

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, July 7, 2010. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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

Judy DiVirgilio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Higgins, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 2, 2010 and the special meeting of June 10, 2010 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester read his correspondence:

- 1.) MHS Football Booster Club requested a tag day on August 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Council okayed it.
- 2.) Memo from the Census Bureau stating that a census enumerator will be phoning or visiting some people in the city to double check on the accuracy of the data they provided to make sure that they are getting a complete picture of everyone living in the household. Please be kind and cooperate with their Quality Assurance Employees.
- 3.) Mechanicville Area Chamber of Commerce inviting the Mayor and Council to participate in the August 14th procession for the Italian Feast after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- 4.) Mechanicville Area Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to close Park Avenue from TD Bank to Railroad Street for the Fall Festival and City Wide Garage Sale on September 25th as they are expanding the activities on Park Avenue.
- 5.) A private citizen wanted permission to close off 6th street for a party but they had to refuse her on the advice of our attorney as this would be something we could not control and the liability.

Comm. Seber said on August 2nd they will be conducting a sale of tax delinquent property. Said there are 6 properties, 4 owe back taxes in 2005, 3 are residential, there is one vacant lot and the old D'Amico Bottling which they had an environmental study done on as there were environmental concerns and it came back clean. Said the owners have an opportunity to redeem until August 2nd. Said tonight is the first of two public hearings on the CDBG Microenterprise Program which the city intends to apply for through the Office of Community Renewal, NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation. The second hearing will be held on July 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the fire house. Normally they don't have two meetings in the summer but because of the time frame to get the application in, they are holding this special meeting. Said on August 10th there will be a demonstration on the new voting machines, they are going to electronic voting machines. Said the voting inspectors had their training and it doesn't seem to be too bad.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said they have a water restriction on and it will be in effect until the reservoir goes back up; they have lost 30" and will run out of water without the restriction on use. His department will be done paving on Friday.

Comm. Hipwell said tomorrow and Friday, due to the heat wave, anyone can come here to the center to cool off. Said he had complaints about kids playing basketball in the streets. Said it isn't allowed and thanked Chief Waldron and his people for helping him out. Said July 10th the Park Avenue Playground will be closed to prepare for the 2 on basketball tournament. Thanked Kathy Peluso, the animal control officer, and the Mechanicville Police Department who were very busy with animals in the city.

Mayor Sylvester called upon Joe Maloney from the Canal Corporation.

Mr. Maloney said he came here looking for a resolution by the city recommending navigational dredging of the Hudson River/Champlain Canal but it was already passed last month. Said there is an ongoing need for navigational dredging of the waterway. Said GE's remedial project does not focus on navigation so it will ultimately provide limited improvement of the river for navigational purposes so hindering related economic development opportunities in the region. Said the Canal Corporation analysis indicates that the current GE remediation project will address less than 15% of the navigational dredging needs in the Champlain Canal. Said the remaining 85% of the required navigational dredging would presumably have to be conducted by the Canal Corporation at great cost. Talked about the fact that the GE has constructed a facility that can process the dredged contaminated sediments and by conducting additional navigational dredging during the remedial project, GE can take advantage of this facility to process the extra sediments at

minimal cost. Said the future reuse of the GE processing facility is an important economic development issue for the region but without navigational dredging being conducted by GE, the facility will be of limited use to commercial shipping due to restrictions in the Canal channel. A possible reuse of the facility is to continue its use as a sediment processing facility during navigation dredging after GE completes the remedial project but unfortunately this would delay the economic reuse of the property for another 10 years. Said the best solution right now is for GE to conduct navigational dredging during the current remediation project. Said that is the big issue in a nutshell. More discussion was held on this.

Mayor Sylvester thanked him for coming and said he hoped they can get this project done.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:24 p.m. to go into the public hearing regarding the intentions of the City to apply for a CDBG Microenterprise Program through the Office of Community Renewal, NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester introduced Sandra Governor of Barton & Loguidice to explain the program.

Ms. Governor said that they are putting in for a grant for the City of Mechanicville. She had drafts of the proposal and said at the next hearing they should have had a chance to look at the draft if anyone had any input or questions. Said the total amount of funds available this year is 14 million. Said the program falls into three categories, economic development for one business is up to \$750,000; for small businesses 25 to \$100,000 per business and microenterprise for very small businesses with 5 or more employees including the owner and the maximum amount of grant per community is \$200,000. Said this would be 16 to \$20,000 to serve about 10 businesses. Said the city did a survey and collected 50 survey forms from micro businesses; submitted a form to the Office of Community Renewal and got a formal invitation to apply for the grant on June 4th giving the city 60 days to submit the application which is August 7th. Said they worked up individual grants between 5 and \$35,000 with some business owners saying they could supply more money to it. Said the grants would be on a case by case process and they will hold small business training program for those that intend to be part of the program. Said a criteria of the program is the creation or retention of jobs that benefit low and moderate income persons whose eligibility levels are posted on the website. The owners of the business have to generate jobs for low income individuals. Said if an owner has been in business awhile, they have to show why they aren't able to finance themselves. If someone wants to open up a business and hire people, some additional documentation is needed if they have been there awhile, in business less than 5 years and struggling would be the focus of the program and by filling empty stores in Mechanicville and hiring income eligible people. Said this is a grant program rather than a loan program, the city doesn't have to provide a match, it's up to the owner of the business to come up with 10%. The funds can only be used for acquisition of real property, financing of equipment, working capital and training expenses. Said anyone is invited to make written comments to the Mayor and come to the next meeting and voice their comments or ask questions.

Comm. Seber said the administration cost comes out of the grant; it doesn't come out of the city.

Ms. Governor said Camoin will do the administering and that have an ongoing relationship with the city, they have experts that will handle it and it will be under 25%. They will do all the reports, forms, program delivery costs and working with the businesses. Said \$10,000 will be used for a training program which will be run through the Chamber of Commerce, Camoin and SEDC. Explained all the things Camoin would do before the program starts. Said the training has to happen before the person received the grant.

Mayor Sylvester asked if anyone had any questions. No one did. Said if anyone in the audience has a business or wants to open one, this is a good program. Thanked Ms. Governor for her presentation.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the public hearing to re-open the regular meeting at 7:34 p.m., seconded by Comm. Chauvin. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said public meeting on removing the fire truck from Strang will be held on August 2nd at 7:00 p.m. as it wasn't published for this meeting. They want to give people an opportunity to voice their opinions, especially the West Side.

Dave DeMarco, Hulin Street, said he doesn't get the reverse 911 and 3 or 4 others don't. Said it may have something to do with Time Warner.

Chief Waldron said it could be number changes.

Mr. DeMarco said he had the same number for 20 years.

Chief Waldron said the county is in negotiations with a new supplier to do reverse 911. Said he will look into it.

Mr. DeMarco asked if all the silt was cleaned from the reservoir.

Comm. Higgins said a lot has been done but not all of it. Said the reservoir has dropped a foot.

Mr. DeMarco said the pumping station stinks.

Comm. Higgins said it's not ours, it's the county's.

Mr. DeMarco asked if the Esplanade is getting a tax break.

Mayor Sylvester said they haven't done anything yet.

Mr. DeMarco said if they get IDA approval we will be seeing less money on that project.

Comm. Seber said they haven't gone to the IDA yet. Said now because it won't be built in stages but all at once, 225 apartments and 3500 sq. ft. of retail space, it will have some positive financial impact on the city and the city will realize a \$90,000 building permit.

Mr. DeMarco said regarding moving the fire truck from Strang, they have a written letter from the Mayor saying there will always be a fire truck in that station. Said he understands he is getting pressure from his chiefs but he cares about the residents in the city and they should be protected there. Said if there is a train, there will be a loss of time

Mayor Sylvester said no one has made any decisions here. Said that's why they didn't have it tonight because it wasn't advertised and many people don't about it so that's why they will hold it at the August 2nd meeting.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 60-10 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR
TO ENTER INTO AND EXTEND THE INTERMUNICIPAL
AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF STILLWATER TO PURCHASE
WATER

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 61-10 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE AWARDDING THE
BID FOR FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT TO FIRETRAC OF TROY,
NY AT A COST OF \$161,583.00

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

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 62-10 CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTS THE DOCK
DOCTORS PROPOSAL FOR THE KAYAK LAUNCH AND
AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO SIGN ANY/ALL RELATED
DOCUMENTS

Introduced by Comm. Hipwell seconded by Mayor Sylvester.

Roll Call: Mayor Sylvester – yes
Comm. Seber - yes
Comm. Chauvin - yes
Comm. Higgins - no
Comm. Hipwell - yes

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 63-10 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE AWARDDING THE
BID TO THE DOCK DOCTORS IN THE AMOUNT OF

\$31,900

TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY DOCK

Introduced by Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell.

Roll Call: Mayor Sylvester – yes
Comm. Seber - yes
Comm. Chauvin - yes
Comm. Higgins - no
Comm. Hipwell - yes

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 64-10 THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE RESOLVES
TO APPROVE THE STEWARDSHIP PLAN FOR THE HISTORIC
SARATOGA WASHINGTON ON THE HUDSON PARTNERSHIP

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

Comm. Seber waived the reading of RES. NO. 65-10 SEQRA RESOLUTION FOR
ESPLANADE PROJECT due to the length of the resolution (17 pages) and the fact that everyone has a copy of it.

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 65-10 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No new or old business.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m., seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.