

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
NOVEMBER 18, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:01 P.M.
Chief Corrigan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Commissioner Seber, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, moved that the Minutes of the November 4, 2015 meeting be accepted as prepared:

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	Yes
	Commissioner Seber	Yes
	Commissioner Gilheany	Abstain
	Commissioner Higgins	Yes
	Commissioner Hipwell	Yes

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Reports. I am up first. I was away for a few days, so I tried to run around and find out about everything today. The bridge on Main Street is definitely on time. They are going to pour cement this Friday, if weather and everything permits. On target for the end of December to be done except for the top coat of the blacktop. We will have a rough coat until spring because the plant will be closed by the time they are ready for it. Probably, not sure of that yet.

The bridge on Round Lake Avenue is going to open December 4th. It is done, essentially, but they have not been able to get the guard rails and that is what the holdup is up there. So, when the guard rails get here and they will put them up. They have a target of the 4th and they are going to leave it at that.

I am going to add something that is not something that we usually talk about but I just want you all to know that my secretary has been out for a couple of months now and she hopefully wants to come back. We are waiting to find out what is going on but she has some issues and if she can get them in line, she will be back. Everybody keeps asking me and that is all I know. I understand it is personal business and I don't want to pry into personal business but I do want you to know that she does call me from time to time. I tell her people are asking for her and she is very thankful. That is all I have.

Commissioner Seber: Just a couple of quick things. First of all we are adding a Resolution 117-2015. Also, we need an Executive Session to talk about personnel matters after this. That's it.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Gilheany?

Commissioner Gilheany: Just a reminder there is a budget workshop tomorrow night here at the Senior Center at 6:30. That's it.

Mayor Baker: Okay. Commissioner Higgins?

Commissioner Higgins: I do not have anything. I was going to tell about the bridges as I went to the meeting yesterday. They are also going to pour concrete sidewalks next Wednesday.

Mayor Baker: The deck is going to get poured Friday, if everything is fine weather wise?
Thank You. Commissioner Hipwell?

Commissioner Hipwell: The only thing that I got is that I need more volunteers for ringing the bell. The Holiday season is here. Starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Please call my office.

Mayor Baker: Mr. Serbalik?

Attorney Serbalik: Nothing, Mayor.

Mayor Baker: Supervisor Richardson – No. Chief Waldron – No. Chief Corrigan?

Fire Chief Corrigan: I will try and make it brief. As of November 4th, we have answered 548 calls for service. We are about even for our call line in 2014. We did have training with NYSEG at their new natural gas facility. I would like to report back to the citizens that I was very impressed with some of the safety features that is built into this facility that are above and beyond DOT regulations. Safety regulations, where drivers cannot drive away with it connected. They have so many safety features built into this facility, we should all feel safe operating. It is no more dangerous than someone putting gasoline in their car, at this point. It was very good training.

We did get our new rescue truck. Our first call where we really used the rescue tools on the overpass the other day. It was a very successful operation because we have these new tools, we were able to get this person out of the car very quickly. So any money we spent on our rescue truck has already started to pay for itself; so that was a good thing.

EMS, Clifton Park and us , are still answering all calls. We actually had a reversal. A mid-40 year old female in cardiac arrest doing CPR. Full reversal is in good condition today because of the work of the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad together. That is a rare event. We are very happy that this happened just to prove that our program works with us responding with the Rescue Squad, even though they are here in town.

Working with the Commissioners on a budget. I know we always ask for a lot. We are appreciative of what we get while all we really want to do is serve the citizens as best possible keeping our safety in mind and their safety. Not to forget the sacrifice our families make, when we are away on fire calls.

The only other update is the siren. It did ship to a facility in Albany and we are just waiting. Mayor Baker has been all over NYSEG about getting this pole installed quicker than they have been promising. The Mayor has been bird dogging these guys and I thank him for that.

Mayor Baker: They tell me it is going to be in before the end of the month. That is the target we have right now.

Chief Corrigan: Thank you, Dennis.

Mayor Baker: We are open to Public Comment. Five minutes. Stand and identify yourself clearly because we are having a little difficulty identifying some of the people. I am not but I am use to the mouth, so go ahead.

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue: I see Cumberland Farms is having people come around there to make a test for a possible purchase of the property or have they purchased it? I see people from Cumberland Farms has been poking around down on First at different buildings and drilling. Do you have any of the timeframe or what the whole project is?

Mayor Baker: I got a message from someone else, but I had already checked with them about two weeks ago. According to the Manager in the store on Central Avenue, there has been no confirmation of any work at all. I hear rumors from everybody, but nothing has been confirmed.

Dave Hicks: If you go down there, you will actually see the rumors come alive.

Mayor Baker: That is fine, but they haven't come to the Planning Board, they haven't come to the Zoning Board, they haven't come before anybody in the City.

Dave Hicks: That is what I was trying to find out. Okay. Resolution 114-15. It says to City of Mechanicville, Project Delivery. What is that basically? Is that a fee that the City collects for administering the fees or what?

Commissioner Seber: Yes

Dave Hicks: Okay. What is the 4 grand down at the bottom for administration fees?

Commissioner Seber: They are different projects. You get so much per project, than you get an overall amount too. What happens is, Commissioner Higgins, John Howland, our Building Inspector, and Gina Keyon, who works up in CDC in the Building office, they put a lot of time into this program. They document their time and their time is reimbursed by this grant. So, any hours they spend on this grant, the State then reimburses through this grant, for their time. That is part of that. There is so much you get per house or per project and then there is an amount that they send you to compensate for their time as well.

Dave Hicks: Okay. What is lead audit for the Dragonette project?

Commissioner Seber: That is lead audit. You need to have for each project a lead abatement and a weatherization, before you can do it.

Dave Hicks: Okay. That is all for now.

Mayor Baker: Thank you.

Commissioner Seber: I can clarify it at \$3,999.99. Also, Camoin Associates administers the Program for us and they get paid \$1,333.33 a month to do the Program for us. They do most of the paperwork and most of the submittals. Jodie just told me that is three months of their fees. So, that's what that administrative cost is for; the Camoin bill.

Dave Hicks: At \$3,999.99

Commissioner Seber: \$1,333.33 a month and for three months it is \$3,999.99.

Mayor Baker: Go ahead Kim, sorry.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street: Mark are you going to give us a copy of that Resolution for us.

Commissioner Seber: I don't have copies, but I sent it around. Basically, we sold two city parcels on October 5. One on New York Avenue and one on Elizabeth Street, the vacant property on Elizabeth Street to a Stephen Streeter and Susan MacNeil; however, after the sale it was indicated to us that they actually have a corporation that they wanted this in.

Working through Val's office, we are not comfortable just changing it arbitrarily from a name to a corporation, so all this does is put it in the corporation's name. The same sale, the same amount, the same everything else. It just takes it from them as individuals into their corporation.

Kim Dunn: When you bid at auction, don't you have to fill out paperwork that says who you are?

Commissioner Seber: You have a receipt, but yes, this is not unusual. We have had people change it into their kids' name. They are the principals. We have documentation that they are the principals in this corporation. It was more of a technical thing but we did not feel comfortable just doing it arbitrarily so we decided to do it by Resolution.

Dave Hicks: Was that New York Avenue?

Commissioner Seber: New York Avenue and Elizabeth Street; the old Tancredi's property.

Kim Dunn: Also, you talked about the Main Street bridge on Schedule. Can't wait. That light is out tonight. I don't know if someone turned the light on or the light bulb blew out for the walking bridge. The light they have down there. So, it is really dark.

For the Francis Street bridge, I know it is going to be ongoing until spring time or whatever, but when they reopen North Main Street, as you drive by there, I am sure you guys have noticed that everything sticks way out. Are they going to be able to clean it up a bit before they reopen the road, or?

Mayor Baker: It will still be lined the way it is now. They had to change the lines so they have an area there to work in. That will not change but you will still be able to get down through. There are two lanes there.

Kim Dunn: Right. Going through there now there is no traffic so you can go nice and slow. I got concerned.

Mayor Baker: You can still go slow even when it is open.

Kim Dunn: Also, something Chief Corrigan said, that they are now answering all EMS calls. I just wanted to clarify that as I thought before, it was only certain status of EMS calls?

Chief Corrigan: It is all calls.

Kim Dunn: Okay. One last question, the Resolution to appoint someone to the Planning Board. I was wondering who resigned and what is the process to get on a Committee? I have asked a few times and all of a sudden I see people getting appointed to Committees.

Mayor Baker: I appoint to those committees. Not to all committees, but that one is mine. Keith Johnson is being appointed to take the spot of Joel DePeaux, because Joel is no longer available in the hours that they meet. He works evenings now. I talked with Joel and told him I felt bad that he was leaving. He did bring a good side to the Board but he hasn't made a meeting in a year, so I had to change it. But, that is why.

Kim Dunn: Okay. So, is there an application I can fill out so that I can be on something? Get my name through? I have asked repeatedly.

Mayor Baker: You told me and I will consider you, when I have the right job for you, Kim.

Kim Dunn: Let's see. I can read between the lines. Okay, just curious.

Mayor Baker: You can't, you just think you can.

Kim Dunn: Oh no, I can, trust me.

Mayor Baker: No you can't. Next? Anybody? Scott? Okay, then we will go to Resolutions.

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 113-15

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KEITH JOHNSON TO THE PLANNING/ZONING BOARD:

Unexpired is that they started the Term. It expires on August 31st. It was from September 1st of 2015 to August 31st of 2016. He is serving the balance of the term.

Introduced By: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded By: Commissioner Seber
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 114-15

AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS TO ISSUE CHECKS FROM THE HOUSING TRUST FUND \$400,000 GRANT:

Introduced By: Mayor Baker
Seconded By: Commissioner Gilheany
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

This is really the end of this particular program. We rarely take care of 16 properties and do a lot of work on them. It has been a good program and I know has been a lot of work for a lot of people. We have an application for another grant, very similar. Hopefully, we will get that and be able to help another 15 or 16 homeowners.

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 115-2015

TO APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFER THAT ARE LISTED. THIS IS ROUTINE, JUST MOVING MONEY FROM ONE ACCOUNT TO ANOTHER.

Introduced By: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded By: Commissioner Hipwell
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 116-2015

TO APPROVE PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded By: Commissioner Higgins
Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER SEBER: READ RESOLUTION 117-2015

TWO PARCELS OF PROPERTY THAT WERE HELD AT AUCTION OCTOBER 5, 2015:

Introduced By: Commissioner Seber
Seconded By: Commissioner Hipwell
Roll Call: Ayes: 4 Nays: 1-Gilheany

Mayor Baker: New business. Mark you have some new business you got today.

Commissioner Seber: Back in 2010 the City was awarded a \$250,000 grant to do some work from North Main, from the bridge being replaced now to Williams Street to do sidewalk improvements, new lighting, street scape. Those types of things along the way; however, at the time it was a 50-50 match. We just did not have \$250,000 to match it so we sort of put it way on the back burner.

We were notified a couple of months ago that we are going to be allowed to use our match of the bridge project, which is in the \$300,000 range, as a match towards this project. So, it will cost the City nothing out of pocket; however, when we went to restart the Grant, we discovered that the Grant lapsed in 2013 – it ended. We reapplied to the State for an extension to the Grant. We got a notification yesterday, actually, that we have an extension to the Grant through June of 2017 to do the work along Main Street.

Again, it is no cost out of pocket because our match is met by our contribution to the bridge project. There is already a design. We did designs initially when we had this Grant initially so the design is in place. We are working with Eli & Company, which is a company out of Saratoga, that we hired many years ago to do this project. I communicated with them today. They are going to start preparing the specifications so we can go to bid on this project and hopefully, in the spring, we can get this work done. It should enhance Main Street quite dramatically.

Commissioner Higgins: I don't remember, Mark, but would that be blacktop too? I don't think it was, was it?

Commissioner Seber: No. But at the time, you might remember, Dave, you were talking with NYSEG about how they were going to run those medium pressure lines down through Main Street. That ended, I guess. They were going to do the blacktopping for us at the time, but that did not work out. So, no, it does not.

That is what I have.

Mayor Baker: But, we will see what happens with cost. Maybe there will be some money to put towards blacktop.

Old Business? Nobody?

December 7, 6:30 P.M., there is a Pearl Harbor Day service at Fred Clark American Legion Post on South Main Street. They wanted to make sure that I let you people know about it. It is open to the public.

What I talked about a little bit before the meeting, the CP Holiday Train, that use to go to Saratoga. I never went to it and I know my wife took my grandkids there once, the train comes decorated with Christmas lights, they have a box car that the door opens up on, and they have entertainment in it. Bands and whatever. It is going to be there for a half hour and any funds they collect that night, the donations, are going to be for the Food Bank. That is on the 28th, 6:00-6:30 P.M. That's it.

I will entertain a motion to adjourn and go into an Executive Session and I will let you know that we will not be taking any action after the Executive Session.

Introduced By: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded By: Commissioner Hipwell

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Thank you everybody.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:00 P.M.: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded By: Commissioner Hipwell

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0