
OVER ANTHONY KILL

Moved by Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative - all.
Negative - none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 61-14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SUPPLEMENTAL
AGREEMENT #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,923.00 WITH BARTON
AND
LOGUIDICE, DPC OF ALBANY, NY FOR PERFORMANCE OF
RIGHT-OF-WAY
ACQUISITION PHASE SERVICES REGARDING THE PROPOSED
PUBLIC PROJECT
(PIN 1758.97) NORTH MAIN STREET OVER THE ANTHONY KILL
BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT, CITY OF MECHANICVILLE, SARATOGA COUNTY,
NY

Comm. Seber said again same money, same project, they are just re-allocating some money.

Moved by Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative - all.
Negative - none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 62-14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SUPPLEMENT
AGREEMENT #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,318.00 WITH BARTON &
LOGUIDICE, DPC OF ALBANY, NY FOR PERFORMANCE OF FINAL
DESIGN
AND RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION PHASE SERVICES REGARDING
THE
PROPOSED PUBLIC PROJECT (PIN 1758-94) FRANCES STREET
OVER THE

ANTHONY KILL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, CITY OF
MECHANICVILLE, SARATOGA
COUNTY, NEW YORK

Moved by Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative - all.
Negative - none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 63-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO
EXECUTE A

2009 STIPULATION OF DISCONTINUANCE FOR FORECLOSURE OF
AND 2010 TAX LIENS INVOLVING CERTAIN PROPERTIES

Moved by Comm. Seber, seconded by Mayor Baker. Roll Call: Affirmative - all.
Negative - none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 64-14 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MECHANICVILLE IS

FOR THE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON TAG DAYS ON CITY STREETS
REMAINDER OF 2014 AS WELL AS 2015 AND 2016 OR UNTIL THE
BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS ARE COMPLETE

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

Comm. Seber said it's just strictly for safety purposes.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 65-14 MAYOR SHALL BY QUIT CLAIM DEED
TRANSFER THE

CONNORS OR JOHN H. AHERN RESCUE SQUAD PROPERTY TO WILLIAM
PRINCIPAL HIS DESIGNATED LLC OR CORPORATION IN WHICH HE IS A

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 66-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

Moved by Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative - all.
Negative - none.

Mayor Baker asked if anyone had any new or old business.

Comm. Hipwell said he had some good news Clifton Park/Halfmoon Ambulance, in the
next 2 to 3 weeks they should be working on Station 2.

Comm. Seber said they did get some petitions relating to the two signs. He put them as
part of the record.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, made a motion to close the regular meeting to go into an executive session to discuss possible litigation at 7:40 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative - none.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Higgins, 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 8:02 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative - all. Negative - none.