

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, September 1, 2010. Comm. Seber opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. as the Mayor would be here later.

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

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

Comm. Hipwell, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 4, 2010 be accepted as prepared.

Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said water meters are being read as we speak; bills go out October 1st. Said he got a letter from CDPHP, our health insurance company, informing us that in all likelihood our rates may go up anywhere from 11 and 15%. Said it will be a major effect on the budget, it will be over \$100,000 if that is the high end. Said hopefully it has been worked into the budget and hopefully they can talk to them and maybe it won't be quite that high but they are letting everyone know that the rate increase will be double digit this year. Said they have raised it 24% in the last two years so this just makes it worse because it compounds the whole thing so it will be very expensive.

Comm. Chauvin said he had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said the water ban is still in effect. Said it's not getting any better up there, it's getting worse so he wants everyone to keep in mind to not use the water outside. Said they will start fining people if they do.

Comm. Hipwell said his summer program is over after 9 weeks. Said 7 people did an outstanding job plus his secretary. Said Park Avenue Playground has cameras 24/7 up there. Said he's working with the Chief of Police in the police station on the cameras. Said August was a very tough month for the city with animals, cats and dogs. He thanked Joe Waldron and his department, his Animal Control Office Kathy Peluso, Dave Higgins and John Holland. Said the Tenendaho Playground has signs up there saying it opens at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 8:00p.m. Said they have a lot of problems up there at that playground. Said he's working with Chief Waldron and his people on that.

Mr. Serbalik requested an executive session on a personnel matter.

Chief Waldron said he agrees that Tenendaho Lane has been an issue of kids congregating. Said he walks and he made Tenendaho his route so he had the opportunity to walk down there and speak to a couple of parents. Said there were 16 or 17 kids there and they weren't out of control but they did immediately disperse when they saw him and he wasn't in uniform, just shorts. Said he started the precedent of being down there for his walks. Said police officers get out of their cars and go down there. Said it seems to be a lot quieter. Said they are doing everything they can to assist you Comm. Hipwell. It is being addressed. Said they have had burglaries where people break into a business or house. Said they've had 3 businesses broken into along Central Avenue where they took the money from the cash registers

that had money to start off the next day. Said they did get fingerprints and DNA evidence which they sent to the state lab for processing. Said they are exploring other tactics that he can't say in an effort to catch the person or persons. Said it's not just happening here, they are working with other departments on this. Said they've had 37 burglaries, 24 have been closed. Said 11 cases are still open and 2 were unfounded such as an ex-boyfriend or husband came back in the house and took the items that belonged to them. Also of the 37, 3 are from people on the border line of Alzheimer and misplaced things. Said they have begun going up and shaking doors, they did 1833 doors and they discovered 63 open doors. Said they are trying to do their best, they are educating business people saying they need to have their place well lit so they can see when they are driving by into your business and dead bolts are a preferable type of lock and don't keep a lot of cash there, take it home, make a deposit or whatever. They are doing everything in their power to catch the people. Said under the Department of Justice, Property and Reinvestment Act they were awarded \$20,515 for cameras to be put in the police cars. They are great because sometimes you get complaints of an officer doing this or that to them so now they will have the evidence right there and also they can monitor the back where the prisoner is. Said they were awarded \$7, 718 for seatbelt enforcement, child passenger safety seats initiative. They made an order for a 2010 Dodge Charger that will replace the 2006 Crown Victoria that they have that has 110,000 miles on it.

Comm. Seber asked if there was any movement for the hybrids in the city because it seems you get higher mileage with one at lower speeds in police cars.

Chief Waldron said they are making them but you have to remember that while the hybrid sounds nice and is great, if it's used in a pursuit, it will go nowhere. Said they are building things like the Dodge Charger for example, it has a V8 engine which we all know are gas hogs, however, this Dodge Charger will operate on a 4 Cylinder in city traffic so they will use a lot less fuel than they normally would use if they used a full power V8 engine. Said it will only kick in when it's necessary.

Comm. Seber said he was curious because most of their work is done at low speeds; obviously there are situations where you need to have the power.

Chief Waldron said he thinks that's a great cutting edge having a V8 engine but has it operate on 4 Cylinders during city traffic.

Supervisor Richardson said a couple of years ago the Revitalization Committee got a \$340,000 water grant which is a shared water grant with the Town of Stillwater and for the past year or so it's paid for their engineering fees and our engineers Barton & Loguidice and they have a plan that is finished. Said all the engineers took a look at 7 different options as far as bringing good water to the City of Mechanicville. One of the options was possibly link into the Saratoga County Water Authority. He's been speaking with Mike Rileau over to the Tech Park to try to get them to help us run water lines from Robinson Road, down George Thompson Road, down past the plant and eventually into the city. Talked about meetings he had regarding this. Said they are trying to figure out the best way to make sure the city always has enough water. Said he knows Dave has also been talking to people regarding this.

Comm. Higgins said he knows Anthony wanted to mention something that they have been working on for the last two years.

Chief Corrigan gave his report for August.

Comm. Seber said tonight they have a presentation by Gary Kaleppel, Professor of SUNY Albany.

Mr. Kaleppel thanked them for letting him speak tonight. Said he's been a Professor at SUNY Albany for many years and he's been studying philanthropy and is interested in the issue of suburban sprawl which is how to manage community growth to mitigate the impact of sprawl on our cultures and our natural resources so growth results with lower costs to communities. He is interested in creating tools and finding tools in the community to manage the growth to help them mitigate the problem associated with sprawl. Said one of the tools is TDR which is Transfer Development Rights which is a way for a community to manage or take control of where development occurs, how it occurs without curtailing positive development. Explained how communities have used TDR Program and how the program works and the rights of property owners to sell their land to developers who may be able to put 3 houses on 3 acres rather than just one which gives more value to the community because you are getting taxes. Said most communities are developing a TDR Program. Said in Mechanicville's case there is really no place to sell development but if they wanted to use the TDR Program so that communities around you can conserve land that would have a benefit to your community, explained how. Said for the first time in 35 years he has taken a sabbatical to work with planners, lawyers and Mayors to begin thinking about a new way of doing things for development. Said he just wanted to tell them about this, see what you think about it and he would like to work with them. Said to call him at his home phone number 861-5280 if something comes up. Said not to hesitate to call him. Asked what they thought.

Comm. Seber said he gave them a lot of stuff. Said we are a very small city. Said there is some development that will happen over the next year or so in the north side of town so that's a good thing. Said we have 26 acres of industrial park that is a Brownfield unfortunately. Said they are trying to fix it up so that someday we may be able to develop that as well. Said beyond that development in this town is on a 50 x 100 ft. building lot. Said he doesn't know what he does but we really don't have the land so that's the problem.

More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber asked if anyone had any questions. No one did. He thanked Mr. Kaleppel.

At this time Mayor Sylvester came in.

Mayor Sylvester said they were turned down for the NYS CDBG for housing rehab. Said they are giving them an opportunity to go down and find out why and what we did wrong. Said hopefully we do better the next time around. Opened up the meeting to public comment.

Nick Izzo, Mulberry Street, said comm. Higgins said the water situation is getting worse. Said they talked about other things to help with our water and he wanted to know when, now, next month, next year.

Supervisor Richardson said within the next couple of years.

Comm. Higgins said every time it rains people think the ban is lifted but it isn't, it hasn't gotten any better.

Mayor Sylvester read a Proclamation on Constitution Week.

Comm. Higgins read RES. NO. 70-10 HIRING DAVE FUSCO AS
MOTOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR AT DPW

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 71-10 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE
PURCHASING SPARE BUS FROM MATTHEWS
BUSES Inc.

Comm. Seber said this is under state contract and they received from the county a \$15,000 grant to put towards this bus which they have to spend before the first of the year. Said they can purchase it by putting \$30,000 down, depending on how the budget goes to pay it or they can use a 3 year installment purchase plan which they will have to pay which they will have to pay around \$10,300 a year, those are the options.

Comm. Hipwell said the bus will be ours and we can take it out of town.

Comm. Seber said that was the complaint because of the funding on the trolley we can't leave the city with it. Said not only is the new bus a backup but it can take people to the National Cemetery or to the mall or a restaurant or something along those lines. So it gives us flexibility.

Supervisor Richardson wanted to thank Comm. Hipwell for all the work he has done.

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 72-10 FINANCE DEPARTMENT
AUTHORIZED TO HIRE CUSACK &
COMPANY, CPA'S LLC FOR ACCOUNTING
AND AUDITING SERVICES

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 73-10 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 at 7:46 p.m. to go into executive session, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the executive session be close to re-open the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Mayor Sylvester, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.