

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizens Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, October 1, 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

Gene Vermilyea led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 17, 2014 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said it appears, as of today, that the bridge project is back on track and on time. That's a good thing.

Comm. Seber said water bills went out yesterday and they will be due on the 31st of October. The foreclosure sale is next Thursday, the 9th at 2:00 here at the Senior Center. There are still 5 properties left on the list.

Comm. Gilheany said as everybody has heard or read the Comptroller came out with showing that the city was financially stressed which she thinks everyone knew, it wasn't any surprise since they raised the taxes 17.7%. She just wanted to let everyone know that we are in a lot better shape than they were at this time last year. She went and looked up the cash because one of their basis is cash balance and she looked up what they had in their general fund, which pays most of their bills, and they had a little over \$80,000 last year at the end of August and this year we have \$880,000 so needless to say we are looking a lot better.

Mayor Baker said it doesn't mean that we can run out and buy something; we have a lot of bills.

Comm. Gilheany said yes, we have retirement and everything else that comes at the end of the year.

Comm. Higgins said they have had a lot of service line leaks; the trucks have gone to a lot of different places to see its service lines, not mains. Today they poured concrete down at the rest facility to take care of that ramp down there.

Comm. Hipwell had nothing to report at this time.

City Attorney Val Serbalik said they entered into a contract for the sale of the Industrial Park, that's been going on for the last couple of months; it was approved by the council on September 6th. They sent a copy of the signed contract back to their lawyer and as part of the

contract they were supposed to pay about \$5,000 deposit to be held in an escrow account. They have not received that. He contacted the buyer's lawyer about a week ago and he said it would be paid but they have still not received it. Said another thing is that the contract is contingent upon DEC contacting the buyer's lawyer and they are supposed to be setting up a meeting to set up terms with DEC but nothing was said. It won't require months and months for DEC to rule on it, they figure it will be done within a reasonable period of time, basically 60 days. DEC is cooperating with us. Also, Frank Scirocco called a meeting with the new board, ZBA/Planning Commission, for next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. There will be no action on any specific matters. It's to acquaint the members on the process of the commission of what is required.

Chief Waldron said on the retirement of Dave DeCelle he just wants to say that Dave has been instrumental in the city for some time. He was a Police Investigator; he did a phenomenal job in that role. He was also the DARE Officer forever. We are going to miss him and he wants to say to him thank you very much for all your service and he thanked the Mayor for expressing that at the last meeting. Said one of the police recruits was injured at the Police Academy and it will require surgery. Unfortunately he probably won't be able to finish the academy so he will be required to redo the academy in January. Discussion was held on this. Said he and the Mayor discussed this and he will go back working as a dispatcher on the midnight shift until the Police Academy starts up.

Mayor Baker said he and Joe tried to do what they could for him but their board said he had to go through the whole program. More discussion was held on this.

Chief Waldron said he will work his tail off to get him in this January, he's a top notch person and is physically fit, and he's passed everything. As they have been talking about forever the Dodge Charger, it's had issues and they were ready to put it up for sale. They got a hold of Zappone Chrysler Jeep in Clifton Park who wanted to look at it and he was able to cover all of the work under warranty, it is a timing issue, and the car is running phenomenal now, it's back up and running. This weekend they will be at the shooting range where they shoot about 3 to 5,000 rounds of ammunition, each recruit requires 1,000 rounds apiece, it's a requirement. Explained more about it. He touched on the detour routes and thanked everyone for their patience he knows at 4:00 the cars are lined all the way down South Main Street. Said it seems like every time they go on a detour route there is construction on the detour route. We are all anxiously waiting for Central Avenue to be opened up. Said 82 tickets have been issued to trucks for driving over the bridges so they have been issuing tickets as much as they can but they have been very, very busy at the PD with a lot of arrests. He and the Mayor have been working for the past month on the 2015 budget, he's been tough on him as he always is but they have been able to cut his budget significantly, below a million dollars which is what his task has been. If taxes go up this year it's not because of them because they are decreasing their budget.

Fire Chief James Corrigan said to date they had 268 calls to the city and mutual aid, 43 calls for September, 30 were EMS and 13 were fire calls, they had one mutual aid structure fire call to the Arvin Hart District. They are well under budget so far this year, they have a few expenses coming up on physicals, some more maintenance items and he will discuss with the Mayor to replace some gear. Hopes they don't get blamed for any tax increase by they do need to look at replacement of apparatus. Said what he's been trying to work with is \$25,000 which is

about \$65,000 less than last year. They have been trying to get grants but haven't been able to get one for a fire truck. They did get their ISO report back and they maintained the same levels as they did last year so everyone's insurance rate should be the same as it has been.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment giving them 5 minutes. Asked them to come to the podium, use the microphone and identify themselves.

Dave Hicks said the materials and supplies on all the records and stuff like that need to be broke down more to identify the items, they are just too broad. Asked why a website is used to establish criteria, when they put up these things. People are asking him about these properties that are going up for sale, he went to the Express, on line to the website and there is nothing mentioned about this or anything that is going on. Why don't we use the website, that's what it is designed for to give us information about Mechanicville without personally going to them.

Comm. Seber said that's his fault.

Mr. Hicks asked about the networking at \$42,000 if that was Windows 7.

Comm. Gilheany said we have maintenance and support and part of it was for upgrade.

Mr. Hicks asked if there was any chance of getting that broken down and the copiers too and the meters too.

Mayor Baker said okay.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street asked if the two bridges they will be doing next spring are totally owned by the city.

Comm. Seber said yes.

Mrs. Dunn said then anything paid to business owners for all of their property or part of it are paid to them from the city.

Comm. Seber said from the grant.

Mrs. Dunn said the Dutch Gap Bridge has been hit so many times recently, we don't own that so whatever happens we don't have to pay for it, is that correct.

That was correct.

Mrs. Dunn talked about the police department and all the new force we have over the past year with the retirements. She knows they are trying to cut costs; they have cut the budget, etc. She has a serious concern about the new police force as far as training for new officers taking over or ongoing training for people who have been here, what are we doing to make sure their skills stay up to date and what will we do about getting new guns as it was stated our guns were purchased in 1996. Said all you have to do is turn on the television, it's chilling, you see State

Troopers being ambushed, criminals are trying to take officers guns, tackling, etc. She is very concerned about our officers because if the criminals have bigger, better, faster guns our officers don't have a prayer. We can't say it won't happen in Mechanicville because it has happened and it can again, that has to be top priority. As a concerned taxpayer she likes our police force here and wants them to stay alive. They are up against things they haven't been up against before.

Mayor Baker said the training is ongoing. They are making sure they have the training. Joe is working with him to keep the training down a little bit this year but they got the initial and important training. Next year they will be training more because he has more money in the budget right now.

Chief Waldron said they are doing things right now, they are working with Zacks on Route 9, they are taking the weapons and stripping them down to the nuts and bolts, and they are cleaning them and doing everything for free. If they find parts missing they are going to replace it and pay for it. All of their shotguns are being replaced with collapsible stocks for closed quarters combat if something occurs on a drug team or something so they are doing a lot of work but you can't take away the age of a weapon, the weapons are old so they definitely feel that they need to replace them now.

Mrs. Dunn said it's great that they are doing all that but they are still old guns.

Tom Mahoney said they never mentioned the recruit's name that got hurt; you don't want his name out?

Chief Waldron said right.

Mr. Mahoney asked about the time frame for the trucks.

Chief Waldron said from June 20th until today.

Bea Timpanaro asked when the bridge is supposed to be done.

Mayor Baker said November 28th.

Mr. Hicks asked what led up to Resolution No. 85-14.

Comm. Higgins said because everyone else is getting it but not DPW.

Dana Watt, 244 South Main Street, said he heard meters mentioned and was wondering what kind.

Comm. Higgins said water meters; they are \$150.00 each so they are trying to get a grant for them.

Fire Chief Corrigan said he knows Mechanicville is full of rumors but you are saying that the bridge will be done on November 28th but he has been getting misinformation that it would be January of next year.

Mrs. Dunn said she heard the same thing from other people.

Mayor Baker said one problem is Facebook, he has no use for it, it causes more problems.

City Attorney Serbalik said he wants an executive session to discuss litigation.

Mayor Baker said there will be no action taken tonight.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 85-14 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE AND CSEA

Comm. Seber said part of the agreement was they would no longer reimburse difference in copays to CSEA bargaining units; however, no other employee in the city was affected by that. The police have their own contract that requires us to make a reimbursement. City hall employees are reimbursed. The city will now continue to reimburse copays for this year and till the end of 2015. In 2016 there will be no reimbursement for CSEA or City Hall group.

Introduced by Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Gilheany.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- yes
	Comm. Seber	- said he will vote yes but he wants to take it away from the others
	Comm. Gilheany	- yes
	Comm. Higgins	- yes
	Comm. Hipwell	- yes

Mayor Baker said as Mark said changing the policy will save us a significant amount of money on the insurance policy.

Mrs. Izzo said so they didn't have to pay any co-pay at all.

Comm. Higgins said \$15.00.

Comm. Seber said what happened was we had a \$15.00 co-pay until 3 or 4 years ago with the unions. We increased the co-pay to \$30.00, our payments went down quite dramatically but with the understanding that we would reimburse them the \$15.00.

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 86-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Comm. Hipwell said on the 12th of this month is the cancer walk and it will start at the Elks Club noon sharp.

Mayor Baker said just so they know, stay off of Saratoga Avenue between Main Street and Central starting tomorrow because of a water break.

Comm. Hipwell thanked Bea for stopping a truck yesterday.

Bea Timpanaro said he wanted to plow right through. She got out of her car and stood in front of him. Said she watched him hit it and said are you crazy, you've been taking that bridge down. Said she called Dave.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, made a motion to close the regular meeting to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Gilheany made a motion to close the executive session at 8:05 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Seber, made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:06 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.