

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Sylvester - present
Comm. Seber - present
Comm. Chauvin - present
Comm. Higgins - present
Comm. Hipwell - present

Comm. Hipwell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Mayor Sylvester, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 15, 2010 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester had no correspondence of his own to read but read a report from the John Ahearn Rescue Squad.

Comm. Seber said water billing and collection seem to be going pretty well at this point. Said they are working on a system with their software company that will let them display their recent tax bills on line so people who want to see them can. They are limiting to the recent tax bills because they make 8 to \$10,000 a year in tax searches so he won't cut off a revenue source. Said they are holding a meeting next Wednesday night the 13th to talk about the water situation. Said our engineers will be there to talk about what transpired over the summer that required water emergency ban as well as options going forward to address a long term solution to the problem. It will be here at 7:00 on the 13th. Said on the 20th is their regular meeting and they are moving the meeting to the evening because the Charter Review Commission will do a formal presentation of their draft report on that evening. It will be a power point presentation that will be ½ hour long according to John. Said anyone interested has an opportunity to come to it.

Comm. Chauvin said to let everyone know they are in the process of doing the budget and it will be a while.

Comm. Hipwell said he and the Mayor went to Cohoes to a council meeting to talk to the Mayor of Cohoes on the railroad as they have the same problem that we have up here on the crossings when trains go through blowing their whistles. Said they got a lot of good information on that so they are looking into working with the railroad on that. Said he had a meeting with the Mayor, Comm. Higgins and CDTA. Starting November 15th there will be a new bus route for CDTA; they will come up South Main Street up to Saratoga Avenue to Viall Avenue and they will be picking up people who have to go to work and it will start 7:00 in the morning. Said with all the construction that is going on at Saratoga Avenue and Viall Avenue they had 3 near misses. He went up there with the Chief of Police and talked with the people and told them his concern; went up a couple of more times and as far as he knows everything has calmed down after working with the Chief. Starting November 1st his department will bring back the Christmas adopt a family that they had to postpone last year. Said they will probably adopt five families, it could be more but for now they are looking at five. Said back when summer started he got a letter from Kaga Garland, 10 years old, thanking him for a job well done on cleaning the playground up and the safety problems up there.

Comm. Higgins said the water ban is off; the water is way up so we are in good shape, and hopefully it will stay that way. Said they are putting Tom's banners up on Central Avenue. Said in front of Connor's they are putting sewer lines in.

Attorney Serbalik had nothing to report at this time.

Chief Waldron said obviously they know that we've had some automobile thefts and today they recovered a stolen motor vehicle from Bethlehem. Said it's the same guy who is wanted in Troy. Said it's a big ring that is taking place so they are working with State Police, Brunswick and Troy Police along with the Sheriffs to try to bring this guy in; he's on the run but obviously he has a grasp here in Mechanicville. They have some issues with Tenendaho Lane. Said the police officers get out of their cars and walk behind them. They have arrested 6 kids from the back there at 10:00 at night so they are sending a message there. Said with all the break-ins that are occurring in the business area they have one common dominator is that they are near a railroad track so they are increasing their forces for the railroad properties; they are arresting all that are partying near the tracks and when they arrested them they found stolen property on them. Wants them to be aware that police officers are out there, they are going to shake every branch to find out who is breaking into businesses. Said this is paramount to them. Said he had some bad news; they know they wrote a grant in 2008 for a Cops Fast Grant and unfortunately they were denied back then; they got resubmitted for a second one in 2010 and they were denied again. Said the problem is New York State is not getting its fair shake. It's his understanding that only 2 departments in the State of New York actually received a Cops Fast Grant this year; all the rest are going to other areas. Said it makes no sense that where the biggest crime rates are, we're not getting any help. Said on a good note, Step Enforcement which is for speeding, aggressive driving behavior, we did receive another grant from them for \$5,000.

Comm. Seber asked how they steal these cars, are the keys left in them or what?

Chief Waldron so far the keys have been in them. Sometimes you think you hid them but you really didn't because there are obvious locations that criminals look for first. Said this person has stolen at least 10 to 15 cars. He's not breaking windows to get into them.

Supervisor Richardson said there were 165 people at the Economic Summit, lot of local businesses were there. Said the Norfolk Southern Railroad came up from Washington DC to explain what it will entail and how it's going to grow. They also had a presentation from Mike Russo of Global Foundries on what is happening at the Tech Park. Congressman Murphy and Senator McDonald were there and gave presentations. Said they got a lot of good feedback from merchants around town. It went well.

Mayor Sylvester said Congressman Murphy will be at the Senior Center tomorrow and 2:00 and next Thursday also. Said he didn't know if anyone noticed it or not but we had a 179 foot cruise ship parked at our dock tonight, it took up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dock. They are heading up to Burlington to pick up 80 people. Said last week the ship got stuck underneath the bridge in Rexford due to the high water. Said next they will have a presentation from John Franck – Consultant for the Charter Review Committee and Jay Silverman.

Mr. Franck said they are not doing a presentation tonight; they are doing it at the next meeting. Said Jay Silverman is the Chair of the Project Committee and they have a 9 member board. Said they've had probably 10 meetings or so. Said they came tonight just to give a heads up and to ask the council to move the next meeting to the evening. Said what they will do is issue a draft report. Said there was a feasibility study grant that the City of Mechanicville received last year and the grant is for two parts, one is to come

up with shared service potential and how charter revision could help the process along in deciding on keeping this current form of government or changing it. At this meeting they will go over the shared service possibilities that the council can use in the future. Said after they do their final report they will go into charter revision. Said they will go over the services that the city currently provides to the residents and then how the current commission form of government works. Said their commission form of government is different here than the typical form of government. Said the second part of that discussion will be what our charter options are, whether to keep the existing form of government or changing to a Mayor/Council form of government which is very typical for cities between 5,000 and 15,000. Said after they hand out this draft, they have to hold at least 3 public hearing so the council and residents can give input. After they get input from everybody, they will put it into their final report which he expects will be out in mid January and after that they are done. They will suggest that the Mayor and Commissioners set up a Charter Review Commission that can start the process with questionnaires asking people if they want to make a change and if all goes well, next year they will hold a special election on whether the people want to change the form of government. They will have to look into the legalities and then they will go from there.

Mr. Silverman said once a commission has been established they not only have to consider all the options but to work with the public to make sure the public is well informed.

Mr. Franck said they will get to the meeting early enough to make sure the power point works. Said they have worked with the Mayor and Comm. Seber who have been very helpful. Feel the evening would be a better time for the presentation.

Mayor Sylvester thanked them and then opened up the meeting to public comment. No one had anything.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 76-10 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE
AWARDING BARTON & LOGUIDICE
CONTRACT TO CONDUCT A NOMINATION
STUDY AT A COST OF \$179,650

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 77-10 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

Introduced by Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Mayor Sylvester. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

No new business.

Mayor Sylvester said under old business he got a call from Mr. Luciano today about the grant we received for the fire department. Said two days after they bought the Jaws of Life they ended up using it on Mary Grace and Sal Izzo.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.