

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Mayor Baker opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Larry Whalen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 18, 2015 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker said he was going to talk to them about the Rescue Squad tonight but he asked Mr. Whalen to talk instead.

Larry Whelan, Board of Directors Clifton Park Ambulance, said at 6:05 he had a call from Eric Canchet who wanted to inform him that on Monday they will start the abatement on the building they purchased, the old Strang Hose at Depot Square. Said that will be a two week deal and then they will come to the city to get approval for their architect plans, have you sign off on them. They figure 10 weeks after that the building will be dedicated. They are planning a open house when that is done. So its good news, they are finally doing it. He went to a Board of Director's meeting last Wednesday, they didn't have any answers for him as to what the holdup was with the abatement, it turned out that their attorney didn't like some of the wording that was in the abatement thing. Said they actually had to hire two outfits, one to do the abatement and the other to do the monitoring so within two weeks it should be done. You will hopefully see people there Monday.

Mayor Baker thanked Larry for being involved with their Board of Directors which helps them a lot getting this information. Said Leah and Eric both called him tonight and told him that he was coming. Since Dave isn't here, he wants to say he is doing a good job with the snow, they are hoping that this thaw helps them with the problem of freezing pipes. They have several water lines and sewer lines that are frozen; he didn't think that could happen, but as of today he believes they are all corrected, operational, so we're in good shape.

Comm. Seber said they had a call, last week with the NYS Department of Transportation, the railroad, their consultant and themselves regarding the Route 67 Bridge and there has been a change in the schedule, DOT didn't feel comfortable, they felt by the time they started the project, the length of the project, that it wouldn't be completed by winter. So instead of having it over the winter, having maintenance and everything else that you would have to deal with, it probably won't start until spring of '16 which helps us quite a bit obviously logistically. Said unless it changes but he suspects it won't, it was their suggestion. Said they won't bid the job until October or November so it will be ready to go in the spring, so that job will be pushed off

until next year. They will be in tax collection until March 15th to pay their taxes without penalty. The Accounts Office will be open this Saturday the 7th and next Saturday the 14th from 9:00 to noon for tax collection. At their next council meeting on the 18th here, they are going to have it at 6:00 p.m., they will have a joint meeting with the Zoning and Planning Board and the City Council and the issue is going to be the application from the NYS Electric and Gas to put the compressed gas tankers in the city to try to allow those that can't get natural gas hookups to get hookups. They think it's worth a conversation because they've been to the Planning Board once; there are many questions that need to be answered regarding safety, who inspects things and that type of thing. Said they need to be concerned so there will be a joint meeting to discuss this, New York State Electric & Gas will not be here but they thought it was important the council and the Planning and Zoning get together and talk about this. There are some contractual issues involved with this as well so there will be an executive session. Said there will certainly be some conversation about what the plans are. Dave was at the meeting.

Mr. Hicks said there was supposed to be a second meeting.

Comm. Seber said they postponed it until they get some of the questions answered. Said they are also working on an escrow agreement with them so they will pay the expenses of the city, we have to have engineers look over the plans. We haven't received that back from them yet, it's only an escrow agreement, we're not going to schedule anything at the Planning or Zoning Board. So that's the 18th, here at 6:00 p.m.

Comm. Gilheany said she has the Treasurer's report for the month of January and at the next council meeting she will give them a report for 2014.

Comm. Hipwell said the 100th year celebration Yearbook is going good. Said he's looking for pictures from the old West Vaco and the railroad. Said if anyone has any old pictures, especially for West Vaco where all the wood is piled up, that's what they are looking for. So if anyone has any old pictures give them to him, they want to get them in the program book. Once again, don't forget May 8th, it's going to be the buffet at the Ugly Rooster, tickets are on sale now.

Fire Chief Corrigan said it's been a busy month for them again, they did 60 calls again in February as compared to February last year they had 62, 57 were in the city, 3 were mutual aid, EMS was 39 of them. Unfortunately Larry left but it's worked out very well, the fire department taking the calls initially there has been no lapse in service to any citizens in Mechanicville. Said they will be looking forward to them standing down a little bit once Clifton Park gets here full time because it has been very busy for them but they took it on, they have no problems with it, they enjoy doing what they do. He wanted to thank the city, he thinks they had the most to do with it, that beautiful message to our citizens to help them shovel out their fire hydrants, he thinks that was an excellent idea for their sign board and they appreciated it. They wanted to thank them because some of the drills they did, it's been a big undertaking this year and they appreciate it. Thanked them.

Mayor Baker thanked him and his guys for all the hard work they do for them, in particular the squad work they do right now. Opened up the meeting to public comment.

Dave Hicks said he doesn't know if anyone has looked at the quality drinking water report, we're up to 46% water loss, you are actually paying \$2.18 for the water we are getting, there's got to be an issue addressed to that to find out what's going on. Said that is way overboard.

Mayor Baker said his guess is that 46% is the fact that the reservoir doesn't hold as much water as it used to.

Mr. Hicks said it says the amount of water loss. Said that issue has to be addressed. Said they are talking about frozen pipes and stuff. Discussion was held on this and a woman whose cellar is flooded and can't they help her because they have home improvement for all other people.

Mayor Baker said she hasn't applied for this.

Comm. Seber said the USDA is coming here March 19th and they have several programs for income eligible citizens, grants, and low interest loans.

More discussion was held on this and how it will happen again.

Mayor Baker said they talked to DOT about it, they were talking about resurfacing Central Avenue so he called them and said before they resurface that you need to do something with those drain pipes and they said at that time they had no plans to resurface it. They went to a meeting at DOT and the guy that told him that came into the meeting and said he owed him an apology because they are going to look at the possibility of resurfacing it.

More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks asked if there will be public comment at the next meeting on the gas.

Comm. Seber said probably not.

Mr. Hicks talked about his concern on that.

Comm. Seber said that's the reason they are having this meeting because they are concerned. They need to address this. Told Mr. Hicks to write down his questions and they will give them to the Chairman and he will have answers for you.

Kim Dunn, South Main Street, said she had someone that posted on Facebook that said her pipes were frozen today, across from the Funeral Home at Tallmadge Place. Has that been rectified?

Mayor Baker said he didn't know about that, if her pipes are frozen in the house that's her responsibility.

Mrs. Dunn said no it wasn't, it's outside. Should she contact Dave?

Mayor Baker said she should, Facebook doesn't help.

Mrs. Dunn said the bridge they are talking about is the overpass; she heard on the scanner that there was something sticking out of the road, like a metal piece of something.

Mayor Baker said yes, it wasn't anything big, the bridge wasn't falling.

Comm. Seber said they expect it will be in October or November.

More discussion was held on this.

Mrs. Dunn asked if they heard anything else on the Esplanade project.

Mayor Baker said there are all kinds of rumors, they know nothing official yet. He was told that the project was going to be changing hands and that they would be contacting them.

Mrs. Dunn asked if they changed hands, would they have to go back to the IDA.

Mayor Baker said he feels they should go back to Zoning and IDA.

More discussion was held on this.

Mrs. Dunn said she thinks that was great having stuff on the signs for the 146 hydrants. Are they all marked?

Chief Corrigan said the fire department has a program on their computer showing every hydrant.

Mayor Baker said most of them look like they are pretty well dug out.

Mr. Hicks asked when the Price Chopper road was done.

Mayor Baker said it doesn't belong to us, its Stillwater's.

Comm. Hipwell said just to let them know anything in the parking lot, the cars and everything comes under the city, the building is in Stillwater.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 31-15 APPROVING A HOME IMPROVEMENT
LOAN TO A HOME OWNER AND AUTHORIZING THE
COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS TO ISSUE CHECKS
FROM THE LOAN PROCEEDS

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 32-15 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

New business.

Comm. Hipwell said he will have good news in April.

Mayor Baker said they are talking with the fire department about their new truck and he thinks they are going to get a new truck. If everything works out right they hope they would be looking at some kind of vote on that truck this month or next month but hopefully soon.

No old business.

Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.