

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 179 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. Mayor Baker opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Supervisor Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 6, 2014 and the special meeting of August 20, 2014 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said the bridge project is coming along at its scheduled pace. They are hoping to be done about the 3rd week of November. As long as they are done on time that is the main thing.

Comm. Seber said at the request of Comm. Hipwell, at the next meeting on the 17th, they will have a public hearing to amend the City Code to extend the hours in the city playgrounds for July and August from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Normal hours are 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There are 5 prime properties left on the foreclosure list, they started out with 60 so it's not too bad. Water meter readings started yesterday.

Comm. Gilheany said she left a Treasurer's Report for everybody on the table for them to pick up. Our cash position is still looking pretty good. If they have questions on the revenue or expenditures they can email her. Wanted everyone to know that we are up to date on our reporting requirements with the state, 2013 was approved a couple of weeks ago so at least we are on time now with everything.

Mayor Baker said Comm. Higgins is off until Monday as he had is appendix out. He's covering City Garage. As Mark said they are doing water meter readings and they are also doing blacktop patching. His guys are busy; they are doing what they can do with 2 men short. Knows there are a lot of people that want a lot of things done but they are doing the best they can right now.

Comm. Hipwell said he's been up to the high school steps and the girl scouts last week started painting poles up there that the lights are on. The stairs are starting to look sharp up there. As he said at the last meeting they put all flowers up there and they did an outstanding job. He thanked the girl scouts for the work they did, they did a lot. Said school started, they must be safe on the roads, buses and kids are out there. They had a little problem at the Park Avenue Playground; Tom will follow up on that.

Attorney Serbalik asked for an executive session on a personnel problem.

Chief Waldron said the pesky Dodge Charger is back in the news again with the transmission. He brought it to Zappone's and they are going to try to cover expenses again under warranty. The car has been nothing but a problem to them. The Mayor and he discussed it because they don't want to keep throw money into it. More discussion was held on it. The summer has been very busy for them; they had over 110 arrests and 350 tickets issued. One of their biggest areas is the truck traffic tickets that they issued. The trucks are destroying the city streets at a very fast pace. The manholes are collapsing because of the weight. On August 22nd Comm. Higgins had issued a second order which now bans dump trucks from going over Viall Avenue, they were already banned from Main Street. They reached out to all the companies that do business in and around Mechanicville and they are aware that they are writing tickets.

Mayor Baker said it's not all dump trucks, its tandem, tri-axel and regular dump trucks.

Chief Waldron said more important there are local deliveries that are allowed to. Fascia Floors is right there, they have an 18 wheel truck come in to deliver their stuff.

Supervisor Richardson said there is a resolution tonight in regards to the Industrial Park and he just wanted to congratulate Dave Higgins for an outstanding job of putting this together. This gentleman is going to purchase the Industrial Park which they have been trying to sell for the last 8 1/2, 9 years that he has been around. He hopes this resolution will pass tonight so that this property can be purchased, thank goodness it's off the city's hands, some buildings will go up and some taxes will be collected and some people might get some jobs. David isn't here tonight but he should be congratulated by all for doing an outstanding job. Tim mentioned the playground on Park Avenue. We are fortunate enough that earlier this summer he made some contacts with a couple of people who work the playgrounds and things of this nature for children and more for senior citizens. They put him in contact with a gentleman by the name of Randy Moy. He came in earlier this summer and tore up all the blacktop and hauled it away for them free. He lives on Willard Mountain so that was very kind of him, They have a couple of companies they are working with that will bring in blacktop and they will lay it down for them; it's a costly thing, it's about \$50,000 and they are going to get about \$20,000. They originally thought they had a corporate sponsor down in Albany that would take care of the \$20,000 for them but that did not work. Recently he went around the city and talked to all the merchants, what a great place to live, he will have the \$20,000 by early next week. As of right now he has \$18,000 committed and in the next few days he should have the \$20,000 thanks to all the local merchants. His contacts in Albany will be dealing with the companies that will be helping us out with the blacktop and everything. He will be coordinating that with Comm. Hipwell and Comm. Higgins and hopefully those companies will be able to do it by the end of the month. There is no guarantee on that; we are getting a lot of stuff here for nothing and a lot at a very good discount rate so we have to wait our turn but he is hoping by the end of September. Said Anthony got in touch with him today and they are also talking about putting a fence around the playground area where the basketball courts are. The rest of the fencing around the playground seems to be in pretty good shape. A good friend of Anthony's said that the company he works for sometimes give grants and they may be able to help us put a new fence up so we'll see how that works out, he doesn't know if he wants that in the paper or not. Asked Anthony if he wanted to say something or not.

Anthony Accetta said he is a processor for a grant, he said they are at \$18,000.00 right now so he will donate the last \$2,000 from his own personal account so we will be at \$20,000.00.

Supervisor Richardson said some merchants have asked not to mention their names. Said what they will do up there is put two real basketball courts on this blacktop. More discussion was held on what will be done at the playground. Thanked Tim for his patience and all the merchants and everybody that participated and thanked Anthony.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment limiting speakers to 5 minutes.

Dave Hicks, Mechanicville, said the property they are going to sell up there sounds good but will they be totally excluded from any responsibility for this. Said they won't be able to tax it because it will be depressed property.

Comm. Seber said it will be assessed initially as vacant property.

Mr. Hicks said they are still going to tell them its depressed property because they probably won't do any remediation.

Comm. Seber said that's between the assessor and the owner. Their plan is to get it on the tax rolls at some value; there is no value right now. More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks said on the cop car you are having issues with, doesn't Ford make a Crown Vic that you can get a hold of.

Mayor Baker said they are trying not to buy a car right now.

Mr. Hicks asked what the scoop was on the curfew. There are a lot of kids on First Street doing a lot of things that he has heard from people. He has been woken up 4:00 in the morning with them screaming. Asked why the Park road has never been re-opened.

Mayor Baker said it's too dangerous for kids coming off of those stairs.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street, she understands there was a special meeting after the August 6th meeting and she went on the website and couldn't find it anywhere. Also never sees anything on the electric sign relating to meetings, water bills that would be helpful to residents. Thinks they should utilize that a little bit more for people driving by to inform them.

Mayor Baker said the more they put on that sign the faster it goes so people can't read it so they try to limit it to organizations that are looking to be on it.

Mrs. Dunn said city council meetings are relevant to the residents. How would people know about the change in the trash policy unless it's on the website.

Mayor Baker said Tom put it in the paper.

Mrs. Dunn said in the minutes of the July 2nd meeting Comm. Gilheany said the city borrowed a million dollars; she wasn't in favor of that, what specifically did they borrow the money for, just because you can doesn't mean you should. She missed the August 6th meeting but she heard about the John Ahearn building being sold but assessed at a higher value than it was sold for.

Comm. Seber said he thinks it's currently assessed at \$127,000.

Mrs. Dunn asked if there were any more police retirees since they were here.

Mayor Baker said no one has retired since then, there are still two that will be.

More discussion was held on police.

Mrs. Dunn said the police car is still under warranty, has it been recalled?

Chief Waldron said it was still under warranty but it's had many issues.

Mrs. Dunn asked about the bridge projects and when they would be done.

Comm. Seber said they will have a lot of information at the next meeting.

Mary Sullivan, 913 Broadway, said she was here to discuss the Disability Rights of New York demand letter that was issued to the council regarding the ADA violations that the City of Mechanicville is currently undergoing. Said she discussed it with Mark and Dennis. As Mark has said to her, unfortunately, take a number and sue us. She knows her group doesn't want that and she is sure they don't want that. This demand letter is not saying lets sue you, it's saying lets work together, here's a plan, this is what we want. They want a safe city for disabled citizens, they want things up to code as they should be, they are not asking for the world. Said if anyone wants copies of the letter she has them. She wonders how they got to this point of not working together and why it became a legal matter rather than something they can resolve.

Mayor Baker said they have given it their attorney so they will not comment on the letter, its possible litigation.

Ms. Sullivan said it's in regard to building enforcement, sidewalk curb cuts, changing use laws, several different things. They have a disability group willing to work with the city.

Attorney Serbalik said unfortunately they chose to go through an attorney demanding that the city takes certain actions and as a result they are now dealing with a lawyer. What they can do at this point is really restricted. He just received a letter today; he will take a look at it and get in touch with their lawyer. He agrees it's nice to work together but with the action of an attorney it's a different area and as the Mayor said they shouldn't be commenting on it.

Ms. Sullivan said she totally understands that but this has been going on for years. They have been trying to work with the city for years and haven't been getting anything but push back.

She has sat down with Mark and Denny, her lawyers are chomping at the bit, and this is the last thing she wanted to happen, she just wanted for them to work together. She knows Tom has done a great job down at the city dock but with lack of handicapped accessibility to it.

Supervisor Richardson said it was not true, it has handicapped accessibility.

Ms. Sullivan said if you can get on it, it's absolutely true but you have to get on it.

Supervisor Richardson said its handicapped accessible in back of the building on the Police Station side. He didn't make the plans for that building DOT did.

More discussion was held on that.

Mayor Baker said Val will talk to her people.

Mr. Hicks asked if they could have a plain car for a cop car. Asked if they had copies of the special meeting so they can see what happened.

Comm. Seber said it will be on the website tomorrow because they just approved them tonight.

Mrs. Dunn asked if they could get a copy of the agenda.

Comm. Seber said yes.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 79-14 APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE CITY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS/PLANNING BOARD

Comm. Seber said he actually gave the wrong resolution, the one he has is actually appointing Sam to the board as an alternate.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 80-14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO
A CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSAL REALTY & DEVELOPMENT
CORP. TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY
AND THE TOWN OF HALFMOON KNOWN AS THE
MECHANICVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK

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

Mayor Baker said thanks to Dave again.

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 81-14 PAYROLL & VOUCHERS

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

Comm. Seber said a lot of times State agencies get a bad rap. DEC has been wonderful. Since he has been here with this Industrial Park they have helped them with every turn. Quite frankly they could have put the hammer down a long time ago. They have really been a great help in this whole process.

Mr. Serbalik said the contract is not a done deal because one of the agencies in this says the buyer has got to come to terms with DEC regarding the length of time it will take him to remediate the property. At the last meeting with DEC they agreed that after the contract is signed there will be another meeting with DEC where there will be a formal agreement hopefully entered into between the buyer, the city and DEC, I think he is looking for 7 to 10 years to remediate portions of that property. If for some reason DEC is going to require additional work or whatever from the buyer that is not acceptable it cannot go forward but as Mark said DEC has bent over backwards in assisting the city in getting this taken care of and their goal is to get the property off their back and onto the tax roll of the city. Hopefully with their cooperation that's what will happen. The contingency of the contract is that they have 90 days from DEC to come to terms with them. Believes the contingency is November 12th or so to get things straightened around with DEC.

No new or old business.

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

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the executive session be closed at 7:55 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 7:56 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.