

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
JANUARY 6, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

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

Matt Dunn led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Baker: Can I have a motion to accept the Minutes of the last meeting?

Commissioner Gilheany, seconded by Commissioner Hipwell, moved that the Minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting be accepted as prepared.

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

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Reports. Unfortunately or fortunately for me, I was in Florida for the last week and I do not have much to report.

I want to Congratulate Matt Dunn in being Deputy Chief of the Fire Department. I also want to congratulate him on graduating from Police School. He did a great job.

I don't have anything else to report.

Commissioner Duell: A quick update of our activity out of the Clerk's office for the past year. We had increases in hunting and fishing licenses, we stayed the same in marriage licenses, and dog licensing went up substantially. I think this is a credit to Commissioner Hipwell and our Animal Control Officer. We had an increase in death certificates, substantially. That's not good. We brought in about \$1,200 more in licensing this year compared to 2014. That's all I have.

Commissioner Higgins: I am sure everybody has heard the siren going off. It is going off 5-6 minutes so we disconnected it until the technician can get there and reset it. They have to do it with a computer and he is bringing the software to reset it.

Mayor Baker: Dave and I talked on the phone about the siren problem and I said for him to unplug it until reset. We did not have it for a long time and we do not need it at this time.

Commissioner Hipwell: After 33 years serving the City as a bus driver, Eunice Haney retired on 12/30/15. I want to thank her and I know this Council wants to thank Eunice Haney for 33 years of service to the people in the City.

Council Members: Thank you Eunice.

Commissioner Gilheany: Nothing at this time.

Attorney Serbalik: I would like to have an Executive Session at the end of this meeting to discuss some litigation. Nothing else.

Mayor Baker: Supervisor Richardson not here. Chief Waldron?

Chief Waldron: Thank you Mayor. I will be quick. Happy New Year everybody. On the 31st of December, we received the beginning part of the legislative grant for the \$10,000 to purchase weapons. I will be filling that paperwork out soon so we will get the reimbursement for the weapons.

Commissioner Gilheany, we are waiting for a proper invoice to come back that reflects what we sent out. Right now, they just sent it for the weapons themselves but they forgot the freight end part of it. As soon as we receive the right one, we will get that cut and mailed out to them.

As far as weapons, everyone is certified and trained and everything is ready to roll. Excellent weapons. Probably the highest police scoring on any firearm has been with these new weapons. They are MP40.

New vehicle is in and it will be in service soon. We have to get the computer mounted into the front part of the car. But, the car is here and at the station house. We are very happy about that.

Overall, it has been a very busy start to the new year. The police officers have been working very hard from after Christmas until today with the amount of arrests that have been piling up. They have been extremely busy. Hats off to the police officers.

Of course, congratulations to Matthew. Matthew Dunn will graduate tomorrow, January 7th, from the Police Academy at 10:00 AM at Proctor's Theater. He completed six months of grueling Academy and he did a good job. I wish to thank him.

Mayor Baker: Chief Dunn.

Chief Dunn: For the month of December, we had 60 calls total. 46 of those were EMS. The year total is 631. About 15 alarms up from last year with EMS. Five drills, six details. One of the details, was a line of duty death of a Captain in Saugerties. That's about all I have for today.

Mayor Baker: Thank you. We have no public hearing tonight. We are going to open to Public Comment. What I ask, is that you come to the microphone, give your name, where you are from and you have five minutes. Dave, you are closest, so I will let you go first.

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue: The agenda was posted on the website but it did not have any context. It just had the Resolution numbers, but no context at all.

Secretary, Eileen: That was my fault.

Dave Hicks: Okay. The website is still a disaster. You are still not the Mayor. You are not the Chief.

Mayor Baker: I could be speaking out of turn, but Michelle said she was going to look into it.

Dave Hicks: You will see all the names and it is all bad.

Commissioner Duell: I have had three days.

Dave Hicks: There were 730 days that it should have been corrected and it has not.

Commissioner Duell: The majority of the website and the changes in uploading comes out of my office. I have met with my secretary, Kim, and we are working on it. We also have our water bills that are going out, so we have been very busy. It is the first of the year and we are all trying to get acclimated to each other.

Dave Hicks: I sent an email to the Mayor and I sent an email to Dave Higgins and I have never received a response. He said he never got it, and you (Mayor) are going to say you never got it.

Mayor Baker: I am not going to say that. I am going to say I wasn't here. I haven't looked at email yet.

Dave Hicks: The 17th of December?

Mayor Baker: I did not get it either, I don't think.

Dave Hicks: That is what I am trying to tell you. We went through this before, so do you have me blocked or what?

Mayor Baker: No.

Dave Hicks: Then there is some sort of an issue if I don't get through to each one of you.

Mayor Baker: You and I have talked about this before. You said you sent them from over here (Library)?

Commissioner Higgins: We will do a test tomorrow.

Mayor Baker: You and I have tried this before and they come through sometimes and sometimes they don't.

Dave Hicks: I send it on the computer from either McDonald's or the Library, it doesn't matter. It is still the internet.

Mayor Baker: Somewhere something is getting blocked but it is not from us, if I am getting some of your emails, is my point.

Dave Hicks: If there is an issue, it will bounce back to me and tell me it is undeliverable, but it does get delivered.

Chief Waldron: It doesn't happen all the time. I know Chief Alonzo has sent me three emails and I have not received one of them.

Mayor Baker: You sent them from over at the Library? Is that where you were at that time?

Commissioner Gilheany: There have been some problems with it. A day delay.

Commissioner Higgins: We will do a test tomorrow.

Dave Hicks: You might have some critical information coming in that someone is going to provide that you are not going to get.

Mayor Baker: Hopefully, they will call and back it up, like you do.

Dave Hicks: Okay. What are we really doing with the water? With all the different things going on with the water, it is not really broken down well enough to understand exactly what's going on with your loans and with your grants and who is paying for what. It says here that you got \$500,000 but it seems to me you said it is going to cost a million dollars for the pipeline.

Mayor Baker: It is not over. We have \$500,000 now. It is not over.

Dave Hicks: Okay. Why did we have to have a new water tank when we already have a tank?

Commissioner Higgins: Because it is cheaper to put in a new tank than it is to paint the tanks.

Mayor Baker: Also, to repair what is going on with the tank now.

Dave Hicks: Do we have a tank that is deteriorating?

Mayor Baker: Yes, a tank that needs to have work done.

Commissioner Higgins: They have to be painted. They have to be painted every so many years. It is cheaper to buy a new tank than it is to paint.

Dave Hicks: That does not sound right at all.

Mayor Baker: That is the price we got.

Dave Hicks: Now the charges on this I understand you got a minimum of 150,000 gallons of water a day?

Mayor Baker: 125,000 gallons but it might be 150,000.

Dave Hicks: How is that going to work? We are going to use 125 for that day and then use the rest of it off of ours? How is that distributed price wise?

Commissioner Higgins: It doesn't work that way. We can go off line for a day and use a million gallons and do it that way.

Mayor Baker: It has to average out to 125,000.

Dave Hicks: How is the billing going to be coming through to us?

Mayor Baker: We have not signed anything yet. We do not know all the exact things on it. We want you to be aware of what is going on. That is one thing I heard from you alot: "you don't tell us enough stuff ahead of time". So, we have been telling you ahead of time. It is not done yet and we do not know where we are on it.

Dave Hicks: Okay. I was just wondering if there were going to be two water bills? One for Saratoga County and one for City and how is it going to be broken down?

Commissioner Duell: The City will receive a water bill from Saratoga County. You will receive only one bill from the City of Mechanicville. Our costs will be reflected in that bill.

Dave Hicks: You are going to absorb it and then redistribute it. That is what I was trying to find out.

What about the new tax base and the reappraisal of what the City did. Where are we on that and what did we gain?

Commissioner Duell: It is still going on. I have a meeting on the 22nd of January with NYS and GAR. We will know more after that meeting.

Dave Hicks: I might as well get my complaint in on the siren. Why wasn't it tested before it was turned on?

Mayor Baker: They did test it but they tested it while the technician was there and he manually shut it off before it cycled.

Commissioner Higgins: It was tested through the County and he shut it off. He left, Chief Alonzo came in, had Mechanicville do it, and it just kept going and going.

Dave Hicks: He should never have left. He should have stayed here until everything was working correctly.

Commissioner Higgins: He did not have the software to fix it, so he is waiting for the software.

Dave Hicks: So why is he employed there to put up the siren or do whatever it is he has to do?

Mayor Baker: He is with the same company that did the original one and it worked fine until it was hit by lightning. Now he is trying to mimic what was there because we asked him to do the same thing.

Dave Hicks: If you remember with the first one, all your communication between your patrolmen was going over the speaker.

Mayor Baker: That was way before me. I don't remember that.

Dave Hicks: Yes, I do. That is the one put in for Alonzo.

Mayor Baker: That was Louie Alonzo, who was Chief at the time.

Dave Hicks: Okay. Next victim.

Mayor Baker: Kim?

Kimberly Connors Dunn, 250 South Main Street: I just want a clarification. I notice the new parking permit only sign that is in that lot next to the firehouse.

Mayor Baker: It is not new. We just took it down from the pole and put it in the middle of the lot so people would see it better.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: I never noticed it.

Mayor Baker: That is why I moved it. It used to be right at the entrance, kind of on an angle. It is not going to stay exactly where it is, but it is going to be more prominently visible. It is temporary where it is now.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Just to clarify. Does that include the area behind the firehouse?

Mayor Baker: Firemen and Auxiliary can use the parking lot.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: How does someone know not to ticket or tow my vehicle?

Mayor Baker: The police officers know other people's cars. If it turned out that it was an Auxiliary member that was in there doing something and they got a ticket, we would make sure it didn't stay.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: That is what I wanted to clarify. God forbid a structure fire, there is hardly room to park there.

Mayor Baker: I get that.

Kimber Connors Dunn: I am assuming there are residents that park along the side of the parking lot.

Mayor Baker: That was the problem. The apartments across the street, next door and all over in that neighborhood were all parking in the lot all day. Then, anyone who had City business or was working in City Hall could not get in.

So, they know now and it has been great since they moved the sign. Except I heard it was a little bit cluttered this morning.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Okay. Just not to beat a dead siren, but that was one of my questions. Obviously, this past Monday there were three calls that went off continuously, etc. I understand what you are saying Dave, that it was disconnected, but my question would be: obviously, if we went to the same company trying to duplicate what we had, the price we paid for the siren, why wasn't it arranged beforehand to make sure everything that was needed to duplicate it was there; if we are using the same people and if they were told what we want?

Mayor Baker: I had that same question. He called me and asked me for something and I said to him that you should have that already. He said, I thought when they took the old siren down they kept it, but they didn't. Dave, do you know what he called the thing that he was waiting for; they left it in your office?

Commissioner Higgins: It was the Pager to work it.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Okay, just wondering. Then, last year you said you were going to give a Statement of the City Address. I know things got a little crazy and whatever. I was wondering if we are going to get one this year at some point? I think it is important as we have so much stuff going on over the past year and continuing to go on, like the water situation. Most people have no clue. I think it would be good to put it out there.

Mayor Baker: I agree.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: My last question. Each member of the City Council is in charge of specific departments or areas within the City just by the nature of their job. Correct? So, I was wondering, which one of you would be responsible, as in the boss of the Senior Citizen Center, if anything happens there?

Commissioner Hipwell: I am in charge.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Okay. I just wanted to clarify that.

One last question regarding the water grant. That is what we got for now and we are trying to get more?

Mayor Baker: I have left it alone.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: So that money is just to hook into the County or whatever so we might get additional to do whatever else we need to do?

Mayor Baker: Yes.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Great. Thank you.

John Mitchell, 6 Mountain Court (Sheldon Hills): I just want to re-enforce my stopping here a month ago and bring a copy of the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group brochure for Michelle. That is really the big picture of what we are trying to do and I look forward to interfacing with all of you. I appreciate the opportunity.

Mayor Baker and Commissioner Duell: We appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Mr. Micklas did you have anything to say?

Butch Micklas, 30 North Central Avenue: I am curious about the water and how it is going to work. I am glad I heard Mrs. Dunn asking the question. Are you going to hook up to Saratoga but the water is coming down Route 67?

Mayor Baker: No. Dave, is it going to come from Mehan Road?

Commissioner Higgins: No, it is going to come from George Thompson from Elmer Robinson.

Butch Micklas: Is that part of Stillwater's?

Mayor Baker: We are going partners with part of the line with Stillwater and then it is going to break off and go to our filtering plant where it will be metered for what we use.

Butch Micklas: But, how does it work? Are you going to be totally on the County's water?

Mayor Baker: No. 125,000 gallons a day.

Butch Micklas: That's all?

Commissioner Higgins: It is less than that to start.

Mayor Baker: There are some days, suppose we had an issue, we could use a million gallons today. It has to average out to 125,000 gallons a day by contract.

Butch Micklas: I assume the object of this is that you are going to try and fix the upper reservoir. So, at some point you go to fix the upper reservoir, your pumping facility stops or are you going to continue to filter?

Commissioner Higgins: Our plan was to dredge and send it into the pit when it settled and then pump it back into the reservoir. This way it will be a lot easier. I forget how many gallons this tornado or cyclone or whatever it is called, sucks out per minute, but it is a lot.

Mayor Baker: By getting some water from the County, we will be down that much out of the reservoir.

Commissioner Higgins: Plus, right now, three guys run that plant and they cannot take time off, they do not get holidays off or anything like that. So, if we had a second source, we would be able to shut the plant down and run through the County and let these guys use their vacation and stuff like that.

Butch Micklas: Okay, but when the work is taking place to dredge the reservoir, you are going to have to be shut down at that point. That's my question. You will not be able to filter water?

Commissioner Higgins: Yes, we will.

Butch Micklas: How? That is the question I am asking. Where is the source of the water?

Commissioner Higgins: Through the reservoir.

Mayor Baker: Yes, you will still be able to use that water. It will come into the filter plant. This is just a backup for it.

Commissioner Higgins: Plus, we have the lower reservoir. There are two different sources where we get water.

Butch Micklas: So you are going to be able to maintain your filtering system throughout the whole operation?

Commissioner Higgins: Supposedly.

Mayor Baker: That's the key word, supposedly.

Butch Micklas: What would the cost be? I saw the grant thing in the paper.

Mayor Baker: A lot of money. Like 6 million dollars for the total project or more.

Butch Micklas: What would the cost be between you and Stillwater?

Mayor Baker: We are not buying it from Stillwater. We are buying it from the County.

Butch Micklas: No, the pipe.

Mayor Baker: We are going to share the cost of the pipe with Stillwater. But, the water contract is with Saratoga County, not with Stillwater.

Butch Micklas: But, the infrastructure that is there already, is Stillwater's, right?

Mayor Baker: It is not there already. It is going to be installed and we are paying for part of the installation.

Butch Micklas: Where does it come from now? From the County system or Stillwater's existing system?

Commissioner Higgins: The County system.

Butch Micklas: Okay. There is going to be no charge from Stillwater for what they have already done. They have a six million dollar issue that they are bringing water in so that you are only going to share the cost of the pipe line?

Mayor Baker: We talked about it too, I think at the last meeting, where part of the discussion I had is the line coming along is obviously going to have fire hydrants and things like that which are beneficial to the Town of Stillwater. I don't want to pay for a share of them, I only want to pay for our share of the pipe. It is not all worked out yet. We are still working on it.

Butch Micklas: One last question and then I will sit down. How will the cost of what you are going to do of the County's water will be charged back through to the local system.

Mayor Baker: As Michelle said, it is going to be billed to the City and then will come out through the regular bill.

Butch Micklas: Just as a cost of business or will it be like a separate line item where everybody owes \$10 more because of? Or will it be just your overall cost of business, is x number of whatever it is?

Commissioner Duell: They are going to bill us and from there we will make the appropriations on each person's bill. I am not sure exactly how much it is going to go up.

Butch Micklas: That is my question.

Commissioner Gilheany: It would be an overall cost. We do a water budget and that would be the cost.

Butch Micklas: Okay, just a cost of business.

Mayor Baker: We are not looking to make money on it. The other reason for the line, just so you know, the State has encouraged us, even before I was here, for years to have a second source. Because if our water plant was to go down, we would have no way of getting good water in here. This helps that. So, we will now have that ability.

Butch Micklas: Thank you.

Mayor Baker: Anybody else?

Kimberly Connors Dunn: For the Resolution Numbers 1 through 10, I think it would be helpful in the future for someone who is getting paid, to specify the salary. Because if you were appointing someone, which you normally do, I understand I can go to the budget to look it up, but I would like you to do the work for me.

Mayor Baker: Okay. We are starting to modify that even more. So, don't be surprised.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Less information?

Mayor Baker: Yes.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: No, no, no, that's not good.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Duell are you ready to go to your Resolutions?

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
2016-1:

Introduced By: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded By: Mayor Baker

Roll Call: Mayor Baker Yes

Commissioner Duell Abstaining because

I was not involved with the budget. I will say I believe that Jodie has put together a wonderful budget for 2016.

Commissioner Gilheany Yes
Commissioner Higgins Yes
Commissioner Hipwell Yes

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION NO. 11-16:
APPOINTMENT OF A WATER PLANT OPERATOR:

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

MAYOR BAKER READ RESOLUTIONS No. 1-10-2016:
REAPPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR.

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

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION NO. 12-16:
MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE THE
“ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD” FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF WATERLINE CONNECTIONS TO THE COUNTY WATER
AUTHORITY:

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

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION NO. 13-16:
MAYOR IS AUTHORIZED TO QUIT CLAIM TO THE TOWN OF STILLWATER A
PERMANENT UTILITY EASEMENT:

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

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION NO. 14-16:
CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH THE
MECHANICVILLE POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION DISTRICT COUNCIL 82:

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

Mayor Baker: I want to add into that to thank the PBA. They worked with the City and we came to a good contract for both sides.

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 15-16:
BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

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

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 16-16:
BUDGET TRANSFERS:

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

Mayor Baker: I want to add on to that Resolution. Jodie and her Deputy did a great job this year because we have been working on a restrictive budget (is that a good word Jodie?) day to day, not that we did not have the money, but we had to make sure we moved it from one place to another without it affecting anything else. Her Deputy did a great job helping us through that process. Thank you.

Mayor Baker: Does anybody have anything else.
New Business. Anybody have anything?

On February 6, at 11:00 A.M., the Legion on South Main Street will have the Immortal Four Chaplains Memorial ceremony. If anyone has not been to that, it is really something you should attend. It is a very moving ceremony. They do a great job.

Commissioner Gilheany: Yes, they do a beautiful job.

Mayor Baker: Anybody else have anything new? How about old? Then, I will take a motion to adjourn and go into Executive Session. I will tell you that we will not come back into session or take any action.

Motion to Adjourn:	Commissioner Duell
Seconded By:	Commissioner Higgins

Thank you everyone.