

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 187 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, May 6, 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

Bill Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 15, 2015 as prepared.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- yes
	Comm. Seber	- abstained, wasn't at the meeting
	Comm. Gilheany	- abstained, wasn't at the meeting
	Comm. Higgins	- yes
	Comm. Hipwell	- yes

Comm. Seber said they are into water collection and the bills are due at the end of the month. Said it's fairly steady right now but there will be a big rush at the end. Said Attorney Serbalik won't be here tonight but he wanted to touch on what he is doing. Said they have 4 properties left on their tax foreclosure list, they have until the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month to pay or they begin filing the appropriate papers in court. The four properties are ready to go, they plan on filing on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>, if they pay in the meantime they come off the list. Said the documents for the closing on the Industrial Park have been sent to the attorney of the purchaser. Hopefully in the next week or so they will be able to close on the Industrial Park. The important thing is to get it done as quickly as possible because June 1<sup>st</sup> is the cutoff date for assessments being applied for the next assessment book which is in August. Said school taxes are in September.

Comm. Gilheany said she left the Treasurer's Report and the detail of the revenues and expenditures for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Said she didn't make that many copies so if anyone didn't get it let her know at the end of the meeting and she will make sure they get a copy. Said they did file their 2014 Annual Report to the State.

Comm. Higgins said hopefully in the next 3 or 4 weeks they will start paving. They will pave all of South Main Street and Park Avenue right to the city line. Said he spoke to NYSEG and they are committed to .....

Comm. Hipwell said there was a little misprint in the paper, the monument down at the old school is going to be placed in Tallmadge Park not the Park Avenue Playground.

Chief Waldron said the police department has been so busy; the guys are working so much more than he has seen in years past. Gave statistics on the number of calls they made and tickets issued (see attached). Said year to date \$34,000 has been collected. Jodie and he have been working together.

Said a DWI Patrol will take place this weekend, it's the prom in Mechanicville and will take place at Glen Sander's Mansion. Said a lot of young kids will be on the road so they want to make sure they have a good police presence not only locally but county wide and state wide. They ask everyone not to drink and drive. Said they are writing a grant with a 50% match for ballistic vests to make sure all vests are up to the highest standards. All police officers are equipped with one when they are hired. Said the Mechanicville Police are actively writing a grant for body worn cameras. There is a 20% match for this Department of Justice grant. Said they finally got the new car in service which took longer than normal because everything was on back order. The police department has been inundated with quality of life issues impacting many city residents. The issues are music being played too loud, kids running amok after 10 p.m., basketball being played in the streets, kids swearing in the playground, etc. He knows Comm. Hipwell has been working steadfast on the basketball court. Said the roadways belong to vehicles and pedestrians must yield to them unless you are in a crosswalk. He wants the people to know that the police will respond if they call them. Said they will remove the kids from the streets because they are not supposed to be in the streets. Life would be much more enjoyable if everyone accepts a little ownership for their actions.

Comm. Hipwell said the Park Avenue Playground is 98% done, it's been open for a week, the kids are in there playing. He got a request from the man doing the blacktop and they notified Joe Waldron that there will be no bicycles, no skateboards and no roller blades.

Fire Chief Jim Corrigan said they've had over 200 calls this year for EMS. On June 15<sup>th</sup> they will have them here full time. Said New York State has an open burn ban until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Said thankfully they have been minimal this year. Said it's on the web site for people to see. The state does it every year. Said he's been working close to Mayor Baker for any large expenditures, mostly maintenance so far. Like Joe, he doesn't like to spend the money until after March when you start collecting taxes. Said one thing they would like is the residents to take more seriously are house numbers. It's very difficult to respond for Joe's guys and his guys to see the house numbers. Anything they can do for them to see the numbers easily is appreciated.

Mayor Baker said he just wanted to add that he appreciates what Joe and Jim have done. You are hoping for a new truck and we would like to get you one as soon as possible. Said Joe's guys are doing a tremendous job, they are out every day working hard.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to the public asking them to go to the podium and identify themselves and they have 5 minutes to talk.

Bill Moran, Walnut Street, said he was here to request their consideration for enhancement to the City Code as it relates to Section 183-4. Wants them to adopt a resolution which prohibits children as well as adults from playing sports on any street. It would be well worth their time to enact the resolution if it saves only 1 child's life. Said the street in front of his house has become a playground of sorts. Said there has been basketball, football, soccer, Frisbee, baseball and street hockey and they often use various ball return nets and a basketball hoop which add a sound wave in addition to bouncing balls to the area as they are hit. Said these regularly hit his house and cars. Said children disappear from view as they crawl under his vehicle to retrieve soccer balls. Said they play for 12 hours at a time and well into darkness screaming in excitement and using profanity. He has experienced trespass, mischief and vandalism on his property in retribution for him trying to stop this activity. Kids lay in the road in the dark throwing balls to one another. He can't move his car without figuring where each kid is located. Said he spoke to police, Comm. Hipwell, Mr. Holland, the kids and parents and little has

changed. Talked about the houses on the street and how he feels alone in trying to stop this nonsense. Said he hates his home and street having to listen to the same noise for the last 10 years. He wishes he had a neighborhood like the ones he sees when he travels about town. He wishes the city leaders would enact a prohibition on sports being played on major streets of Mechanicville as listed in the city code.

Comm. Seber asked for a copy of what he wrote for the record.

Dave Hicks, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, said there was supposed to be a report submitted by our city engineers on April 30<sup>th</sup> according to a resolution, has it been submitted, if yes, can they obtain a copy of it.

Comm. Seber said he needs to foil it.

Mr. Hicks asked if the city matches the re-planning grant and is it part of the 32.5k the fee for Barton & Loguidice.

Comm. Seber said it's about \$21,000. More discussion was held on this grant.

Mr. Hicks asked about the reservoir dredging.

Comm. Higgins said its part of the report.

Mr. Hicks said he asked them before about the letter they got from the state for the dredging and he never received a copy.

Mayor Baker said it's in his office.

Mr. Hicks said the dredging is going to be a large expense so there has to be a curtail in buying equipment because this stuff will run us right out. Something has to be done in the city; the taxpayers can't afford it because you will keep raising taxes, you are going to bankrupt everybody. Talked about water and overspending. Talked about the city's website, the city's sign, copiers and Esplanade Project. Asked if anyone looked into solar power.

Comm. Higgins said they have it on this building, DPW and others.

Jim Peluso said he has served as Chairman of the City's Veteran Organization Counsel for several years; he has a long working history in veteran's affairs. Said he was here tonight to request that the city relocate our city's veteran's monument to city property in Tallmadge Park. Gave a history on the monument. Said they want to continue their memorial services at a spot owned by the city without any jeopardy of losing it. Their next memorial service will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Said they also have a city veteran's memorial up at the National Cemetery by donations from citizens of the community.

Mayor Baker said he has been working on that.

Mike Mallory, Park Avenue, said he was here to talk about a phone call he got about a tractor trailer and boat parked on the street. Said he has a trailer parked on the street but it's a licensed vehicle, he does move and uses it regularly. Said Officer Sabula said you, Mayor Baker, said they can't

be parked on the street so he is looking for any recent law that has been passed that says that. Said summer is very short so he tries to take it every couple of weeks so it's not parked there that long.

Mayor Baker said there's not a lot of parking on streets.

Mr. Mallory said he will try to be mindful and keep it moved. Said he stores it from October to most of April. Said he's just trying to enjoy himself for the 3 months that they get.

Mayor Baker thanked him.

Kim Dunn, South Main Street, said she was pleasantly surprised to see the tonight's Agenda on the city's website, she hopes it continues. Said at April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting Res. No. 39-15 was passed to conduct a re-evaluation of real property in Mechanicville. She expressed her displeasure as well as her concern with the way it was handled. More discussion was held on this.

Leah Thoron representing the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Emergency Corp. and is also a resident of South and Third Avenue, said Jim mentioned that they are scheduled to be in the Station by June 15<sup>th</sup> and everything is on schedule. They will plan an open house and ribbon cutting in late June so everyone can come and see the station. Thanked them for their patience.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 47-15 AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS TO  
ISSUE CHECKS FROM THE HOUSING TRUST LOAN FUND  
CORPORATION

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 48-15 APPROVING BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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

Comm. Seber said on the next resolution they did a similar resolution following an eminent domain procedure. The city is undertaking on a very, very small piece of property owned by Theresa Timpanaro as it relates to the Francis Street Bridge Project. There were some flaws in the original resolution; because it's a legal matter the attorney advised us that we should redo the resolution.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 49-15 AMENDED AUTHORIZATION TO COMMENCE PROCEEDINGS  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THE EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEDURE LAW  
TIMPANARO PARCEL

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

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 50-15 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Mayor Baker said under new business it's a combination of both old business and new business. The blacktopping is done on Central Avenue, that's old business. New business is tomorrow morning starting at 6:00 a.m. they should be done before the morning traffic takes place, that's why they did it that early. Everything is done over there. Said the sidewalks have to be done. There should be no other great delay on Central Avenue. It's the County DOT.

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Gilheany, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.