

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
JANUARY 20, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Gavin Baker, would you lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Gilheany, seconded by Commissioner Duell, moved that the Minutes of the January 6, 2016 meeting be accepted as prepared:

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

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Reports:
I am going to start out with good news. Yesterday I received an email from New York State and we received our other one and a half million dollars for the Water Grant. We now have a two million grant and a two million zero interest loan, if we choose to use it. We are heading in the right direction and the reservoir is one of the key things that I wanted to get done so, I am very happy!

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Duell?

Commissioner Duell: I do not have anything to report other than our office has been busy sending out delinquent water bills and we are gearing up for the tax bills, to be coming out in February.

Commissioner Gilheany: I do not have anything to report either. We are working on the yearend and next month we will have some preliminary numbers.

Commissioner Higgins: Last week we took a walk in the woods and we found a leak in our transmission line coming from the reservoir to the water plant. Our only problem now is getting machinery in there and digging it up. It is going to take a lot of easements to take care of that repair. It is not treated water, it is untreated raw water.

Mayor Baker: Dave, when I talked to our engineers the other day, I mentioned that to them and they are going to do an assessment to find out how much water we are actually losing. That is why we are going to have to figure out a way to fix it, but he said he would work on that also.

Commissioner Higgins: What it is doing, is that it is going into the stream that feeds Baker Brook, so it does go into our lower reservoir. Thank God it has not been snowing and the weather has been kind to us.

Mayor Baker: Yes, we are lucky.

Commissioner Hipwell: Nothing to report.

Mayor Baker: Mr. Serbalik?

Attorney Serbalik: Nothing

Mayor Baker: Tom Richardson not here. Chief Waldron is not here. No Fire Chief here.

We will go to Public Comment. I remind you that you have five minutes, stand up and identify yourself. There is no microphone but I still ask that you stand there so everybody can hear you better. Who is first? David.

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue: I have some issues left over that I have not really been able to accumulate but I had one last night at the meeting of Civil Service. There are some issues that I FOILED. You probably heard about it. How are those people put in that position? Mayor, do you choose them?

Mayor Baker: I pick them.

Dave Hicks: Isn't there to be a response? I don't know why it acts like a covert operation. One minute they are mentioning names and then the next minute they do not mention any names, they mention position. It is something to do with your secretary and like that.

Mayor Baker: I know there is stuff about my secretary and stuff about the police department that involve personnel issues. So when they are into that direction, you cannot give out a lot of information. You give out what you have to give out.

Dave Hicks: I understand that to a point. The thing is that they are getting paid by taxpayers' funds.

Mayor Baker: The only one getting paid is the secretary.

Dave Hicks: I am talking about the people they are talking about. They are part of the thing and that is why I FOILED it to try to find out, just for the record, to keep track of it. He automatically refused it the last time.

He said something else has changed or whatever, and I still did not get the names. That was the whole idea, this thing, for being open. They seem to have an attitude of we can do what we want.

Mayor Baker: You can feel that way, if you want. I will tell you that they are normally open and forward about it. But, when there are issues that involve personnel, they are not going to be open.

Dave Hicks: If they are being paid by public funds or taxes, that is part of the record.

Mayor Baker: That is not true. You know that as you have gone to enough school board meetings to know that if there is a teacher that's in trouble and they are talking about that teacher, they are not going to talk about it in public or give a name.

Dave Hicks: If they are having a problem or issue like that, then it is done behind an Executive Meeting. You should not bring it up in the first place.

Mayor Baker: They have to bring up what they are working on, but they do not have to give out the name.

Dave Hicks: I disagree with you. It is a public fund. The taxpayers are paying them, they have to have the names. You have to have something to follow through.

Mayor Baker: I am glad you feel that way, but I don't.

Dave Hicks: I FOILED that and said I would have to push a little farther.

Mayor Baker: Don't be surprised if a lot of it is redacted. You know that happens.

Dave Hicks: What?

Mayor Baker: I said, don't be surprised if a lot of what you FOIL is redacted, like names. They might do that. Just giving you a head's up.

Kim?

Kimberly Connors Dunn, 250 South Main Street: I know the siren is working, but I was wondering if I could get a quick update as to what the issue was, or how it was fixed?

Mayor Baker: It was a software issue.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Wouldn't that come with the siren?

Commissioner Higgins: It comes preset.

Mayor Baker: It comes preset and they had to reset it.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: As Commissioner Higgins stated, although we are not Troy, we quickly could be in that situation. To be honest with you, following this and watching how Halfmoon is handling it, I would have to applaud them, because I think they have done the right thing with communicating it, getting it out there on Facebook and different things.

We are going to the County for a secondary source, but that is not going to happen tomorrow, next week or next month. That is going to be in the future.

Mayor Baker: This year.

Commissioner Higgins: That does not matter. If a pipe breaks anywhere, George Thompson Road, Route 67, we are not going to have water with a second source.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Do we have some sort of emergency contingency plan as to what we would do if something extreme like that were to happen? I mean, would be kind of, that's it.

Mayor Baker: We would make sure that bottle water is available at city garage for people to pick up. Other than that, there is not much you can do but try and fix what's wrong.

Commissioner Higgins: In my opinion, it is going to happen. The pipes were put in, when Sam?

Sam Carabis: 1893.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: I know we have had a lot off and on over the past year, but nothing thankfully that extreme. It just got me thinking, oh my God, could that exact situation happen to us? So, what do we do? I just wanted to ask that.

I have another question. I am trying to follow why something is happening. Back on November 4th, 2015, there was a Resolution 81-15, which was for Removal of Rubbish and Recycling Bids. It was basically a three year contract, July 1 through June 30, 2018, for removal of rubbish and recyclables, etc. It gave the cost and everything else. So, that was passed, obviously. I was a bit unclear as to why we have to do another Resolution for the same thing tonight?

Commissioner Duell: We changed some terms within the Contract that is better for us, the City of Mechanicville.

Mayor Baker: Yes, we made it better for us.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: So, the price is the same?

Commissioner Duell: Yes

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Like I said, I know we did it before so I went back and I looked and I thought it is the same. I saw the word Contract with Addendum and I just did not know. Thank you.

Mayor Baker: Any other comment?

Dave Hicks: Question? Polybutylene Tubing or whatever it is that they use, can they use that for water? Or does it always have to be iron?

Commissioner Higgins: No, they can use plastic.

Dave Hicks: Okay, I have a second question. I don't know how big the main is up there.

Commissioner Higgins: 16 inches diameter.

Dave Hicks: Is there a way they can shove a piece of pipe inside that?

Commissioner Higgins: Yes, they can do it.

Dave Hicks: You could put a booster pump at the other end to pull it out and one to push it.

Mayor Baker: You mean, if a problem?

Dave Hicks: Well no. You get what I am saying? You put one inside, put a puller on one end and a pusher at the other.

Commissioner Higgins: I have looked into that. If you go on the computer you can look it up and it will show you how it is done. Very expensive.

Dave Hicks: I was just curious how expensive versus digging it all up?

Mayor Baker: I certainly do not want to appear like I am trying to figure out what Troy was doing, but I know that when we have had water breaks, we have been able to isolate that area. I guess that is a good word.

Commissioner Higgins: We try to isolate it.

Mayor Baker: Most times you have been successful.

Commissioner Higgins: Not really. North Main Street water problem.

Mayor Baker: It takes a while but it does not take days. I don't know why it took so long for them to shut down that night.

Dave Hicks: Other than that, I am trying to say with deteriorating piping to put something inside of it to take care of it, you know what I am saying? You can put a push and pull instead of just a push.

Mayor Baker: That is the lining stuff they talk about, right?

Commissioner Higgins: I looked at it on the computer and they push it through and pull it.

Mayor Baker: How do you decide where you are going to do that, Dave?

Dave Hicks: I am just figuring it is expensive to dig it up versus the pipe that is already there.

Commissioner Higgins: You have to do taps and all that.

Dave Hicks: I am just talking about the main lines.

Commissioner Higgins: Coming down 67 there are taps all the way down.

Mayor Baker: Thanks, Dave. Anybody else have a public comment? Kim. Sorry I did not see you raise your hand.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: I forgot to ask something. In seeing that Resolution 17-16 where we are correcting the rate of pay that someone was appointed at. I am just wondering how often that happens? Who verifies all this when someone is appointed to make sure they are not appointed almost \$4.00 higher no matter what area of the City they are working?

Should we double check each and every one of those so that doesn't happen?

Commissioner Duell: Yes. I did not create the Resolution that was approved. The Resolution was made out prior to me coming into office. It was approved here and then the next day, when I did the research, I found that it was not the correct amount.

The \$21.34 is actually what somebody is currently making. With this person being a trainee, it is \$2.00 less their first year so it would bring it down to \$19.34, but with him being a trainee, because he has not been certified yet, it is another \$2.00 less. So, this Resolution is just correcting that. He at no point received the \$21.34 an hour.

Mayor Baker: But she caught it.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: So, from this point forward, basically it is your office that would verify whoever got appointed for whatever job, to make sure.

Mayor Baker: That's who caught it to begin with, her office.

Okay, we are ready for Resolutions:

**COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 17-16:
TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 11-16 RATE OF PAY FOR WATER
PLANT OPERATOR.**

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

**COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 18-16:
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT, WITH
ADDENDUM, WITH COUNTY WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE,
INC. FOR RESIDENTIAL TRASH COLLECTION WITHIN THE CITY
AT A COST OF \$852,678.00**

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

**COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 19-16:
PAYROLL AND VOUCHES**

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

**COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 20-16:
BUDGET AMENDMENT**

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

**Mayor Baker: New Business? No new business.
Old Business? No old business. Okay then I will entertain a motion to
adjourn.**

**Commissioner Gilheany made a motion.
Seconded By: Commissioner Higgins**

Anybody opposed? No. Okay.

Thanks everybody.