

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
DECEMBER 2, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

Amanda Proper 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 Higgins, seconded by Commissioner Hipwell, moved that the Minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting be accepted as prepared:

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

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Reports:

Mayor's Report: I think good news. A week from Friday, the Main Street Bridge will be opening. Obviously, it is not all done. The bridge is done, so you can drive on it. But, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the spring, and that's when it will be done. The press is not here, but I was going to say when you put it in the paper, you let them know it is going to close again in the spring. Might be for a week, but they do not know yet. Depends upon what they have to do.

We are also going to be doing work; hopefully, in the spring, on the sidewalk scape on Main Street. That will cause some difficulties too, but, it won't be as bad.

I wanted to talk about the Holiday Train that came to town the other night. It's the train that has gone to Saratoga for years. There was a sale of railroad property that now made it available to us. It has been tentatively said that we will be having them back again next year, as it is an annual thing. Hopefully, they do not sell more property and that changes between now and then. There was a very nice crowd of people. It had the Community Center and the ELKS Club involved in it. Obviously, the ELKS, we used their property but they also opened up their bathrooms to people who were out in the lot, etc.

The Community Center, because they are part of the Food Bank for the City, I had them involved. They collected a check from the Railroad for \$3,500. They collected from people that were there. What they had asked was that people bring non-perishable items. We got a truck load of those. There was a pickup truck that was full in the back, the back seat was full, the passenger seat was full, and people that didn't bring product, went over and gave \$5.00 or a couple of bucks, whatever they could afford. They collected \$400 cash that night. It went well, but we are going to try and organize it even better for next year. We really didn't know what to expect this year and it was more than we expected. So, with that I will go to Commissioner Seber.

Commissioner Seber: Our December 16 meeting will be fairly busy. We have to schedule three Public Hearings. The first Public Hearing will be on the budgets – Water, General and Sewer. Then I guess we vote on the budget that night, I hope.

Second Public Hearing is to amend Section 35 of the City Code. We did this about maybe about two months ago. It was to do with the taxable status date; however, when we submitted our language to the State, they were not happy with the language that has been in our Code for a hundred years. So, we had to make some changes to the language. Nothing has really changed except that we had to clean up the language a little bit. But, according to Val, we have to go through the whole process again to amend the City Code. So, that will be on the Agenda.

Also, we were notified yesterday that we have received, and I cannot say that we have officially received the money yet, because we haven't. We applied for a grant/loan through the United States Department of Agriculture for the fire truck. The way it works, is that you put a pre-application in, they review it and then they tell you whether to go ahead and put the real or final application in. We were notified yesterday that tentatively we are going to be granted a \$40,000 grant and then what we do, is we borrow the balance through a bond through the USDA. But, we have to make application for the full grant application. To do that, we need a Public Hearing . So, we will be having a Public Hearing on December 16 to have Public input into the Grant Loan for the fire truck with the USDA.

That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Gilheany?

Commissioner Gilheany: Nothing to report.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Higgins?

Commissioner Higgins: Nothing to report.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Hipwell?

Commissioner Hipwell: I got two things. The first thing is I want to thank working with Mark Seber for the last six years. I am very proud to work with the gentleman. I thought he did a lot for the City. I want to thank him personally.

The second thing I got is good news for the City. The Paul Luther Playground that is on South Main Street will be redone, probably sometime in March, April or May of next year. No money will come out of the City. It will be all donations and I have the people's names. I will not give them out until the thing is done. I will give you the names and they asked me not to give out how much they donated. So, I will give you at the time who donated and all that, but the playground will be done on South Main Street.

Commissioner Higgins: What are they doing – the blacktop?

Commissioner Hipwell: They are going to do the blacktop and everything. Fix it up.

Mayor Baker: Are they keeping it as a tennis court?

Commissioner Hipwell: Yes. To go one step farther, I know some of the guys on PBA wants to do a little bit down there because it is named after Paul Luther, a cop that was killed a long time ago. I appreciate PBA and Chief Waldron on that.

Mayor Baker: Thank you. City Attorney, Serbalik, is absent. Supervisor Richardson is not here. Chief Waldron?

Chief Waldron: Thank you. The first thing is that we are going to have an aggressive driving detail that is going to take place all of next week. A timeframe between 6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. It will be on Central Avenue. There will be a series of cars set up. One person will be running radar. Basically, a speed trap. We are giving you fair warning that we are going to alternate either exit the City or coming into the City or right downtown in the middle of the district. So, just be forewarned, we are getting a lot of speeders and we are trying to slow them down. So, you have been given such notice.

The weapons are all done. We're just about done qualifying. Tomorrow will be my final day of qualifications for police officers and then we will be able to turn the 22 officer weapons we have over and pay the bill for the weapon pass.

Mayor, I don't know if we have heard or received the \$10,000 yet?

Mayor Baker: It didn't come yet. According to the Assemblywoman last night, it's in the mail.

Chief Waldron: Okay. So, it will be all done with the \$10,000, which will be nice. The budget as itself is standing in great shape for the police. Obviously, I treat the budget like it is my own checkbook. So, if it doesn't need to be spent, it isn't spent. I won't just spend it to spend it. So, as it stands now, we are going to bring in over \$25,000 in extra revenue. We probably will get back \$25,000 in unspent funds. Just because, if we conserve, we do. Whether it is cutting back on overtime or other things. Other than that, we are in good shape. Happy holidays to everybody.

Mayor Baker: Thank you. Chief Corrigan?

Chief Corrigan: I will try and keep this brief. 55 alarms for the month. 3 drills, 6 details. Busy month. We had 43 alarms last year at this time. We are at 518 alarms for the year which we did about 600. Everything has been going well.

As you guys might not know, I am up for re-election this year. So, if I am not re-elected, which I hope to be, I want to thank all you guys for the support as Chief the last two years. I do appreciate it, especially Mayor Baker, and everyone really. I do appreciate it.

Reminder that December 7, there will be a gathering at the Legion that evening to honor people who died for our country on that day. Thank you.

Mayor Baker: Thanks Jim. Okay, I am going to open it to the Public. Five minutes, stand up and identify yourself and please speak loudly.

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue: I got some stuff that is kind of coalescent over the time here; the information. It is not settling well with me, okay. The firemen had pagers, as I believe Mr. Corrigan told us here before, so they would have notification. So, really the alarm wasn't the top priority, because they are all notified. I believe you also said that the policemen had pagers and electronic devices to be notified when there are issues going on. Correct?

Chief Waldron: No. They do not.

Dave Hicks: They do not? How do you get all your information? Via the radio?

Chief Waldron: Communications is via the radio.

Dave Hicks: So, you get the radio from Saratoga?

Chief Waldron: No, it's our own radio. We own our radios.

Dave Hicks: Because I was noticing 911. Everything goes to Saratoga and I was under the influence that because of this local area, we originally had our own phone company. That the 911 in this area went to here and Saratoga at the same time.

Chief Waldron: We did have that.

Dave Hicks: Okay, you did have that. But doesn't go that way now?

Chief Waldron: No. What happened was, we receive 9,000 calls a year. Of that, 800 are 911 calls answered by the Sheriff. So, what we did was just got rid of the 911 because it was not cost imperative for us to keep it. We got rid of it and we still have 7,000 and some calls from 7383.

Dave Hicks: So, how many calls do we get in initially into the Mechanicville police?

Chief Waldron: A little over 7,000.

Dave Hicks: Okay. Because they are not 911 calls? Is that the reason why?

Chief Waldron: No, some of them are 911 calls. 7383 is an emergency line. So, it is as good as dialing 911. But, we just try to teach people to call 911 as often as they can.

Dave Hicks: My whole idea is if Saratoga dispatches the calls, why do we have another set of dispatchers down here?

Chief Waldron: They don't dispatch for us.

Dave Hicks: You said the 911 calls go into Saratoga.

Chief Waldron: 911 calls go there. So, what ultimately will happen is they will take and dispatch Clifton Park/Halfmoon ambulance, and Mechanicville police will still dispatch for all our police and we still dispatch for the fire.

Dave Hicks: Okay. I understand they dispatch for Mechanicville police and the fire.

Chief Waldron: They do not.

Dave Hicks: Okay, that is misinformation.
Now, the lighting as we were discussing here before.

Mayor Baker: Street lighting?

Dave Hicks: There is a fee you pay on you lights for street lights. Whether they are working or not, you are still paying. That I think is a big issue because there is a bunch of lights here and there that are out or not functioning properly, but you are still paying the full shot for.

Mayor Baker: But we already have that.

Dave Hicks: Okay. Your second Resolution 119-15 – Zim Study 12/5. You got a grant and all of a sudden you just turn the grant over to Barton and Loguidice?

Commissioner Seber: Right.

Dave Hicks: No other bids have been put out for that?

Commissioner Seber: No.

Mayor Baker: They are our engineer for the most part.

Dave Hicks: So, you just go from one hand to the other? Nobody checks or balances on whether it is good or bad or indifferent? They just let it go through?

Commissioner Seber: I don't know what that means. This money comes from the County to fund a plan a design of the Zim Smith Trail as it comes down through the City of Mechanicville. I think the County budgeted \$100,000 for this. They divided, I think, among all eight municipalities and we were one of the eight. You need a plan. Everything needs to have a plan. So, we or the future councils are going to put together with Barton and Loguidice a plan with how they are going to bring the Zim Smith Trail down through the City. Again, it is going to end up on Main Street and intercept with the Champlain Canal, which is going north.

Dave Hicks: This is a study of the highway, correct?

Commissioner Seber: This is a study of an acceptable route in what would be involved in creating that route of the Zim Smith Trail. It is going to come down from Coons Crossing parallel to the old railroad tracks, parallel to Elizabeth Street Extension. When it hits the City, then it becomes the City's responsibility to provide them with the design of how we want it to progress through the City. But, they are funding that study.

Dave Hicks: Okay, because there really isn't room enough to make it, we will say, to make an actual bike path on the streets.

Commissioner Seber: First of all, we have had conversations of potentially, obviously this isn't in stone, of somehow bringing it down through the Industrial Park Road and not on Elizabeth Street. So, that will be part of that whole study.

Dave Hicks: I am just going by the other cities and when they start making a bike path they widen the streets on both sides with a picture of a bike.

Commissioner Seber: I think you are going to see a bunch of signs is what you are going to see.

Mayor Baker: It is not going to happen because we are not going to have any money either.

Commissioner Seber: They understand that the City isn't going to commit any funds to this.

Mayor Baker: Really, I think the only reason we got that money, is because Mark and I both told them in the beginning we were contributing no money to that Trail. We couldn't afford it, at this time. So, they went this route and got it through the County.

Dave Hicks: Okay. Next victim.

Mayor Baker: Victim number two.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street: First, before my comments, I wanted to give a shout out to our home town hero, Marine Lance, Corporal Anthony J. Denier, who died three years ago today.

Joe, I was hoping you could clarify. There is a lot of confusion, and I know you talked about it time and time again, about the 911 system. I tell people all the time to call 7383 because you are going to directly get our dispatcher. It is faster. If I were to call 911, just explain to me what's going to happen to my call? I think there is so much confusion.

Chief Waldron: Because you are in Mechanicville, when you call 911, most of the time you go to Saratoga County. However, you do go to Rensselaer County too. It picks up the closest PSAP. So, when you dial 911, you go somewhere to an emergency operation point. Most of the time, it will be Saratoga. If it is a police call, you will be brought back down to us. If it is an EMS call, they will dispatch it at the County level, and they will send out tones for the fire department then we will dispatch the fire department to the scene.

Kim Dunn: So, if it is a police matter, does my call get transferred and I talk to your dispatcher and they take my information?

Chief Waldron: No, they would transfer that call to us.

Kim Dunn: Okay, thank you. The only thing I had was just a clarification on the the Zim Smith Trail. One part says feasibility and one part says design. So, is it one in the same?

Commissioner Seber: Yes, it is one in the same.

Kim Dunn: So, we'll do the study. They are paying to have it done and then we will see what happens from there, basically?

Commissioner Seber: Right. From what I read, the County Board of Supervisors have allocated 50 some thousand to do some things. It is their trail system. It is coming through Mechanicville. Not only Mechanicville all the other communities. The idea is not us to put any money into it. Again, with Mechanicville, you are not talking about going through the woods. We had a conversation today. You are going to see a bunch of signs, maybe some improvements along the roadway, maybe some striping along the roadway, those types of things. I personally would like to see us get some funds, maybe to do some of the ADA compliant things we need to do down through the area. It will take a few years to put this all together, but, that's the plan anyway.

Kim Dunn: I am assuming since the Study hasn't been done yet, they really don't have an idea of what it would cost to put it through Mechanicville. Right? Once they do that, they are going to have some sort of an idea, right?

Commissioner Seber: That will be part of the Study.

Mayor Baker: We are suppose to be the joining part for the two trails, correct? Zim Smith and the Champlain Trail are going to meet in Mechanicville somewhere.

Commissioner Seber: The bottom of Hill Street is about where they will go. Then it goes north. I don't know how many people will actually come down through Mechanicville but it is pretty well used Trail and the County is anticipating that thousands of people using this trail system. How it is distributed, I don't know. Again, because the Champlain Trail is going north, Stillwater, Schuylerville, up that way.

Kim Dunn: You said the bridge is opening next Friday.

Mayor Baker: As long as something doesn't happen, it is scheduled for next Friday.

Kim Dunn: Who is going over it first?

Mayor Baker: It is not open officially, yet. It is open.

Kim Dunn: Thank you.

Dave Hicks: Is it going to be open for trucks and everything?

Mayor Baker: Yes. It will be open. But, it is still not a truck route. Trucks will not be coming that way.

Dave Hicks: Yeah, right.

Mayor Baker: They get tickets, right Joe?

Chief Waldron: Yes.

Mayor Baker: Thank you.

Dave Hicks: What's the tonnage going to be on the bridge?

Mayor Baker: I don't want to answer, because I would be wrong. I will find out. Anybody else? Sir?

John Mitchell, 6 Melvin Court, Mechanicville, which is really Halfmoon. But, in my heart, I am a Mechanicville person. I sing with the Dorothy Welch Choral Society. As a mechanical engineer, I am pleased to have Mechanicville as my official address.

Mayor Baker: Thank you.

John Mitchell: Among my advocacy, I am trying not to work. I am trying to stay retired.

Commissioner Seber: How do you do that? Give me some hints.

John Mitchell: Well it helps not to touch your IRA until you are 70. Regardless, I am a member of the town of Halfmoon Trails and Open Spaces Committee and I am a member of the Champlain Canalway working group. The Champlain Canalway working group is responsible for the Waterford to Whitehall route; which will ultimately go right through your dear town, here, and will intersect with the Zim Smith Trail someplace. We look forward to riding our bicycles right through here bringing those Canadian dollar track people down here.

Mayor Baker: I hope that happens.

John Mitchell: Oh, there is a lot of momentum in that direction, regardless. I was asked at the last Champlain Canalway working group, if I could somehow represent Mechanicville in their discussion. I said, I really can't. But, I would be glad to be a conduit for what they are doing and what you are doing. In order for that to happen, I have to introduce myself, and forgive me for not doing that previously. If there is somebody in the town that could be a contact person that I could share with?

Mayor Baker: Yes. What we will do, is put you in contact with Mark's office. Mark is done with his office at the end of this month; that is our new Commissioner, right there. So, one of those two people will be able to help you, but that is the right spot to go.

John Mitchell: Good. Specifically, they ask if there is a website that is not fully filled out? They are hoping to get some communication from Mechanicville about what you would be doing with the Champlain Canalway through town. Obviously, South Main Street and Esplanade and so there are things that are in the works. But, nothing ready for publication. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mayor Baker: I will give you his number, after the meeting. Are you staying?

John Mitchell: Yes.

Mayor Baker: Anybody else? Nobody else? Really? Okay then, we will move to Resolutions.

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 117-15:

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

Just before we vote on this, 117 and 118 are the last two Resolutions in terms of distributing the money for this particular grant. So, after tonight, it will pretty much be done. Some paperwork needs to be done, but, it will be done.

Introduced By: Mayor Baker

Seconded By: Commissioner Gilheany

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 118-15:

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

Introduced By: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded By: Mayor Baker

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

I want to say something real quick. I think this has been very successful. We've had sixteen properties where we were able to help people renovate and bring into compliance and whatever. I know for Commissioner Higgins this was his favorite project. Commissioner Higgins, John Holland and Gina Keyon did a lot of work on this project. They really really did a fine job.

COMMISSIONER SEBER READ RESOLUTION 119-15:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH BARTON & LOGUIDICE TO PREPARE A ZIM SMITH LINK FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Introduced By: Commissioner Seber

Seconded By: Mayor Baker

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 120-15:

2015 BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded By: Commissioner Higgins

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 121-15:

PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS:

Introduced By: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded By: Commissioner Seber

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Mayor Baker: New business?

Round Lake Avenue Bridge was open for the holiday weekend. It is still open as of this morning. They got end caps for the railings coming. Once they install them, it will be open permanently. But, it may have to close for a day, when they install these things.

Frances Street. Obviously, the contractor for Main Street, is also for Frances Street. He is going to keep working for the majority of the winter on Frances Street so that he has a minimal amount to do; hopefully, in the spring, when he is finishing up Main Street and finishing up Frances Street, at the same time. That's all I have.

Commissioner Seber: Are they actually going to stop construction as of Friday on the Main Street bridge?

Mayor Baker: They are going to continue to do some work that they can do on the sides, like sidewalks and things like that. But, essentially Main Street will be done until spring.

Commissioner Gilheany: What about blocking off of the road. Are they going to leave that up over the winter?

Mayor Baker: Frances Street?

Commissioner Gilheany: Yes. There isn't much room for plowing and there isn't much room there now.

Chief Waldron: You are talking about where they have the tractor right across the street from where Joyce's Log Cabin was located?

Commissioner Gilheany: Yes.

Commissioner Higgins: They are going to be out soon.

Mayor Baker: They are going to open up a lot of that. It will not be as closed in as it is now.

Commissioner Higgins: Frances Street, they are going to be taking down the rest of the bridge.

Mayor Baker: Yes, but they are talking about Main Street.

Chief Waldron: In front of where Joyce's Log cabin had been located.

Commissioner Higgins: That is NYSEG.

Commissioner Hipwell: This coming Friday night, the Community Center, I believe it starts at 4:30, the Christmas Tree will be lit down at the Community Center. I just got told by Denny, it is 6:30.

Mayor Baker: I think the celebration, or whatever they are having, may start at 4:30 but the actual tree lighting is at 6:30.

Santa Claus is coming to the park this Sunday, 12:00 to 2:00. It's in conjunction with the Family Day Committee.

I don't have anything else. Do you have any new business, guys? No? Old business? Nobody? Okay.

John Mitchell: Dorothy Welch Concert is at 3:00 on Sunday, at All Saints On The Hudson Church.

Mayor Baker: Okay, thank you. We didn't get notified of that.

Commissioner Hipwell: One other thing which Amanda just brought up, at the ELKS Club at 2:00, they are having their service for past members who passed away. Sunday, at 2:00.

Mayor Baker: Next Monday, at the Legion, Pearl Harbor Day, at 6:30. So, there is a lot going on next week. Jodie, I heard you say you would make a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Gilheany: Yes I will.

May I have a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn at 7:36 P.M.: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded By: Commissioner Hipwell

Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Thank you everybody.

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