

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

Eileen Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- Present
	Commissioner Gilheany	- Absent
	Commissioner Higgins	- Present
	Commissioner Hipwell	- Present
	Commissioner Seber	- Present

Commissioner Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Hipwell, moved that the Minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting be accepted as prepared.

Roll Call:	Affirmative	- All
	Negative	- None

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Reports. The bridges are on schedule for completion. They are doing a good job. The only item that may not be done on Main Street is the top coat of blacktop. If the black top plant is closed during the winter. Other than that we are on time.

I also received a letter from the Connors Group. They were thanking us for their relationship with the City. Mayor Baker read the letter. They were awarded Business of the Year. They have been in business here for 61 years.

Commissioner Seber: The Connors Group have been excellent citizens.

Mayor Baker: I agree.

Commissioner Seber: We opened the bids October 30<sup>th</sup> for the Route 67 bridge. Three companies bid on the project. Probably in December we will be awarding the bid. We will then go through the process with DOT. We want to make sure that everything is right with DOT. About \$2,050,000. 95% DOT refundable - 5% of that the City. The reason for bidding now is to be ready for spring to get right to work. We have had complications.

I will report for Commissioner Gilheany, who is absent tonight, that there will be a budget workshop on Thursday, November 12, 6:30, at the Senior Center. We will be using the small room, as more comfortable.

We need to have an Executive Session, after the meeting, to talk about the water contract with Saratoga County. It should not be too long. We have a draft contract.

We had five people pay on their 2012 outstanding taxes. Fourteen on the list and now twelve; we are heading in the right direction.

I want to personally congratulate Michelle Duell, Tom Richardson and Joe Sheehan for being elected yesterday. We will keep you in the loop.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Hipwell?

Commissioner Hipwell: I have two things. November is here. If you want to sign up to ring the bell for the holidays for the Salvation Army, call my office between 9 and 4 and talk with Stephanie.

If you want your family to be adopted for the holidays, call the Community Center first. We will meet with them to choose the families. That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Higgins?

Commissioner Higgins: I do not have anything.

Mayor Baker: Mr. Serbalik?

Attorney Serbalik: Closing on two properties tomorrow at 3:30: Elizabeth Street property and the New York Avenue property. That is it.

Mayor Baker: Chief Waldron?

Chief Waldron: The officers will be at an emergency operation course over the next two weeks. The new car is here. Finally the recruit that is in the Academy is doing very well. You will see him riding around in the new car soon. That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Supervisor Tom Richardson is not here and Fire Chief Corrigan is not here. So, we are open to public comment. Identify yourself and you have five minutes.

Dave Hicks, 239 First Avenue: There are a few problems here. I thought we had all this taken care of? It is not unusual to be transferring. Why the extra expenses?

Commissioner Seber: It is not extra expenses, it is transferring from one account to another.

Dave Hicks: I thought we had that straightened out ahead of time.

Mayor Baker: We saved a lot of money on the copiers this year.

Mr. Hicks: Is there a way I can get some paperwork on that to see the difference between the old and the new copiers? I have asked that before.

Mark Seber: Once we have a year's experience, we will be able to budget closer.

Mr. Hicks: Okay. Assessor needs some help. Why does the Assessor need help? I thought we hired someone to do all this work?

Commissioner Seber: Additional help for up to \$500. She is in transition from the old system in her office, that is all paper, and the new system, which is more of a computerized system. Basically, it is to be sure everything is documented in anticipation of a lot more work because of the revaluation. It is only for a couple of weeks. She needed the help and it is only part time. It is \$500 out of her budget. \$500 she did not spend on some computer equipment, conference expenses and we reallocated to give her some help for a couple of weeks.

Mr. Hicks: The bridge on Main Street. I was told that part of the building was supported on the old bridge. Now it is off by itself or whatever. Who is funding that? It is not ours.

Mayor Baker: It is part of the project. They are putting a piling under it to keep it straight because it was hooked on to it.

Mr. Hicks: What is the scoop on the garbage pickup? You could not find anyone cheaper?

Mayor Baker: Nobody is bidding. We are already out of our contract. We do not want to be stuck with garbage piling up.

Mr. Hicks: Ok. What is the reason why no one else wants to bid?

Mayor Baker: They do not bid.

Commissioner Seber: One company wants 4 months after you open the bid, to begin collecting. We still would not have a contract.

Commissioner Higgins: The next time we go out to bid we should consider going out to bid a year ahead. No other company would bid on it because of time constraints, getting equipment, getting the garbage cans, and everything they need.

Mr. Hicks: Who is responsible for waiting so long to go out to bid in the first place?

Commissioner Seber: I am.

Mr. Hicks: So what do you attribute that to?

Commissioner Seber: Every year it is a month or six weeks before it is due, we go out to bid.

Mr. Hicks: Do you realize what has happened now? Put us in a box.

Commissioner Seber: I honestly do not know if it did or not.

Mr. Hicks: You said we had a problem because they brought in the containers. Is that it? Has anybody looked at the price of supplying the city with containers?

Mayor Baker: Yes, very expensive. Probably one of the reasons why no one is bidding.

Commissioner Higgins: We did look at it and it was \$70-\$80 a can. I believe.

Mr. Hicks: It does not sound right. I will research that and come up with some numbers for you. That's it.

Mayor Baker: Thank You.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street : We are not taking mattresses – right? TV's, Monitors, furniture and appliances?

Commissioner Higgins: We are not taking mattresses. TV's cost \$20 and Monitors \$10. We still take furniture and appliances at no cost.

Kim Dunn: The water contract?

Commissioner Seber: We are hoping to hear in December on the grant. We can negotiate a deal with the county on the water and Stillwater on the infrastructure costs. We have not agreed to anything or signed anything.

Kim Dunn: How will you proceed, if you do not get the grant?

Commissioner Seber: Hopefully in the next month we will hear something on the grant.

Mayor Baker: If we do not get a grant we do not proceed.

Kim Dunn: Bus operation. Why are we paying overtime?

Commissioner Hipwell: For a time, we did not have a backup driver. We now have a backup driver, so there will be no more overtime.

Mayor Baker: Anyone else have a public comment?

Dave Hicks: Who owns all the bridges when done?

Mayor Baker: Hopefully, we can turn them all over to the County, if they accept them. If they don't, we own them.

Kim Dunn: Main Street and Frances Street?

Mayor Baker: Turn them over to the County, if the county will take them.

Mayor Baker: Public comment is closed. Resolutions?

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 81-15:

REMOVAL OF RUBBLISH AND RECYCLABLES BIDS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded By: Mayor Baker

Roll Call: Mayor Baker Yes

Commissioner Seber Yes

Commissioner Higgins: Yes, but not happy about it.

Commissioner Hipwell: Before I vote, I agree with Dave, I am not happy about it. But with the City in a bind, I vote yes, but not happy about it.

Commissioner Seber: We took \$140,000 off the original bid when negotiating with these guys. It was \$140,000 higher than it is now. I also agree. None of us like it.

Commissioner Higgins: I looked at all the different options and there is none. The next time we bid, we go out a year earlier. Our hands are kind of tied.

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 110-15

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Seber

Seconded By: Commissioner Hipwell

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 111-15

2015 TRANSFERS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Seber

Seconded By: Commissioner Higgins

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 112-15

PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded By: Mayor Baker

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Mayor Baker: Any new business? Any Old Business?

We need a motion to go into Executive Session. There will be no action taken when we come out of the Executive Session.

Introduced By: Commissioner Hipwell

Seconded By: Commissioner Higgins

Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

That's it. Thank You.



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November 1, 2015

Mayor Dennis M. Baker  
Members of the City Council  
City of Mechanicville  
36 North Main Street  
Mechanicville, N.Y. 12118

Dear Mayor Baker and Council Members:

I write today to express my sincere appreciation as well as the thanks and appreciation of my family, for the role that you played in recognizing our company for 60-years of continuous service in the Mechanicville area business community at the 2015 Mechanicville-Stillwater Economic Summit.

The award and recognition I received is among the highlights of my professional life. I was grateful to be recognized by my friends and colleagues in the business community and especially pleased that Mayor Baker was available to read on her behalf, U.S. Senator Gillibrand's letter of congratulations and best wishes.

As my son Kevin stated, Mechanicville is where we were born, where we raised our families, educated our children and operated a successful insurance and real estate business, now in our 61<sup>st</sup> year! We wouldn't have had it any other way!

Please convey my personal thanks and appreciation to the Members of the City Council and to Supervisor Tom Richardson at your very next opportunity. And don't ever hesitate to call on us, if we can assist you or City Government at any time or in any way.

Best Regards to All!

Sincerely,



John H. Connors

JHC:mcc