

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Central Fire Station, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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

Chief Waldron led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 1, 2010 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said he has a resolution on the agenda today allowing the city to participate in the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan for the employees. Said Briana Canty is here from the Deferred Comp Group here to give a brief explanation of how it works.

Ms. Canty passed out brochures and said basically it's a supplemental retirement plan and is state sponsored. The state pays for it and the city doesn't. Said if they adopt it, it's a voluntary plan and all they have to do is send them the payroll deduction figures. Said there is no monetary responsibility, nothing has to be set up, it's a state plan. As she said there is no cost to the city, it's just something they can offer employees that are interested. Said they have a help line available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and 9 to 6 on Saturday. Said people are trained and they answer questions on your retirement accounts. Said people like her go out in the field and meet with people one on one to explain the plan. Said she doesn't work on commission, it's simply just a benefit that is offered through the state. Said she's on salary so it doesn't matter to her if they don't adopt it but she thinks it's a wonderful benefit to offer your employees. Said there are a wide variety of investment options. Said she basically does all the work. Said when she has employees in the plan, she sends out the flyers and does one to four visits for smaller agencies a year. As she said it's one on one, it's a great benefit and most retirement plans don't have that. Said pensions are never enough so that's why the state offers this benefit. Said the City of Mechanicville is one of two cities in the state that do not offer the deferred compensation plan so that's why she is here. Said she sent the resolution to Mark and it has to be adopted. Said that is pretty much it. Said she would like to know today if it passes because she thinks it's a good benefit.

Comm. Seber said if it was a pre-taxed benefit.

Ms. Canty said it was and the money grows fast in there.

Comm. Seber asked if they can put a variable amount of money in it.
Asked if you could put \$50.00 in this week and a \$100.00 the next check.

Ms. Canty said they can change it as many times as they want.

Comm. Seber said he put a resolution on for this because he thinks it's a good idea, it's a benefit that doesn't cost them anything. It's more for employees that anticipate being here a few years because it does need to grow over time.

Ms. Canty said it's like a 401K but the city doesn't match it.

Chief Waldron asked if she had September 20th open to meet with the police as they have a meeting that night.

Ms. Canty said she would meet with them.

Mayor Sylvester asked if part time employees could join it.

Ms. Canty said there are no minimum hours a person has to work to join whether it's part time or full time. Thanked them for letting her come here.

Mayor Sylvester said Dave said we still have the water restriction. Said if we don't get any snow this winter, next year will be a lot worse. Said it's been very quiet the last few weeks.

Comm. Seber said water bills will go out October 1st. Said when the state talks about downsizing, what they mean is they take a program and move it to another jurisdiction so on January 1st all cities and towns in the state that distribute dog licenses will now be responsible for doing their own dog licensing locally. Said that means buying the tags, the software, the data base, everything will have to be done locally. Said there will be a cost to that. Said their software company is working on the software. They have ordered the tags and things. Said a couple of city ordinances will have to be changed and they figure on doing this at the first meeting in November. Said there will also be a need to have rate increases to cover some of these expenses. Said right now the charge is \$2.50 and that will probably be doubled. Also the law requires that they charge an additional surcharge on this. Said this will be done by January 1st. Said he's sure everybody read about the situation down in Kinderhook where the city clerk walked off with a bunch of money. Said he thinks they need to review their safeguards towards this, not that we feel we are at risk but with the kind of structure we have here with 5 departments running almost independently even though it ends up in finance eventually. Said to protect the city from anything that may happen.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said the Mayor talked about the water ban. Said they did get grates on Park Avenue. Said they are waiting for 3 trees and then they will finish that off. Said the poles and the banners will be done next week.

Comm. Hipwell had nothing to report at this time.

Val Serbalik said the environmental easement for the Industrial Park was signed by the Mayor and was submitted to DEC. He asked for an executive session for a personnel matter.

Chief Waldron said it's quiet other than going through the budget with the finance office to develop the new budget.

Supervisor Richardson said he talked to June a few days ago and she submitted a bill to Rachel from Camoin Associates. Said there should be a check coming into the city for \$4,800. Said Angela and Gina helped them with that member item and we should be getting a check for \$32,000. Said also there will be a \$15,000 grant from the County for a vehicle for the Senior Center. Said a resolution was passed from the

county. Said we want to spend the \$20,000 this year to get the \$15,000 reimbursed. Said we have to do this this calendar year.

Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting to public comment. No one had anything.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 74-10 ADOPTION OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 75-10 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting to go into executive session at 3:20 p.m., seconded by Comm. Chauvin. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the executive session be closed at 4:10 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 4:12 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.