

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, December 17, 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

Dana Watt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Hipwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 3, 2014, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said it appears our road will be opening tomorrow.

Comm. Higgins said he told the foreman he would put it on the board on Central Avenue, he said please don't put me under that pressure. Said he told him it's going on the board tomorrow.

Mayor Baker said they were going to blacktop it and open it today but the weather changed so they changed it until tomorrow.

Comm. Higgins said all the red lights will be changed tomorrow regardless; if the road isn't open, the traffic will go crazy.

Comm. Seber said he's been busy but has nothing to say.

Comm. Gilheany said she really has nothing to say but she wants to ask Tim, they are voting on the Employee Handbook, to highlight the items that they changed in it. She didn't get a chance to read the final one.

Comm. Higgins said the snow storms we had we did not call a snow emergency because they were weird; they were rain and this and that. From now on he will be calling snow emergencies. One hit on a holiday so he didn't want to give tickets out but they will start giving them out.

Mayor Baker said he wanted to add on that even without a snow emergency his people did a great job.

Comm. Hipwell wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

City Attorney Serbalik said the 2011 tax sale will be ready to go.

Comm. Seber said after Christmas.

City Attorney Serbalik said he talked with the DEC lawyer who said they will have a consent order and it might be possible to have a closing in a couple of weeks. Said there was a request from the attorney for the ADA to respond to certain deficiencies for the city to address. He met with John Holland and Dave and another council member and a proposed draft has come up that he will discuss with the council in executive session.

Chief Waldron said he wanted to explain the vehicle. Said everyone will see on the agenda that a vehicle purchase will be taking place. The Dodge Durango is going to be going to Code Enforcement. They are purchasing the vehicle on money they have in this year's budget and it's the best pricing possible, this is governmental pricing, the government goes out to find the best pricing and Jack Byrne's was able to match it and the money is in this year's budget.

Fire Chief Corrigan had nothing to report.

Comm. Higgins made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:06 p.m. to go into a public hearing on the 2015 Budget, seconded by Comm. Gilheany. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said he assumes there are questions out there.

Kim Dunn said she assumes nothing has been changed since the last time, there will be a tax increase of 2.9% and included in that are raises that were discussed previously. It's nothing personal against anyone that works in city hall but she just thinks that with everything that Mechanicville needs it just looks bad. Said she would have accepted more if it was done months ago.

Mary Sullivan said she wanted to second what Kim said she agrees with her 100%, it doesn't look good.

Dave Hicks said it doesn't make sense at all.

Miss Sullivan said she assumes they will pass the budget with the increase.

Mayor Baker said yes.

Mr. Hicks asked if there was any change in personnel, we've had people hired and discharged and retire, what is that doing for the budget, any plusses or minuses on that?

Comm. Gilheany said the savings are more in the Police Department. As far as mechanics, maintenance and whatnot, they started off \$2.00 less an hour than the previous person and within a year they will make the same thing that the previous person did under that job title.

Mr. Hicks asked if there is an overlap in payment if a person is sick, out with an injury or retiring if they put another person on at the same time is there a dollar amount put on that.

Comm. Higgins said he waits until they leave before he replaces them.

Chief Waldron said they have to retire before they replace them.

Mr. Hicks said he heard they are hiring two dispatchers, was a dollar amount put on what they will get per year.

Chief Waldron said yes, it's \$13.00 per hour.

Mr. Hicks asked about people in the academy and how they hire part time people to fill the gap while they are out, what is the status of them. Asked about the person that got hurt in the academy, are they paying them or are they on compensation.

Mayor Baker said he is working as a dispatcher but was hired as a patrolman so he is getting his patrolman pay. He will go back to the academy in January and will start all over again.

Mr. Hicks asked how long he was in there when he got hurt.

Mayor Baker said 4 months.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks said the phones are all Time Warner, they should think about getting one Verizon phone because they will work when the grid is down because they are battery.

Comm. Higgins said because of the generators we have power, they work. It happened the other day.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks asked if we were going to end up with a lemon bridge like we did the lemon hill.

Mayor Baker said no, they did a great job on it; he's been over there watching them.

Miss Sullivan said she thought there was a change in staff in Jodie's department.

Comm. Gilheany said yes, her Deputy Stephanie left last week.

Dana Watt asked if the hill was done.

Mayor Baker said yes, they closed on it a year later. Asked if anyone else had anything to say on the hearing. No one did.

Comm. Higgins made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Comm. Gilheany. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment giving them 5 minutes to talk and to stand up and identify themselves.

Kim Dunn, South Main Street, said on the resolutions, the Police resolution they are getting a new car and their old one is going to Code Enforcement, what is happening to Code Enforcement's vehicle.

Mayor Baker said it's going to Animal Control person who will get it at the garage.

Mrs. Dunn said she assumes the DPW vehicle and equipment will come out of the \$150,000.

Mayor Baker said it was.

Mrs. Dunn asked if the \$32,500 for Barton & Loguidice is in addition to what we normally pay them as a retainer.

Comm. Seber said yes, this is for a study that needs to be done by the end of April which DOH is requiring on the water system, the dam. Said it's a very detailed study that needs to be done. That's what Barton & Loguidice's fee is.

Mrs. Dunn asked if we would get grants towards that.

Mayor Baker said they are trying.

Comm. Seber said they have an application for a grant which allows them at least \$7,500 towards that \$32,500. Said if we get that \$7,500 it allows them to go to the USDA to get a much larger sum up to perhaps  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars. We would like to get it all. They spoke to many different state agencies about possible funding sources. Believe it or not dredging is a maintenance project. If they get the  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million it will allow them to do some of the maintenance work that needs to be done. Said they need to put together a plan.

More discussion was held on this.

Mrs. Dunn asked what our sewer bills were going to.

Comm. Seber said the County Sewer Bill is going from \$167.00 to \$177.00 a unit. Ours is \$80.00. Said that will be the bill in March and the \$80.00 is in April.

Dana Watt asked for the sewer if it was for a single family or two family house.

Comm. Seber said a single family would be one, a two family would be two, multi family would be more and where it gets tricky is businesses, there's a formula that the county has, believes the minimum amount for a business is 4.

More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Higgins said Dana's house was two family but is the kitchen out of it.

Mr. Watt said yes, 20 years ago.

Comm. Higgins said they will have the building inspector go in and look at it and say it's a one family and they will drop that charge. Said to call them and they will fix it.

Mr. Hicks said the City Council on the Employee's Handbook, can they have access to it, they don't know what it is. Asked if they found out about the dredging, they said they had to put a barge in there.

Mayor Baker said they talked about putting a barge but there is also ways of doing it without it.

Don Fletcher of Barton & Loguidice explained what they will do with the reservoir. Said this case is classic. Explained what they would do.

Mr. Hicks asked if the truck they are getting is in addition or replacing.

Mayor Baker said replacement.

Mr. Hicks asked if they could save any equipment they had on the old truck to install on the new one.

Mayor Baker said this is a smaller truck so they scraped the old equipment.

Comm. Higgins said that truck was a 1982.

Mr. Hicks asked what the chance was of having signs put in at the Post Office for 15 minute parking. Doesn't know what's going on down there but every now and then you can't get in front of the Post Office.

Mayor Baker said they will check on it.

More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 106-14 ADOPTION OF THE 2015 BUDGET

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 107-14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE PROPOSAL FROM OUR CITY ENGINEER FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE REPORT SUBMISSION TO NYSDOH AND THE APPLICATION FOR USDA AND/OR EFC FUNDING

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 108-14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT GIVING MOMENTIVE A (6) SIX MONTH EXTENSION TO CLEAN THE CANAL BED BEHIND THEIR BUSINESS

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 109-14 CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING THE FINAL VERSION OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Introduced by Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Seber.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 110-14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE A 2015 FORD EXPLORER FOR \$27,122.50 OUT OF THIS YEAR'S POLICE BUDGET

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 111-14 DPW WILL PURCHASE A NEW 2015 FORD F550 DUMP TRUCK FROM JACK BYRNE FORD-MERCURY FOR THE SUM OF \$34,400.00

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 112-14 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IS AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE THE ATTACHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT FROM T&T BODY KINGS, INC. OF LATHAM, NY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,601.00

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 113-14 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new business.

Old business – Mayor Baker said about 2 or 3 months ago he got a letter from a former Housing Authority member and the answers will be given next month at the meeting.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the regular meeting be closed to go into executive session to discuss a proposed draft for the ADA attorney at 7:35 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

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

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