

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Mayor Baker opened up the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

David Coreno led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2015 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said the new police car has arrived; we picked it up last week. Said he's working on, he's not Governor Cuomo or President Obama, but he's working on some state of the state, it will be small and hopefully he will have it for the next meeting but he hasn't had the time to sit down and write it. He's working on it and hopefully next meeting he will have it.

Comm. Seber said just a couple of things. No. 1 is they mentioned a couple of meetings ago for the need for a re-val in the city; the last one was in the early 90s. Said we're at 75%, our equalization rate is going down; as he understands it, which isn't good for the taxpayers, on the school tax side, every time it goes down the taxes go up, in the city anyway. We are in the process of working with our assessor to come up with some plans on how we can approach this. There are some companies out there you can hire, they are rather expensive, there are opportunities to hire some of your old data collectors not from the area to come in collect the data, work with some other organizations to input the data. Our assessor is putting together a plan for us that we will have before our meeting in February. In our February 4th meeting we will be having a representative from New York State Real Property, it's not a Q and A at this point, she will come in and outline the process and give not only the council but the public an opportunity to just listen to how the process works and if they decide to go forward with this, say in February or March, data collection would start in the spring, it will take a couple of months. Said when he says data collection they go to every single house, they take pictures, they get some more footage, they do all those kinds of things and they put them on individual cards and that's all they put in the computer, the representative can expand on that. So outlining the process, the cost, they haven't fully committed themselves to this process; he thinks the cost will be a big part of this whole thing, they heard numbers like \$65,000, we're hoping it's less than that. Just to let everyone know that at their February 4th meeting a representative from New York State Real Property will be here to give us kind of an update, an outline. Dennis and he have already met with her, they have an idea of how this will proceed but they thought it was important because it will affect everyone, it may affect some positively, it may affect some negatively, it may be neutral but everyone will be affected by a re-val. Just to let everyone know, that is in the works, we haven't committed ourselves yet but we'll get as much information out there as possible and if and when they decide to make the move there will be a

public session with questions and answers and representatives to answer those, keep this as transparent as open as possible if they move in that direction. Secondly, there is a resolution on here, it's actually the first resolution 18-15, it's a bonding resolution for 4.8 million dollars. What this is designed for is the construction phase of the North Main Street and Frances Street bridges. The 4.8 million is the maximum amount the city would be allowed to borrow and they were given a cash flow for engineers, the payments will be scheduled throughout the project and reimbursement throughout 6 weeks from the state so fractioning that in they hope they will have to only borrow between 2 ½ and 3 million dollars on the bonding. As money comes in they will be able to pay some of these things out. Said it's a lengthy resolution so he wants everyone to know that is what it's all about, it's for the construction phase of the bridge projects.

Comm. Higgins had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Hipwell wanted to thank the Mechanicville Fire Department on the major fire on Round Lake Avenue this month. He believes 7 mutual aid companies were brought in plus Clifton Park's Ambulance. Wanted to thank the police. He was there and thinks everyone did an outstanding job, they got three people out and nobody got hurt. Chief Waldron did an outstanding job.

Chief Waldron went over an incident that happened the day before Christmas and the equipment he wants to buy (see attached). Said 2014 was a great year. Said he will give a power point presentation at the next meeting on the overall statistics on what they have done for the year. Said he can say it went very well, the police officers worked very hard and it tells on a couple fronts, one is the revenue part of it, they brought in \$30,000 in extra revenue that they didn't anticipate just by doing their jobs a little bit more. Said he's very happy for them, they are doing really good. Said the Mayor touched on the new car and they will be sending that out in the next 30 days to get upgraded with their lights, the cage and a computer.

Mayor Baker asked if the body cameras can go from officer to officer.

Chief Waldron said yes. If the cost is going to be what he thinks it will be which is relatively inexpensive to buy the cameras, he can't believe they are so cheap, if it is he would prefer to buy each full timer their own camera. He wants them to have their own assigned camera; they can pick it up, put it on and go out.

Mayor Baker said he saw a video of him being tased; he went down like a ton of bricks.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to public comment, told them to come up to the microphone, identify themselves and they had 5 minutes.

Dave Hicks, First Street, read the investment on their bridge, asked if we are carrying this load, will our taxes go up to carry this load for our bond.

Comm. Seber said in the end. What will happen here is our first bonding will be for a year, it will be for whatever number it would be to the bond. There will be some interest. We budgeted \$72,000 in this budget for the bond that was based on 4.8 million at 5%. He expects

the \$72,000 will be something less than that. This budget is covered. Said the way it works is we get 95% back on these projects. Say its 4.8 million dollars for the project; we will pay 5% of that or \$240,000. We in the city will have to bond our 5%. We have \$150,000, 5% on the hill; we have \$250,000, 5% a year. If the 67 bridge is done, in a couple of weeks we are going down to DOT to find the schedule on that, this year there will be 5% whatever that number is going to be so those 5% will add up and there's a chance that the city will have to bond 5 or 6 or 7 hundred thousand, whatever that number is. To answer your question yes there is going to be a commitment to the taxpayers and the budget is going forward however it won't be 4.8 million dollars, it will be a commitment on roughly ½ million dollars.

Mr. Hicks said it says you are putting more load on the taxpayer, you are going to do re-assessment on the houses. Said they are working on a fine line setup, there has to be something done to curtail spending to keep the load of the taxpayer.

Mayor Baker said he has a good point except they don't have a choice. Said it's not like we're going down the road and saying I don't like that bridge, we're going to do it over. It's been yellow tagged by the State, if it was red tagged it would be closed permanently.

More discussion was held on the expenses in the city.

Comm. Seber said since he has been here, they have revisited their phone lines, they changed from Corner Stone to Time Warner to cut on the ton of phone lines they were paying on, that they didn't know they were paying on, they redid the copiers and they saved money there, they have tried to save money in different areas, he agrees with him, we need to save more money. They did cut the budget over \$25,000. Said that increase is on the tax rate, that's a function of the assessment going down, they only raised taxes .4% and most of that was on revenue side.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks asked about the frozen hydrants.

Comm. Hipwell said he was told it wasn't frozen hydrants, they had a tough time with the caps but finally got them loose.

Kim Dunn said on salary increases the part timers went from whatever to \$12,000, can they tell her the exact figure of that increase.

Mayor Baker said his job paid \$9,900 and went to \$12,000, he doesn't know what the others are.

Mrs. Dunn said she will email Jodie. Said city hall people got 2%, how many people does that include.

Comm. Seber said he believes there are 7 full time people but doesn't know how many part timers.

Mrs. Dunn said on the diagnostic services for \$3,000 a month which is \$36,000 a year for 5 years but it doesn't include everything they will do, do they have any projected cost on top of that.

Comm. Seber said they budgeted \$40,000. Said it doesn't cover initial installations. The \$36,000 includes all the servers and things and what he has been dying for since he's been here a redundant service in the fire station.

More discussion was held on this.

Mrs. Dunn asked how many members are on the Board of Assessment Review.

Comm. Seber said 3.

Mrs. Dunn said she agrees with Chief Waldron that police officers have an extremely dangerous job, more so now than ever. Whatever you can do to keep an officer safe is very good. There are some crazy calls in the city lately just listening to scanners. She understands we have to find more money from somewhere for the city, her concern is she wants people to stay in Mechanicville as she is sure they do. She is concerned that every year when they do the property foreclosures you are going to see more and more that people that want to stay here are going to more someplace else. She really wants to see this community grow and everyone find a way to work together.

Comm. Seber said he just wanted to touch on something, the gentleman that is buying the Industrial Park and DEC have come to an agreement on the remediation schedule. They are in the process of reviewing it because they have to approve the agreement, hopefully by the next meeting. They hope to have that closed within the next 3 or 4 weeks, that will help it. He hopes they get some development there.

Mr. Hicks talked about the IT Services again.

Comm. Seber said they paid about \$32,000 last year to Diagnostic Services for computer work. Said that's a base and anything over so many hours a month he bills them on top of that. The total cost is around \$32,000.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 18-15 BOND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 21, 2015 OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$4,800,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SERIAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FINANCE THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES, AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$4,800,000, LEVY OF TAX IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS IN PAYMENT THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURE OF SUCH SUM FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 19-15 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE LOAN
DOCUMENTS TO LOAN ERIC M. CONNORS DBA LEGENDS
BARBERSHOP THE SUM OF \$10,000 AT ZERO PERCENT
INTEREST

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 20-15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RATIFY
THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF MECHANICVILLE AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE,
JOSEPH D. WALDRON EFFECTIVE JANUARY 21, 2015
UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2016

Mayor Baker said he wanted to thank Joe, he thinks he would have anyway but he really pushed him to stay. He has a young department; he didn't want to start with a new Chief. Thanked Joe for the job he does running it.

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 21-15 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Comm. Higgins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

City Council Meeting
January 21, 2015

- 1) On December 24, 2014 police officers pulled over a vehicle that was driving reckless. They activated their lights and subsequently the siren and the car continued to drive away. After driving several blocks vehicle finally came to a stop. Police Officers approached the vehicle and after a brief interview asked the subject to exit his car so they could run a series of tests to see if he was driving while intoxicated. The Officers asked the subject if he had any weapons on him or in the car and he replied no. The officer then out of an abundance of caution decided to do a pat down search and discovered a fully loaded 40 caliber Glock with over 10 rounds in the magazine in the subject's waistband. The subject was charged with DWI and Criminal Poss. of a weapon 4th and Criminal poss. of a weapon with a high capacity magazine in the 3rd. The Officers did an excellent job but shows you the inherent danger of being a police^{d Police}, even in a small community such as Mechanicville.
- 2) On January 15, 2015 I traveled to Ravena Coeyman's to look at the new X26P Taser's. As you are aware, I have budgeted to get Taser's this year as another tool for less than lethal force options for police. I had decided to take the entire class and elected to be shot with one so that I could fully appreciate what effects this would have on the human body. It wasn't pleasant but it was over in 5 seconds and I am still alive. Mechanicville Police Officers would have to wrestle with someone risking serious injury to themselves or jump straight to lethal force. Clearly, weighing the options, a Taser would be a much more efficient and effective way to get compliance. I plan on contacting Taser corporation over the next few weeks and getting pricing for these weapons.

3) On January 13, 2015, I went to Stillwater Police Department and met a vendor from provision who was selling Body Camera's. I plan on purchasing a demo camera for \$150 to see how it works and if it would be a good investment. The Camera's themselves go for \$300 or so.