

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Mechanicville Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Mayor Baker opened up the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Dave DeMarco led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 2014 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said he was going to do a report in conjunction with the Police Chief but he couldn't make it tonight.

Comm. Seber said several months ago the Fire Department had an audit by the NYS Comptroller's Office relating to the LOSAP Program which is the retirement program for the volunteer fire fighters. They received a report from the Comptroller's Office this September with three recommendations. The fire department did a pretty good job with the amount of data and everything else, they administrated the program. On the agenda tonight are three resolutions pertaining to recommendations from the Comptroller's Office. They had to make a response to the audit and they did back in October. The 3 recommendations were that they wanted the city's point system amended to make sure it's consistent with the General Municipal Law and one of the resolutions does that just some minor wording changes needed to be done. They wanted standards and procedures so that points are accurately rewarded and recorded. He believes several dozens of people are receiving the points during this program. They have one individual who was shorted two points, through various activities they need to acquire 50 points a year to get a year's credit towards the LOSAP Program. That kept that one individual off the 50 so they had to amend his numbers to put him on the list and that is another resolution. Also there was a problem with the software program that takes care of this whole thing and that was addressed very shortly after the audit, the Mayor was at the audit meeting but he wasn't there. All three things are fairly minor and have been addressed as you will see by the resolutions regarding LOSAP tonight. He and the Mayor went down to the Department of Transportation about 3 weeks ago and they were told that their bridge spanning the railroad tracks over Route 67 received a yellow flag which isn't critical in nature but needs to be addressed over a period of time. DOT will be doing redecking and doing some structural repair on the bridge either the later part of 2015 or the spring of 2016. DOT will be doing the design for them. Yesterday they met with four engineering firms; they need to select one of them to do the construction inspection support on the job. It's a Federal and State funded program with 80% from Federal, 15% from the State and the City will have 5%. The job will cost about \$2,000,000. They will probably be talking about this for the next several months. They have to get an engineer, sign a lot of papers, things they have to do internally to move this forward. They are anticipating the

first thing in spring they are doing the Frances Street, North Main Street Projects and then the spring of 2016 work will be on the 67 bridge. They don't anticipate having to close it; the bridge is wide enough to put in two lanes so they can work on one side and then the other side. That's going forward it needs to be done. Tomorrow they are closing on the Underwood Avenue Property that they sold at the tax auction. All the documentation has been satisfied so they will be closing on it tomorrow. They will have a conference call with the proposed new owner of the Industrial Park and the Department of Environmental Conservation to talk about the sale of that property. He thinks they worked out some things that were in the gray area. Their attorney is supposed to be getting Val's contract very soon so hopefully they will be closing on that soon.

Mayor Baker said the bridge on Central Avenue they were told last Friday that they were a week to two weeks behind but this weekend they caught up a lot, they placed all the concrete portions today except for one.

Comm. Higgins said they got it in today.

Mayor Baker said they were waiting for it when he left. Now they are going to start building the road and put in a crossing. They told him by the end of the month the road will be open. Everything won't be done they still have work to do but the road should be open by then. Said Dave doesn't like to toot his own horn so every once in a while I do it for him. When he was doing the blacktopping he did extra work for NYSEG and patched where they were putting spots and they paid us for it. He was able to get enough money where he is buying a new baby dump for the city garage, repairing one of the big dumps that was rotted out from salting all these years, it was built right into the box of the truck so every time they used it, it caused more damage. They put a new box on it, they refurbished the truck, bought a salter for it and camera equipment for another truck, all that not on tax dollars but on the money he got from NYSEG. He wanted to thank Dave for that and he had some money left over to give to Jodie which made her happy.

Comm. Gilheany said she left the treasurer's report for them; they still have \$663,000 in the general fund. The majority of their money is collected in March, this is as of September, so the next three months only semi large amounts they will be receiving through the end of the year, a sales tax and they have \$600,000 in State Aid. There are some other miscellaneous items but they are not that large. They don't have to borrow money for the end of the year anyway. Wants everyone to know they are planning a budget hearing meeting next Wednesday the 12th at 6:00, it will be right here and then hopefully after that meeting the following City Council meeting they can do another budget hearing at 6:00, an hour before the council meeting.

Comm. Higgins said they are struggling to get ready for snow because the mechanic hasn't been in for the last month but the guys are doing a good job to get our equipment ready before the snow.

Comm. Hipwell wanted to congratulate the Junior Red Raiders on becoming the Super Bowl Champs for a job nicely done. Said they are starting to take names for people who need help for small kids at Christmas, they are hoping to take 6 families in at his office. Call his office if you need help. On the 28th of this month they will start ringing the bell at Price Chopper

in Fridays and Saturdays for 6 weeks, he needs help. If they see him on the street don't ask him for dates, call his office.

City Attorney Serbalik would like an executive session on a litigation matter.

Mayor Baker opened up the floor to public comment, giving them 5 minutes and go to the mike.

Dave Hicks, 1st Avenue, said water rates went up?

Comm. Seber said a year ago because they needed more money to fund the water program because it's in a deficit.

Mr. Hicks asked if there was a meeting yesterday at City Hall.

Comm. Seber said no.

Mr. Hicks said sewer drains on First Avenue, there's a sewer drain about 40 feet from his house, when it rains severely the water comes out. More discussion was held on that. Asked what the guarantee that they would have the return from Bubbles for the loan.

Comm. Seber said it was a loan program that is 3 or 4 years old now through the United States Department of Agriculture. They received about \$200,000 to give low interest, next to 0 interest loan to small businesses to help them get started, improve their businesses, enlarge their businesses, things along those lines. Said they loaned out about \$200,000 to 6 or 7 small businesses in the city and they are paying them back. More discussion was held on this.

Went through the Treasurer's Report with Mr. Hicks asking about expenditures.

Kim Dunn talked about keeping police officers trained, new equipment and are safe.

Mayor Baker said the equipment is in.

Mrs. Dunn talked about the Central Avenue Bridge and our only fire house in the middle of it.

Comm. Seber said it's been a concern since day one for all of them.

More discussion was held on the fire house and volunteers getting to it.

Mrs. Dunn asked if they can ask questions at the budget meeting.

Comm. Gilheany said yes. Said they will have all the details then.

Mrs. Dunn asked Comm. Higgins the ball park figure he saved the city.

Comm. Higgins said \$150,000.

Dave DeMarco said as they mentioned the bridge over the railroad and doing the other two bridges, he understands about the fire department but is it a possibility that Arvin Hart could be put on alert if we have a structure fire on the North Side because everyone will have an issue now.

Mayor Baker said he would talk to the chiefs about it.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. DeMarco asked why both bridges had to be done at the same time, are they using the same company.

Mayor Baker said money is a big issue and it hasn't gone out to bid yet.

Comm. Seber said once construction season starts in the spring their goal is to go forward.

More discussion was held on this.

Mary Sullivan wanted to thank Dave, Tim and Val who are meeting with her lawyers and herself about the ADA policies, it seems like they have come to some sort of an agreement as to how they will proceed and she appreciates very much the work that has been done. She noticed that work has been done at City Hall and Canal Street. She wants to thank the council for being so willing to work with them as well as Val. Said they are moving forward in a good direction. Asked about the LOSAP Program.

Comm. Seber said there is no contribution from the fire fighter; this comes out of the city budget every year and there's about \$100,000 budgeted every year for the program. Said Penflex takes care of the program for them and there are about 18 or 19 recipients right now currently being paid. Believes the last time he looked there was 5 or \$600,000 in the investment account. Said they tell them in 2017 they will roll back that contribution, it will be fully funded. This was something that was voted on by the people of the city. More discussion was held on this program.

Ms. Sullivan asked who runs the program and was he a fire chief.

Mayor Baker said Steve Sgambati.

Comm. Hipwell said he belongs to the fire department but was never a chief.

More discussion was held on the program, investment and who takes care of it.

Kim Dunn asked if the two bridges would be done by the end of the year.

Mayor Baker said yes, at the end of the construction period.

Mr. DeMarco said about the HUD Program he thought some of the money was used for sidewalks.

Mayor Baker said they can't do that anymore. The money may be owed to HUD.

No one else had anything to say.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 92-14 COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS
FILLING A VACANCY IN HIS DEPARTMENT

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 93-14 DELETING A PORTION OF THE RESOLUTION
OF THE MECHANICVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICE
AWARDS PROGRAM AS A RESULT OF AN AUDIT

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

Comm. Seber said this all has to do with the Comptroller's recommendation.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 94-14 AMENDING SECTION (6) SIX OF THE POINT
SYSTEM FOR THE MECHANICVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 95-14 AWARDING STEPHEN HIGGINS THE
CORRECT NUMBER OF NECESSARY POINTS THAT WERE
INADVERTENTLY NOT GIVEN TO HIM FOR YEAR 2012
FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SERVICE AWARD
PROGRAM

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 96-14 AMENDING THE 2014 BUDGET

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 97-14 BUDGET TRANSFERS

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 98-14 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE LOAN DOCUMENTS TO LOAN “BUBBLES RESTAURANT INC.” THE SUM OF \$10,000

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 99-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, made a motion to close the regular meeting to go into executive session at 7:38 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the executive session be closed at 8:05 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.