

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, October 15, 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

Chris Sgambati led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said Chris Sgambati asked him to read a letter from him regarding his being on the Housing Authority Board. According to the New York State Public Housing Law compensation is subject to approval by the City of Mechanicville City Council. He is not aware of the city ever giving approval. He is seeking an answer for the current Executive Director. The Mayor said it will be in the minutes, they don't have to take any action on it, and they will look into it for him and get back to him. The Mayor thanked him for the 40 years plus service on the Mechanicville Housing Authority Board and for his part as Supervisor of Saratoga County and being the veteran that he is.

Comm. Seber said water bills are being collected until the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month. They had a tax sale last Thursday where there were 3 properties left on the tax foreclosure list. We started with 63 properties. They sold one at the auction and there is a resolution on the agenda tonight to accept the sale. Believes its 44 Underwood, it's a house with the front on the river. They received \$20,000 for the house which pays the taxes for 2009 and 2010. There are still taxes owed for 11, 12, 13 and 2014 which is another 50 or \$60,000 so the taxes will be satisfied when they close on the property and they will realize a profit of \$12,500 or \$12,600. There are two properties left, one is the old bottling plant on New York Avenue which has a very large amount of outstanding taxes in the \$70,000 range, the problem is he doesn't think anybody will spend \$70,000 on the property, no one bid on it at the auction so as a council they will have to revisit that and decide what they want to do with that building. Then there was a piece of vacant property as you go west on Saratoga Avenue just before you get to the city line, there is a small piece there he put on because he thought one of the adjacent property owners might want it, it really isn't buildable, it has about \$1,000 in outstanding taxes on it, it's not a huge number. Those are the two properties that didn't get sold. They have now started their 2011 foreclosure proceeding, there's only about 15 or 16 properties on that, Val has that and he will do what he has to do to get those letters out. It will probably be a year or so before they go to auction on these properties, it's a far cry from the 63 they started with last year. Thinks we have done well in terms of collecting money in regards to the penalties and interest. Thinks we budgeted \$110,000 this year, we are in excess of a couple hundred thousand and when this all shapes out we will have the penalties and interest which will help the fund balance.

Comm. Gilheany had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Hipwell wanted to thank the Mechanicville Police Department, Saratoga County Sheriffs and the State Police. On Monday night the city got bombed with 4 ambulance calls back to back. He believes Clifton Park handled it; they brought in an extra ambulance, we had all volunteers, they did an outstanding job Monday night. Starting November 1<sup>st</sup> please call my office, I am looking for volunteers for 5 weekends, I believe it's the weekend of Thanksgiving to ring the bell up at Price Chopper. Call my office please, I need help.

Mayor Baker just wanted to add to what he said about the ambulance, they've been doing a great job anyway but having that many calls, one right after another, he echoes what he said, he wants to thank all of them for their service.

City Attorney Serbalik said the \$5,000 deposit was finally received from the buyer of the Industrial Park. There is still that issue with DEC. They have a lawyer that still hasn't gotten back to him relating to DEC's approval. DEC wants to get it wrapped up as quickly as possible. Discussion was held on DEC and the buyer.

Mayor Baker said nothing becomes final until that?

City Attorney Serbalik said the contract is contingent upon them coming up with an agreement with DEC to give them so many years to remediate the property, believes the initial talks were between 5 and 7. They have a right to walk away if they can't come up with a plan acceptable to them, DEC and the city. Said there will be a workshop for the newly formed Planning Board and Zoning Board. Frank Scirocco, the head of it, asked for city council approval for new books for the members. Said they are on discs at the printers, they are not hard covered so they are about 30, \$40.00. Said he can order them if the council approves it.

Comm. Seber said they have already made some changes to it so why don't we wait until we finalize that.

City Attorney Serbalik said they can certainly do that. More discussion was held on that.

Mayor Baker said they would look into it this week.

City Attorney Serbalik asked for an executive session on mediation.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment giving them 5 minutes, said to say their name and talk at the podium.

Dave Hicks asked when the completion date is on the bridge.

Mayor Baker said November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hicks asked the amount of the fines the city has collected on the trucks.

Comm. Seber said they don't have a total yet.

Mr. Hicks said the auctions and stuff like that were never posted on the website.

Comm. Seber said it was his fault, going forward that will be changed.

Mr. Hicks said as far as the code, NYS puts out loose leaf binders for codes and regulations and stuff like that so why get a fancy book like that, get the loose leaf binders so if a sheet gets changed just take it out and put the new one in.

Kim Dunn wanted to talk about guns. At the last meeting she expressed concern over the outdated guns that our police officers are carrying. The last time the guns were replaced was 17 or 18 years ago. Officer safety should be a top priority for the police department as well as the city council. All 5 members of the city council are the only ones that are in the position of making sure our officers are safe as can be. She talked more about officer safety and said they said it was in the budget last time so she is asking if it is still in the budget.

Mayor Baker said it is.

More discussion was held on this.

Mayor Baker said he is a retired police officer and his son is a state policeman, he would never put anyone in danger. We have to agree on the budget as a whole but as Mayor he controls the budget.

Mrs. Dunn said she is expecting that they all will do the right thing.

Dana Watt, 244 South Main Street asked if they will be having any kind of open forum on the budget this year fairly soon.

Mayor Baker said he honestly doesn't know what the procedure is, if it's just for them.

Comm. Gilheany said they have to do one for the public. She sends out forms for them to fill out showing prior year expenditures per their budget and she requests that everything be back to her by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. They will work a little bit going through it and then they will be setting up a budget workshop probably early November, the first or second week.

Comm. Seber said at the last meeting or before someone mentioned the Home Grant that we received and what's going on with it. It's to help with homes, energy efficiency and all that kind of stuff. The contractor signed for 4 properties a couple of days ago and he will start with them in a week or so. They have two more bids coming in on Monday so in the next 2 or 3 weeks we will see some additional work so that is now starting to progress after a year and ½. That program is now starting to go forward more rapidly so you will see some results in the next couple of weeks.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 87-14 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MECHANICVILLE ACCEPTS THE RETIREMENT  
NOTICE FROM PAUL GASPIE

Motion by Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all.  
Negative – none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 88-14 THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE IS  
ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Comm. Seber said this is sort of in conjunction with the emergency response plan that was quite old, it had Mayor Higgins name on it and some others so it's being updated so in conjunction with that this is an actual committee monitoring this whole thing as we move forward.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 89-14 MAYOR SHALL TRANSFER THE CITY'S  
INTEREST IN PROPERTY, BY QUIT CLAIM DEED, TO  
STEVEN STREETER AND SUSAN MCNEIL

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 90-14 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE WISHES TO  
PERUSE POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

Comm. Seber said they voted to accept the \$7,500 the last time. They voted to go forward with the pre-planning application with the \$7,500 grant and the \$7,500 match. This all has to do with the reservoir, dam, the water system, water meters, and things like that. When you work with the federal government there are a lot of applications for this whole process, this is just a pre-planning grant. They can get up to a maximum of \$750,000 to do certain works up there. The works would probably be more than likely replacement of water meters, dam repairs, some piping; he doesn't think they will get into dredging because he's not sure that qualifies. Barton & Loguidice will do the application for the pre-planning and do some field work. There are things that need to be done now instead of the winter, they will charge us about \$2,000.

Motion made by Comm. Higgins, seconded by Mayor Baker. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker just wanted to add they are trying not to get involved in any more grants for a while until we get on our feet. Even though they tried not to get involved in grants they decided to go with this.

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 91-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, made a motion to close the regular meeting to go into an executive session on mediation at 7:25 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the executive session be closed at 7:55 to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Mayor Baker, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned to 7:57 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.