

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Baker: Mr. Mitchell, would you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I need a motion to accept the Minutes of the last meeting?

Commissioner Duell, seconded by Commissioner Gilheany, moved that the Minutes of the January 30, 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. Dave, when it is your turn, I assume you are going to say something about the water project, etc. I don't want to steal that from you.

Commissioner Higgins: You can steal it!

Mayor Baker: Okay. As you know from the last meeting, we received a two million dollar grant and a two million dollar zero interest loan from DOH. We are pursuing more. Obviously, that is going to take care of a good chunk of what we need; however, we are pursuing through a federal agency, to get more money to continue the project. Since this is one of my big projects when I ran for office, I want to make sure that we stay on top of it.

Dave and I met with the engineering firm the other day and they are going to proceed with our federal filings, etc. Barton and Loguidice has been doing this project since its inception and they are going to continue with it.

We also met the other day with the overpass contractor, engineer, railroad, DOT, and I don't remember who else. There were a lot of us there. They are planning to start in March. I don't have an exact date yet because they still have to work things out with the railroad. The issue with the railroad is that we have to have a flagman on site during the construction process. So, they have to map it out. When preparing the Bond, we had to put money aside for the flagman.

I want to thank the Lions Club. They take care of the triangle up at the overpass and I spoke with them about removing the items in the triangle before the project started in March. We also had a conversation that, if we got a snow storm, they might want to clear it before the snow. They got right to it and cleared it out. I want to thank them for getting that done.

I don't have anything else to report. Commissioner Duell?

Commissioner Duell: We are in the process of re-levying the unpaid water to the tax bills. Once that is complete, we will be sending the information to the County to prepare our tax bills. The bills should be going out, for the taxes, the end of February. We will be open on two Saturdays: the 5th and 12th of March and we will be open from 9:00 AM to Noon.

The Accounts Office still has interest free business loans through the USDA for up to \$10,000 and they can be five year loans. We still have money in there to support local businesses. That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Gilheany?

Commissioner Gilheany: Nothing at this time.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Higgins?

Commissioner Higgins: I want to add to what the Mayor said about the water. Hopefully, sometime during the summer, we are going to be installing radio read water meters. That will save us a lot of time reading meters. That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Commissioner Hipwell?

Commissioner Hipwell: I have a couple of things. On the 18th of this month from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. at the Senior Center, Carrie Woerner will be there for a public meeting. Everybody is welcome.

The other thing I have to say, is stop by City Hall, we are cleaning up City Hall and I want to thank Commissioner Higgins' DPW men.

I want to go on record that I think it is about time the City Council either look for a new building or look for another building. I am very disappointed in the way the Mechanicville Police Station looks. Not that the men are not doing their jobs, they are doing an excellent job, but in my opinion, something has to be done asap. That is all I have to say.

Mayor Baker: Mr. Serbalik?

Attorney Serbalik: I would like an Executive Session to discuss a current litigation involving the police.

Mayor Baker: Okay. Supervisor Richardson is not here. Chief Waldron?

Chief Waldron: Thank you, Mayor. I was going to try to get an annual report done for today but time was not on my side. A lot of things going on. But, a quick sneak peek at the annual report, it is going to show that call volume has increased significantly and the total number of arrests have increased significantly. All that usually translates into more revenue and it has exceeded all of our revenue expectations for 2015. I plan on doing that the first week in March to accompany our annual police report for the year 2015.

Recently, I became a certified driving instructor for the National Traffic Safety Council in New York State. Very shortly I will be offering a Defensive Driving Course to all City employees to help reduce overall insurance for the City. Obviously, that is something the City can pick up as far as cost is concerned; if all employees attend to lower our premiums. I will be scheduling that at some point in time, probably closer to March or April.

The police department will be going to an active shooter training course at the Watervliet Arsenal. We are partnering with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department. They were gracious enough to bring us along with them. So, everybody is getting the newest upgrade for what to do when we respond to an active shooter at a business, school, center or bank.

Initially, the full time officers will attend in March and then the part time officers will attend in October. I want to thank Sheriff Zurlo. He has always been very gracious to us in making sure that we are included.

I have also been doing some active shooter training for local businesses. Last night I was at the Community Center and spoke with their Board of Directors. I gave them a presentation, I put together, which explains very well what to do if an active shooter came into the Center. They were all very gracious. I appreciate it, Sam, and of course, the Community Center.

I will be going to the Library very shortly and giving the same presentation to the Library staff.

Finally, I have police officers at St. Luke's Church, for NARCAN training. They are also going to replace all of our expired NARCAN. So, a thank you to St. Luke's Church for inviting our officers for training.

That's all I have.

Mayor Baker: That was quite a bit.
Assistant Fire Chief Zecca?

Assistant Chief Zecca: Our members responded to 60 alarms last month. 59 in the City and one mutual aid. Some new programs for training in the next month or so to square away the remainder of the FEMA Grant.

Mayor Baker: Thank you. Okay. I am going to open the meeting to Public Comment. Go to the podium, use the microphone, and you have five minutes.

Dave Hicks: 241 First Avenue. What's the contract range for the water we are going to get from Saratoga County? Is this something that is year to year, five year or ten year, or whatever?

Commissioner Duell: We are still negotiating, but we are set up for three years, once it becomes hooked up. In the first year, it is 50,000; the next year 100,000 units of water and then the year after that it is 150,000. Once we are full up and running, then we will sit down to negotiate another contract.

Dave Hicks: I do not know if you are aware of this or not, but Abadabi is having some money issues because the price has gone down on gasoline. So, that place (Global Foundries) may fold. That means the Saratoga Water Authority is going to put the lien on everybody else, if they fold.

Now, when push comes to shove, I think Francis Street could have been closed and I don't think we would have missed it.

Commissioner Gilheany: I miss it.

Mayor Baker: I miss it.

Dave Hicks: Not really because there is access to everything. By the way, I got on the internet looking for Hudson Street as someone told me they did not know where it was. 979 arrests on Hudson Street?

Chief Waldron: No.

Dave Hicks: That is what it said because it was over in the right hand corner. I never saw that before.

Chief Waldron: There are a lot of Hudson Streets.

Dave Hicks: This was Hudson Street, Mechanicville, when I went in there. That is what it is, 979 arrests. I thought that was way up there.

Mayor Baker: I don't know where you are getting that from. What the Chief is saying is correct. You have Hudson Street in Hemstreet Park, which goes by Mechanicville, our Hudson Street, you have one in Stillwater.

Dave Hicks: I understand that but when I entered it in, it said Hudson Street, Mechanicville.

Commissioner Duell: Their mailing addresses are Mechanicville so I am not sure if maybe it is grouping them altogether.

Mayor Baker: It is just like when you are reading the arrest reports in the GAZETTE and it says, Mechanicville man arrested, and it was somebody from Round Lake Trailer Park. Their mailing address is Mechanicville. We get blamed for a lot of these people that are not ours.

Commissioner Higgins: People from Halfmoon and Stillwater will come to the garage to dump something. We ask, where are you from? They tell us Mechanicville. We ask, where in Mechanicville? Oh, up on Pruyn Hill. We tell them that is Halfmoon. They respond, no, it isn't. I pay Mechanicville taxes. I ask Mechanicville City tax? They respond, no, Mechanicville School tax.

Mayor Baker: People are confused by it. That's what it is about.

Dave Hicks: The water meters that you are putting in with the grant. When you install them, do the people where you are installing them pay for the meters?

Mayor Baker: No, they are coming through the Grant.

Dave Hicks: They are coming through the Grant. Okay. My water meter is already up-to-date, do I get reimbursed?

Mayor Baker: No.

Dave Hicks: Oh, hooray for me.

Mayor Baker: That is the way it is. We cannot do it, we checked.

Dave Hicks: That is it for the moment.

Mayor Baker: Kim

Kimberly Connors Dunn, 250 South Main Street: As we all know, I have asked many times over the past year or two about posting information such as Council meetings, Planning Board meetings and other things that would be relevant to residents of our City. I was pleasantly surprised and very happy to see that you are now doing this. I also noticed that the City of Mechanicville has its own Facebook page, as of today. I think it is another great way of keeping residents aware of what is going on. So, I want to give big kudos and a thank you to Commissioner Duell for doing all of this. Well done!

Commissioner Duell: Thank you.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Now I have a couple of questions. Do we have an update on when City taxpayers will be notified of the potential new assessment? Also, at the informational meeting, I am not sure if it was in September or whenever it was held, that I went to hear GAR Associates. They said they would be having another informational meeting in the Spring. Do we have any timetable for that meeting?

Commissioner Duell: They are finishing up the commercial properties right now. Once that is complete, they will be mailing out the letters to everybody for the value of the assessment that they have come to. Within that letter, once they coordinate with our Assessor about a date, that information should be in that letter.

Mayor Baker: They are going to have another public meeting of some sort.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: My next question is for Resolution 21-16 for \$7,000 for transporting seniors to appointments outside of our City. I know we talked about this briefly or it might have been during the budget workshops and some questions came up as to how many seniors took advantage of it? I have some other questions: what constitutes a senior citizen – 60, 65? How would residents know of this service? Obviously, if we are paying the \$7,000, we want to get as many people to take advantage of it. What office administers that? Is that Public Safety?

Commissioner Hipwell: You can call my office or call at the Senior Center and we will give you a number and information. My Deputy is getting a report from Stillwater as to how many people use this program.

Mayor Baker: We received one report already and I was not happy with the report. It was not detailed enough. We can't know people's names and we don't want to know people's names, but when you put down 180 North Main Street, are we going there for one person 15 times a month, or? That is what we need to know. Be more specific. They are working on that report now.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Good. As far as the overpass. When that is done, are the Lions going to put their stuff back? Is that area still going to be for them?

Mayor Baker: They will still have the area. It may not be as much as what is there now, but they will still have that area.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: I think they do a great job there. It spruces it up. Although I do not think you have details yet, starting in March there was talk that one lane would remain open at all times.

Mayor Baker: Actually, two lanes will be open because of the wide medium. One in both directions. They will work on the north end first, and that's not in cement, which end. Then when that is done, they will go to the south end.

Commissioner Higgins: That's in cement!

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Then are they going to divert any truck traffic?

Mayor Baker: If they have a big truck, they may have to stop one lane just to get the big truck through. Most trucks are going to fit so it is not going to be an issue. But an oversized one, if it came through, they would stop one of the lanes so it could get through.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: The last question is for Francis Street. Do we know when they are going to start that back up?

Mayor Baker: They stopped for six weeks and then they are going to start back up.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Technically, it is going to be done in 2-3 months?

Commissioner Higgins: June.

Mayor Baker: The original schedule says July but I think they are going to be done before that date.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Baker: Anybody else have anything?

Dave Hicks: What you were saying about more information from Stillwater regarding senior citizens transportation. From what I understand, it is a Saratoga County thing?

Mayor Baker: It is run by Stillwater.

Dave Hicks: I went to Saratoga County for information on that and they said it was one of their branches.

Mayor Baker: It very well could be, but it is run by Stillwater and that is who we deal with.

Dave Hicks: Good to get more information because I tried to use that service at one time and they said they had seven people, the same day, at the same time, which seemed a bit weird. So, if you get more paperwork, it would be better.

Mayor Baker: Yes, they are working on that paperwork.

Dave Hicks: Not to be smart, but I do not know what their range is where they go across the bridge. Is this strictly a Stillwater Mechanicville setup?

Mayor Baker: I cannot answer. Stillwater could be getting money from Rensselaer County to take Hemstreet Park people.

Dave Hicks: The bus cannot go over to Hemstreet Park even though you do business with them?

Mayor Baker: I get that and I do not agree with it.

Commissioner Hipwell: One bus cannot go across the river. The bus that we got with the grant from the State, cannot go out of town. Our bus, the one that the City bought, can go anyplace I want to send it.

Dave Hicks: I tried to get information on that but everybody was very vague in responding. They just said, the bus could not go over the river.

Mayor Baker: Anybody else? Okay. We will go to Resolutions.

**COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 21-16:
AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE
STILLWATER AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
TO HAVE TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL RELATED APPOINTMENTS, OUT
OF THE MECHANICVILLE AREA, FOR AN ANNUAL SUM OF \$7,000.**

Introduced By: Commissioner Hipwell

Seconded By: Commissioner Higgins

Roll Call:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

**COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 22-16
PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS**

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

**COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 23-16:
BUDGET TRANSFER.**

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

Mayor Baker: Anybody have new business?

I received several calls when Halfmoon lost water. Calls were from parents of students that wanted to know if there was anything we could do. I contacted the Chief, who was readily available and helpful to me. We did some research because there was a water hookup from the City of Mechanicville, when we supplied that school with water. You would think it would be left intact, because the State is always telling us we should have a second source of water.

I was told by a person from the Town of Halfmoon's government, that when Halfmoon started supplying water to the school, they cut that line. I had to bring it up because I cannot believe anyone would do that.

Commissioner Higgins: I do not think the line was cut, but the valve is broke. That is what we were told.

Mayor Baker: Okay. They told me it was cut. I am talking with Joe that they should consider getting that fixed. If it is broke or even if it is cut, get it repaired so that they have a second line.

That was a tough time for the kids to be out of school. It was exam week, the next week was regents and they missed preparing for the regents. The kids missed a couple days of school. I just wanted to say that. Again, we were not trying to make money off of this but just trying to get the school back open, that's all.

Anybody else have new business?

Commissioner Hipwell: This coming Saturday at 11:00 A.M. at the South Main Street Legion, there will be a ceremony called the Four Chaplains. They put on an outstanding program and if you can attend, I would definitely say attend. Again, 11:00 A.M. on February 6th.

Mayor Baker: Anyone else? I don't have anything else. After our meeting, we are going to go into Executive Session. After this session, we will not be taking any action. I need a motion to adjourn to go into Executive Session.

Commissioner Hipwell made a motion.

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

All is favor: Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Thank you everyone. I appreciate it.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE
TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
AT A MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THIS 17th DAY OF

February 2016

Michael D. Quill
CITY CLERK