

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
MAY 4, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

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

7:20 – Commissioner Gilheany arrived.

Mayor Baker: Jeff Alonzo 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 Hipwell, moved that the Minutes of the 2016 meeting be accepted as prepared:

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

Mayor Baker: Commissioner reports. I will go first. As you know, the Frances Street bridge has been poured, they are starting to work on the sidewalks. They are doing minimal work on the Overpass; waiting for a revised demolition permit.

Commissioner Duell: They received the permit, so it is now good to go.

Mayor Baker: So the work will be starting on the Overpass. Also, just to give you a heads up, we received emails from the Governor's Office, the Assembly, and the Senate – Kathy Marchione and Carrie Woerner, about a grant program that is being offered in the State for rehabbing your downtowns. There is going to be a \$10 million grant in each of the ten regions. We are applying for it and we have high hopes. As you know, we are just one in the mix, so we will see what happens, but we are trying and working hard to get it. That is all I have. Commissioner Duell?

Commissioner Duell: Water and Sewer bills are out. They are due the end of May. Everybody should have received the reassessment. If they have any questions, they need to call the 1-866 number, set up a time to come to a workshop. Also, if you would like to challenge your reassessment, or to have it changed or lowered or analyzed again, you have to set up an appointment for an informal review. Once they send you the results from your informal review and you are still not happy with what they have your assessment at, you can come to the Board of Assessment Review, which is July 17, at the Senior Center, and not at City Hall, and have the Board look at it and give their ruling.

Mayor Baker: We have had people show up at City Hall. All of the reassessment meetings will be at the Senior Center.

Commissioner Gilheany is not here. **Commissioner Higgins?**

Commissioner Higgins: I have been talking to NYSEG about the new gas line on South Main Street. They are hoping to start in the fall and not complete it until spring. I am giving them a drop dead date of June 1st to have everything done there so we can get the road paved next year. That is all I have.

Commissioner Hipwell: Last month I mentioned the Paul Luther playground. The gentleman called me and said due to the weather we are having at this time, they cannot do anything because of the rain. When the rain dries up, they are going to start working on South Main Street Playground.

If you do not know it, it is committed to move the Veterans monument from the old school on Main Street to Talmadge Park. Thanks to Dave Higgins and his group, they already dug it and volunteers will be pouring. Hopefully, there will be no cost to the City.

Attorney Serbalik: I would like an Executive Session on a litigation matter.

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

Chief Waldron: Thank you, Mayor. I announced that we would be doing an Aggressive Driving that would go for a period of time. Since we started the Aggressive Driving, we have issued 419 tickets, which is a lot. 108 speeding; 44 with suspended licenses. It is a lot of tickets as far as aggressive driving is concerned. That will correlate with accidents that are going down and that is a good thing. The more we enforce, the better the traffic will be as far as slowing down and less crashes. I am happy about that.

We have put on an LPR license plate reader on the new patrol car. We just started to give it a quick test to see how it is going to work. We put it in service for five days and the LPR really just did a lot.

I will give you an example of some of the stats on it. Since the LPR was put in service last Friday and was not in service today, so it was for five days, the license plate reader scanned over 18,502 cars with license plates on them. So, there are a lot of cars going through in a five day period. It hit on a total of 90 cars ready to be suspended, revoked, or some other things re the license plate. They are not all valid, so what happens is: One person came up to me and she was pulled over twice because her plate came back because it was stolen. Basically what it does, a plate with the same exact number from another state was submitted as a stolen vehicle so unfortunately, it is going to come back as a stolen plate.

They issued several tickets off of the LPR's already so it is starting to pay for itself. Enforcement of over 37 tickets have been issued in the five days with just the LPR alone. Again, it was a great investment. The officers love it and it is doing what is supposed to do. Hopefully, it will make the streets safer. Also, we are getting those people with suspended registrations, no insurance or other things off the road because otherwise you would have to commit some sort of an offense. If you drive perfectly every day, we are never going to catch you because we did not have this technology.

Commissioner Higgins: They were never on the other patrol cars?

Chief Waldron: No, they were not. We had one on the back of Unit 10. It was an antiquated one.

Commissioner Duell: Does it also read inspections?

Chief Waldron: No, it does not.

Mayor Baker: It will tell you if there are outstanding warrants for people. So, it is not just motor vehicle.

Chief Waldron: That is correct. Missing persons. I will give you an example of what our policy is against the policy across the State of New York. If an Amber Alert is issued, the license plate number of that vehicle must be submitted into every LPR in the State of New York and it is. We program it and send it out.

I also want to touch on the drug take back that was held on April 30, 2016. A phenomenal attendance at the local CVS store. We worked with the DEA on the drug take back. A lot of prescription meds, believe it or not, were turned in, especially cancer treatment medications, diabetes and a lot of oxycodone; which was surprising for such a large amount of medications in excess. We filled over five and half bags, which is really a high number for a small community. We had a lot of people saying tell us when you have your next one as we have a lot of friends that want to get rid of prescriptions. So, again, it was a very successful April 30th.

We are going to start a bike patrol through a series of donations. We have a couple of local businesses that would like to donate bicycles. They run close to \$800 a piece. We have two businesses that want to buy two bicycles each and another business that may want to buy the uniforms. Through donations, we might be able to start a bike patrol without actually costing the City anything.

We will have a bike patrol and it will probably start the end of June. There is a bicycle patrol course at the U of Albany that the officers will need to attend and that starts June 4.

That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Do you have an idea of how many officers are interested in being on the bike patrol?

Chief Waldron: I have not posted it as yet, but I would say it will be a high number of officers because we have a very young department and many actually like to do these kind of things. I would say we will probably have no less than 10 officers who will sign up.

Mayor Baker: Thank you. Chief Alonzo?

Fire Chief Alonzo: For the month of April, MFD responded to 64 total calls. Four of them were mutual aid responses outside of the City. We had talked at last month's meeting that we had a structure fire on Park Avenue and that occurred in April. Some friends of Charlie, Jr., who is one of our Captains, and members are holding a ziti dinner at the Central Firehouse on Saturday, May 21. I believe it is 2-6 but more information will certainly come out on that event.

We had a rollover accident on Central Avenue. Our rescue trucks are continuing to come into good use. Our new engine: we just got an update from the factory today that the body has been mounted to the chassis. The target date for delivery is July 1st, as has been planned.

It is going to be featured at the New York State Fire Expo at Turning Stone Casino in mid-June and then at the New England Fire Chiefs' Expo the week after, July 24, 25, and 26. Part of the deal with the vehicle is that they deducted \$5,000 from the total cost to be able to have it for two weeks to basically show off. So, they are going to show it off at those two Expos and then we should take delivery on July 1st and get training on it and should be good to go. That is all I have.

Mayor Baker: Thanks to the Police Department, Fire Department and Clifton Park/Halfmoon Ambulance Service for everything they do for us.

I need a motion now to close the regular meeting to open a Public meeting .

Commissioner Duell made the motion Seconded by Commissioner Higgins:

Mayor Baker	Yes
Commissioner Duell	Yes
Commissioner Higgins	Yes
Commissioner Hipwell	Yes

Don Fletcher from Barton and Loguidice: This is the second year, we have a third year ramp up period for the storm water program. Essentially this is the storm water program within the City of Mechanicville where the City was selected by the State, a couple of years ago, to participate in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. Many of the local communities are involved with it.

There are six pieces to it. It is public education and outreach about storm water and dumping things down the drain, etc. It is watching out for discharges, it is making the inspections of the catch basins and culverts. It is good housekeeping at DPW facilities, etc. so things are not being put down the drain by City personnel. Those are the various components that make up this program.

Every year there has to be an annual report that is completed. We helped the City two years in a row to complete the report that is through a grant that the State gave to the County to help pay our services and helped prepare the grant. So the report has been prepared and submitted to the City Council. It was put on the website about ten days ago seeking any input from people they might have. It is a pretty standard program right now.

As I mentioned, you are in year two to bring the program up to full capacity. So, next year we will finish that off.

There are a couple of local laws that have to get passed that have to do with erosion sentiment control as well as elicit discharge, as I stated earlier. That's it.

Commissioner Duell: Does anybody have any public comments or questions for Don Fletcher from Barton and Lojudice?

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue: Are the storm water controls going to have anything to do with stopping the flooding on First Avenue? Is that going to be corrected because that water is coming down Pryun Hill and coming in First Avenue? You have a storm drain that expels water as much as 28 inches. It has been as deep at 18 inches. I put that up before the Planning and Zoning Board and if they build Cumberland Farms, they are certainly not going to build it lower than First Avenue. They are going to keep the water out of their place; therefore, it is going to force water into our cellars.

Mayor Baker: I do not know about that piece because my thought on that piece is that there is going to be a lot more green space and that will absorb water. That is my personal opinion.

Commissioner Higgins - What you are doing is not specific to any flooding going on?

Don Fletcher: It is not specific to anything specific. The Cumberland Farm review obviously has to look at site specific issues in front of the Planning Board for that application. The overall MS4 Program has to do with Public education. It has to do with it in the sense that if you need to inspect any of the basins to try to see if any generalized problems. But it is not to go out and do capital improvements to fix specific problems and issues.

Dave Hicks: This is an ongoing problem that was here before so it is already in the system. Cumberland Farms is just going to exasperate it.

Kimberly Connors Dunn, 250 South Main Street: I did not have a chance to go on there and read everything because I got the Agenda today. He was referencing that this is the second year of a three year plan or whatever. That this is a three year grant? Does that cost anything at all? Will it cost anything in year three, as this is a two year grant? Or is the grant covering the whole thing?

Mayor Baker: The grant is covering the whole thing, correct?

Don Fletcher: The grant is covering the whole thing.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Thank you.

Mayor Baker: Anybody else? No? Then, I need a motion to go back into regular meeting.

Commissioner Higgins: I will make a motion, Seconded by Tim Hipwell

Commissioner Duell:

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

Mayor Baker: Now is the time that we open up the floor to public comment about anything you want. Step to the microphone, identify yourself and you have five minutes. Go ahead, Kim.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: I would like to express once again my displeasure with only one meeting a month. I am now faced with a huge Agenda that no one could possibly get through to do the research and figure out what is going on and understand, even if here all the time. That sits with all of you.

I just want to say again, I am not happy. If you can get the Agenda out earlier, even if a draft agenda, that would be a little bit helpful. Having the Civil Service meeting, which I will be sending my letter in fifteen minutes before this meeting, makes it even more difficult to get to a meeting. Both are public meetings which I am legally entitled to attend, and it doesn't bode well for the City, because it makes everyone look bad.

So, one of my questions looking through the agenda, I was wondering about Resolution 41-16, which office oversees this? This is the Home Grant?

Mayor Baker: Comes through my office from the third floor. So, it will be John and Gina and Dave helps with some of the inspections.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Okay. One more question. This has been ongoing as we have done different things at different meetings so it does get confusing with the whole fire truck. So we are going to bond \$396,000? We did get a grant for how much? I was wondering what the annual payments are going to be because it says there is going to be a raise in taxes to pay that. Can someone give me a rough estimate of what the annual payments will be?

Mayor Baker: I am shooting from the hip so please don't lynch me if I am wrong, but I think I heard the grant that we are getting is \$40,000. I think the annual payment is right in that area, \$40,000 or \$45,000. I am sure when this all started the idea was that would be our first year. That grant would offset what we need for the first year.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Right. Wasn't the whole plan that what we saved in LOSAP was going to pay for these truck payments?

Mayor Baker: Hopefully, LOSAP would pay for some of it, but not all of it.

Commissioner Gilheany: The initial plan was LOSAP was going to cover. We figured a savings of \$15,000. Then the fire department is going to reduce their budget by \$20,000 every year.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Then, that leaves \$10,000 for the taxpayers?

Commissioner Gilheany: I see nothing on what the Bond payments were.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Resolution 43-16 – Home Grant Administrator says the grant provides \$20,000 for grant administration and then we are going to give that to Camoin. My question is, does that mean no personnel in the City will be pay from either the Grant and/or my tax dollars assessed with this? Administering it? Or, is that a separate portion? So, everything that whoever does it, Gina, John or whoever, will all come out of the grant? I just want to make sure.

Commissioner Gilheany: Yes. We get paid so much for each project.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: My last question is: Resolution 45-16, New York State Retirement System requires reporting of Elected and Appointed Officials who are enrolled in the New York State Retirement System. My question is where is this three month activity log of the Council members? If we are indeed going to practice what we preach, why wouldn't it be attached for all of us to look at to demonstrate the transparent and open government that we say we are?

Commissioner Duell: I know for me, I have my calendar of the days where I am clocked in and clocked out and duties that I do.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: You are certifying everyone?

Commissioner Duell: No, this is certifying just me.

Mayor Baker: I am not in it.

Commissioner Gilheany: When you are initially elected, every officer has to keep track of their time for three months. Normally it is for the Employees Retirement System.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: You are not in it, and you are not in it, just someone who is full time is in? Could you just clarify it?

Commissioner Gilheany: I did the same thing when I came in and it was approved by the Council.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: So you are in it for one time during your full term?

Commissioner Gilheany: Yes.

Commissioner Duell: For your four year term and then if you are re-elected, you have to recertify again for your next term.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: Reading the Resolution, made it sound like everyone had to do it and Michelle had certified or something.

Mayor Baker: Thank you. Go ahead.

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue. On that Resolution that she was talking about, 46-16, who is the independent committee that certifies this?

Commissioner Duell: The Committee is made up of the Chamber of Commerce members: Roger Grout, etc.

Dave Hicks: How do they certify this? You put down your time and then they say it is okay.

Commissioner Duell: Resolution 46? That is for the USDA Grant.

Dave Hicks: Oh okay. Wrong page. Going back to Resolution 46-16, who is the independent committee that oversees the business loans?

Mayor Baker: Members of the Chamber of Commerce. This has been in place for I don't even know for how many years.

Commissioner Duell: Since they started doing the USDA Business Loans. That Committee has been in place through the Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Hicks: How are businesses notified by the Chamber of Commerce that these loans are available?

Commissioner Duell: No, I go to the Chamber and make the announcement that we do have the loans available. It is put in their Minutes and things like that.

Dave Hicks: Yet, how does it get out to the other businesses?

Commissioner Duell: If anybody comes in to apply for a building permit or to open a business, will come through my office and we tell them about it.

Dave Hicks: So they are not told until they walk into the office? Okay.
Article 183-7, One way Streets. All the streets are mentioned including First Avenue in a southerly direction. It states here that Leonard Street is not in this but Leonard Street has one way signs. How did Leonard Street get one-way signs and not be put in here?

Mayor Baker: Before me, Dave. I do not know. First Avenue as I understand from others from the past, was rescinded like a week after they passed it.

Dave Hicks: A week after they passed it? That was done in 1977.

Mayor Baker: I know, a long time ago.

Dave Hicks: Over here on the corner, I spoke to this and we found out about the curbing. At 28 feet a second to turn around that corner to go up Hill Street, they are going to pop off the first person that steps off that sidewalk.

Mayor Baker: The State approved it to go there because of the drainage in the road.

Dave Hicks: That is going to be a problem.
What was the final outcome of the boiler and what did we actually pay?

Commissioner Duell: They actually sent an email a few weeks ago and they increased the amount they are sending back to assume the cost will be zero to us.

Dave Hicks: What is the problem with getting the info on the Web Page a week or two ahead of time so that we can kind of handle this and digest it so we don't have to walk into this in a couple of days to try and do this. It is getting like the Seber effect.

Commissioner Duell: What info?

Mayor Baker: Dave, no personal attacks or you will be sitting down.

Dave Hicks: Info on the Agenda and things like this. It should be out at least a week ahead of time because you have had three weeks to chew at it.

Commissioner Duell: 48 hours is required and many times we are still compiling information and getting it in order and waiting for calls back or waiting for clearance from our attorney, to be sure we are doing the proper things. I would not want to list something on the Website a week ahead of time and then have to pull a Resolution on a Monday morning and then you are in here on that Wednesday's City Council meeting asking why we pulled it. See what I am saying? Without being fully informed, I do not think we should list anything.

Dave Hicks: None of my info has been provided to me from my previous requests. I have asked all sorts of information on different things. Tank inspections, who did this and who paid for it, who certified it, who said it was bad, who said it was cheaper to build a tank. Those are some of the questions. I never got a reply on that.

Commissioner Duell: Can you put them in writing for me so that I have your request in writing? That would make it easier and have a paper trail.

Dave Hicks: No problem.

Mayor Baker: Next?

Kimberly Connors Dunn: You were saying that the meetings are going to be here, like the GAR meetings. Will the informal reviews be here as well?

Commissioner Duell: Yes, they have already started doing them here.

Kimberly Connors Dunn: I haven't made my appointment yet.

Commissioner Duell: You have to make your appointment by Friday.

Mayor Baker: Any other questions? No questions? Then we will go to Resolutions.

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 41-16: HOME PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN.

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

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 42-16: FIRE TRUCK BOND.

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

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 43-16: HOME GRANT ADMINISTRATOR:

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

**COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 44-16: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ACCEPTANCE OF REPLY LETTTER.**

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

**COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 45-16: NYSLRS ROA COMMISSINER OF
ACCOUNTS.**

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

COMMISSIONER DUELL READ RESOLUTION 46-16: CKMJ GROUP USDA LOAN.

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

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 47-16: PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS.

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

COMMISSIONER GILHEANY READ RESOLUTION 48-16: BUDGET TRANSFERS.

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

Mayor Baker: New Business. Anybody have anything?

Commissioner Higgins: I would like to wish my cousin, Kathryn Higgins, a Happy 100th birthday on May 8th.

Mayor Baker: No more new business? Nobody? Old business? Nobody?
Can I have a motion to adjourn?

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

Again, we are going into Executive Session. We will not be taking any action when we come out of the Executive Session.

Thank you everybody for coming.

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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 8th DAY OF

June 2016

Whitney L. Duell
CITY CLERK