

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, February 18, 2015. 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

John Bove led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Dave Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said DOT is designing the bridge for them and the work will take place this year, probably starting in April which means they will have 4 bridge projects going on simultaneously in the city. Said the 67 Bridge will not be closed down, it's wide enough to work on one side, open up two lanes, work on the other side and open up two lanes. Said obviously the two bridges they have on North Main Street and Frances Street will be closed and the county will be working on that small bridge up near DiSiena Furniture that spans Saratoga Avenue to Round Lake Avenue and that's going to be closed. So it can be another long summer in terms of traffic and detours, things along those lines. They have a meeting in two weeks with our engineers for both projects and the engineer that is running the county project, the small bridge is the county project and they are going to work coordinating everything, the detour routes and everything else, they will keep them all posted but they were assured by DOT that the project will take place this year, probably as early as June or so. They are hoping that by late April, the 1<sup>st</sup> of May that our project is going, that one will go around June so it will be an interesting 6 or 7 months. Said the second thing is they are still continuing their foreclosure proceedings on the properties that are under foreclosure, initially there were 12 properties, 6 have redeemed so they are down to 6 properties that are still on the foreclosure list. They have until May 15<sup>th</sup> at which time Val goes to court and goes through the whole process to schedule a sale if there is anything left on the list. Said this is important because of the weather and all the snow we have had, especially in such a short period of time and the timing and we're supposed to have more snow over the weekend, getting DPW that goes out and reads our water meters every year, we usually send out our bills April 1<sup>st</sup> and DPW usually starts in another week or so reading the meters are going to have a very, very difficult time getting to the outside readers because they are covered with snow. Said he ran an ad in The Express tomorrow asking people to clear their outside readers or we may have to estimate their bills which is another problem. After a conversation with Dave, they decided to hold the billing back to May 1<sup>st</sup> for this year only because of all the snow and under the circumstances. Instead of getting a water/sewer bill on April 1<sup>st</sup> you are going to get it on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Normally they give from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> to pay that bill they are still going to make them pay it by May 31<sup>st</sup> so you only have a month instead of 2 months but under the circumstances with Dave's guy out clearing snow and plowing snow; by the way my hat is off to you guys. Just for this year they are moving everything back a month which means this billing

cycle will be a 7 month cycle so your bill might be a little bit higher, hopefully it will even out the next billing cycle which will be a 5 month period. They will probably start reading meters in mid-March or so to get geared up for May 1<sup>st</sup>. He just wants everyone to know that. They will put something in The Express. David if you can write something, that is kind of important, thank you very much.

Mayor Baker said two things Mark said, number one is with the readings, people know pretty much what they pay, your bills don't vary a lot so even though you are only getting a month instead of two months you have an idea of how much your bill is going to be so you can still start budgeting your money for it. Said they will skip Jodie until she gets settled.

Comm. Higgins had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Hipwell said to be careful out there with the cold weather and ice and with ice hanging be careful where you walk. Said the fire department lost a house last night because the fire hydrants were not shoveled out.

Mayor Baker said the other comment he had was that they are also going to have some more work done on the bridge they completed last year on Central Avenue. They have to do the sidewalks and some other things so there will be some activity there.

Comm. Gilheany said they are closing the year end, they are looking good. Said they are not in the top 10 of most fiscally stressed this year, they actually have money at the end of the year, they have about \$600,000 in the general fund. At the second council meeting she will have a full report of 2014 for them on where they stand, they are looking good.

Comm. Seber said he needs an executive session on a water contract issue with the Town of Stillwater.

Chief Waldron said they are getting a lot of complaints on snow emergencies. The first thing he wants them to know that parking on city streets is a privilege it's not a right, you don't own the front of your house, you don't have the right to park your car and think you can leave it there for as long as you want, go to Florida and leave it for 3 months. The city has a charter and in that charter it has certain regulations of what you can do, when you can park and where you can park. One of the things you have is a snow emergency, the Commissioner has the right to call a snow emergency, they notify the news media that put it on, they notify the press, it's on the city's website, it tells where they can go and where cars can be parked. The first snow storm on February 3<sup>rd</sup> they towed 35 cars, the second one lasted 3 days February 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> they towed 25 cars and the last storm they had they towed 54 cars. Gave them a report by power point (see attached).

Mayor Baker said one thing he wants everyone to know is that they are not trying to balance the budget by writing all these tickets. Said there was a lot of things going on with the bridge closing, snow removal and all that so that's why the numbers were up and he has a new young, aggressive police department and they are doing a good job. Opened up the meeting to the public, giving them 5 minutes, told them to go to the microphone and give their name and

address.

Dave Hicks, First Avenue, asked what the drag was on the snow removal. Said he really hasn't seen any action going on.

Comm. Higgins said it's all over.

Mr. Hicks asked how long the boxes are in the baby dumps.

Comm. Higgins didn't know.

Mr. Hicks had more questions on the baby dumps. Talked about the bridges that will be done. Asked about the city pickup truck going up and down the road.

Mayor Baker asked if they were plowing.

Mr. Hicks said not that they could see.

Kim Dunn said she signed up on the city website so she does get the calls about snow emergencies.

Chief Waldron said if they own a home phone they are automatically on the reverse 911.

Mrs. Dunn asked if he could put his power point on the city website for people to see.

Chief Waldron said sure.

Mrs. Dunn talked about the bridges. Asked about the salary in the deputy commissioner's resolution if it was the same as the former deputy got.

Comm. Gilheany said it was a little bit more but she isn't getting health insurance so there is savings there.

Mrs. Dunn said they haven't seen financial reports in quite a while.

Comm. Gilheany said the one after will be the final report for 2014. Said for 2015 she will do them quarterly.

Mrs. Dunn talked about re-assessment.

Comm. Seber said school taxes are in 2016, city taxes are 2017. Said they will schedule meetings with 2 or 3 firms that do this work, get a proposal from them and see what the numbers are and then they will make a decision.

Said she wants people to stay here, move in here and they won't ever get that if they keep raising taxes. They have to start thinking outside the box and the answer isn't keep raising taxes.

Comm. Seber said no one is committed one way or the other.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks asked how many yards in a truck are considered baby dumps. Six yards of dirt will be a lot heavier than snow. Said the bakery isn't here anymore and the guy was in here and got money.

Comm. Seber said it was a woman and it moved to Faldoni's, it's still here.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 28-15 CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SERVICE AWARDS  
PROGRAM LIST OF ALL 2014 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Comm. Seber said this is an annual thing for the LOSAP Program.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 29-15 APPOINTMENT OF AMANDA PROPER AS  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE EFFECTIVE  
MARCH 1, 2015

Introduced by Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Mayor Baker.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- yes
	Comm. Seber	- said Amanda is doing a very good job, she's been here a couple of months now, he just thinks that salary is a little high so he's voting no
	Comm. Gilheany	- yes
	Comm. Hipwell	- no
	Comm. Higgins	- yes

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 30-15 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Baker said he wanted to add to what Mark said about Dave's guys, they've been doing a great job. Said he gets compliments daily about the streets, the great shape they are in, how wide they are. They have been putting a lot of work into them. He just wanted to say thank you again.

Comm. Gilheany thanked him.

Comm. Seber said he lives on a hill and that hill has been immaculate, it's unbelievable. Said usually he dreads going up it, in fact he lost a transmission a couple of years ago trying to get up there it was so bad. Really it's almost bare; you can't wait to get to the hill now because they do such a good job on the hill. As a resident up there he does appreciate it.

Comm. Hipwell said he knows none of the fire chiefs are here but last Saturday night they had an alarm down on First Street at the Day Care Center, it could have been a major fire but they stopped it and nobody got hurt. He wanted to thank the fire department with the rest of the council on an outstanding job.

Comm. Gilheany asked what happened.

Comm. Hipwell said he didn't get all the way down there, he ended up being a fire police and all he was told was it was something on the second floor. There was a lot of smoke in the building.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, moved that the regular meeting be closed at 7:36 p.m. to go into executive session. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

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

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.