

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. Mayor Baker opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	- present
	Comm. Seber	- present
	Comm. Gilheany	- present
	Comm. Higgins	- present
	Comm. Hipwell	- present

Barb Pickett McGuire led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 6, 2015 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Baker wanted to remind everybody that tomorrow night is the Memorial Day Services at the monument on North Main Street which starts at 6:00 p.m. Believes they may be having something at the Legion after.

Comm. Gilheany said they are.

Comm. Seber said the water bills are due on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Said finally the bid for the bridges is out, it was posted on Monday. The bids will be open on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at City Hall. Said the Engineers and the State will have to take a look at the bids just to make sure they comply with the specifications. They are hoping to get construction started very early in July. Said they only meet once a month in June, July and August so depending on the timing of when the recommendations are in to accept the bids they may be in need of a special meeting, they want to give everybody a heads up on that special meeting so they can accept the bids. Said hopefully in the next week or two there will be a closing on the Industrial Park.

Attorney Serbalik said they have it set for next Tuesday at 3:00 but if it's not Tuesday, it will be Wednesday.

Comm. Seber said Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, we will finally close on the Industrial Park. Said they are down to three properties on the tax sale so that's moving forward. Said they also have 2 or 3 city owned properties, one has a building on it and the city has no need for them – a building is on New York Avenue, a parcel on the West Side where Tancredi's diner or restaurant used to be and there might be one or two smaller parcels that the city may be interested in getting rid of. Said he doesn't believe he needs a resolution for this, he wants to get the council's okay to get an appraisal on these properties and maybe sell them the same day as the tax sale. Said if no one had any objection they can get hold of an appraiser. Hopefully they will unload these parcels this year.

Mayor Baker asked if everyone was okay with this. Everyone was.

Comm. Gilheany had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said the Express said we were paving South Main Street. At the last meeting he said they were looking into but NYSEG is putting in gas pipes so they aren't paving South Main Street this year, maybe next year. The streets they are going to pave there are 31 curb cuts they will do.

Comm. Hipwell wanted to thank the city residents, the city council and thanked his committee for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Said it didn't go over good, it went over tremendous, and he wanted to thank everyone that showed up especially our state senator and assembly woman. Said they have books left over, if anyone wants a program book they are in his office or the library for \$3.00 a piece.

City Attorney Serbalik said the last day of redemption for the tax sale is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Said they will be setting a date for the sale probably sometime in July. Said there are only two parcels left.

Fire Chief Corrigan had nothing to report.

Comm. Seber said Tony Fiorillo with Penflex is here. Penflex is the company that administers our LOSAP Volunteer Firemen Program. Said they asked Tony to come tonight because it's been awhile since the council has had any conversation on this matter. He's going to give an overview of the program, where we are, where we are going, bring everybody up to date on the LOSAP Program. Said about 7 years ago there was a referendum and the people of the city chose to have this program.

Mr. Fiorillo said they help the city administer the Service Award Program for the volunteer fire fighters. The program is set up to recruit and retain volunteers. He believes the city voted this in 2006 and there was 58 people that they thought would earn some service credit and be part of the program. Right now they are up to 73 people, a 26% increase, so basically the cost goes up. Said when this was first implemented the cost was approximately \$115,000 to go down \$44,000 after 10 years because they were amortizing the unfunded liability for the prior service over 10 years. He thinks there are 1 or 2 more payments left. Said the city is expecting their cost to drop. Said originally they hesitated about that because the funded ratio is out, the actuaries determine if the program is in good funded status. They are always shooting for 100% but right now the program is at 60%. Said there are two reasons why the funded ratio didn't go up to 100%, their actuary cost method is designed to get every program to 100% but there are actuary losses at some time that prohibit this. Said they've had quite an influx of people, 25% increase in the volunteers you had plus all actuary losses. Said when they do the calculations of the annual cost of the program they have to list the rate of return, right now their assumption is 6%. Last year the investment advisor did not make that and right away that is a loss and that means you have to pay for it and there is more unfunded liability. Said the Mayor has told him that he wanted to possibly buy a vehicle for the fire department and what can they do about this.

Asked if he read the special commentary in the Annual Report.

Mayor Baker said he didn't read the whole thing, its 31 pages.

Mr. Fiorillo said he put some propositions here together, would like his input, does this put you where you want to be?

Mayor Baker said Mark is the one that is going over it. We don't want to hurt the program.

Mr. Fiorillo said one of his thoughts was to lower the rate of return which he wants to do for every one of his clients but it is going to cost a lot of money. Said what they are doing here for other clients is for 5 to 10 years they will spend lowering the rate of return so they will have time to get their contributions. Said they did a few things that were actuarially sound to get them to 5 1/2% medium, the resulting cost they are suggesting is if they could put in \$65,000. Said the last 5 years they have been putting in over \$90,000 so he thinks it's a reasonable problem and they will get them to where they need to be. Said he would like to drop everyone to 4% but the climate is not good out there, there are so many things going on, so many millionaires and hedge fund managers that are saying don't expect returns as usual.

Mayor Baker said as a board they will talk about it amongst each other but they appreciate the work he did, it gets them much closer to where they want to be.

Mr. Fiorillo said they have 3 other choices if this is not palatable to them, one is to terminate the plan, the other one is to terminate the plan and convert it to a contribution plan, if they did that their annual cost would be approximately \$30,000 if they went with a maximum of \$700.00 for each person for a year of service credit. Said there is no such thing as unfunded liability, it's always 100% because they tell them what to pay. Said #3 is to set up another tier like the State Retirement has 6 tiers now, every tier gave less benefits to the people, you can do the same thing. Said they can drop this from a \$20.00 accrual plan to a \$15.00 or \$10.00 accrual plan. Said their biggest client is a \$12.00 plan in Virginia with 2,000 volunteers and they love their plan. He's just telling them they can set up a tier 2. Said they can probably get it down to \$25,000, hopefully that's palatable and still when they drop their rate that will lower the front end ratio. Said their program wants to be about \$61,000. More discussion was held about the rate.

Comm. Gilheany said then he's saying in 2017 it will be \$65,000 and \$85,000 next year.

Mr. Fiorillo said he heard good things about Jodie from the Fire Department.

Comm. Hipwell said so in 2016 it will stay the same and in 2017 it will go down.

Mr. Fiorillo said year. Said they are trying to help them out.

Chief Corrigan asked if changes had to go to public referendum.

Mr. Fiorillo said they do.

Everyone thanked him for coming.

Mayor Baker said if we didn't have our volunteers we would be paying a lot of money.

Mayor Baker opened up the meeting to the public giving them 5 minutes and having them come up to the podium.

Barb McGuire said a lot of people are very nervous about all the drugs and crime and she is concerned with whether or not there has been any talk that we are going to lose our police force and taken over by the sheriffs. It will be devastating if we lose our police. It's a concern for our loved ones on Pruyn Hill, Hempstreet Park, the Island; it's scary because the sheriffs are in Malta.

Mayor Baker said there is not a person up here that wants that. He agrees with her 100%.

Dave Hicks, First Avenue, said we have an appraiser but we still have to go outside to get one.

Comm. Seber said we have an assessor, she's not an appraiser.

Mr. Hicks asked about his status on the foil request on water treatment.

Comm. Seber said he sent him a letter on Monday saying he was unclear on what exactly he was looking for. More discussion was held on this.

Mr. Hicks asked about a dispatcher, the Esplanade Project, the cost of the new copiers, the bridge traffic when it closes for repair, NYSEG Gas Line, the air conditioners in city hall causing a loss of energy, the room in the police department where the fan was blowing out because the servers are housing in that room so they should have better venting for that, asked if anybody was checking into updating the buildings lighting, has anybody done an energy audit and talked about the kids skating boarding and playing in the playground. Asked what kind of functions are there to keep the kids occupied other than creating problems on the streets.

Kim Dunn, 250 South Main Street, thanked them for seeing the agenda on the website with the resolutions attached. She is displeased with the lack of use of the electric sign, should have been used for the water restriction on May 18<sup>th</sup>, asked about the tax re-evaluation that will cost \$62,500 and if it would be added to next year's budget, said they need to get a plan for all these things. Asked what the time table was for the re-evaluation. Said they said they would talk about the LOSAP plan amongst themselves, it should be with the public; she agrees with Barb McGuire about the Police department, they need to think about officer retention.

Bill Moran, Walnut Street, said he was here to permanently close the Walnut Street Playground, their homes are surrounded with kids with water balloons and how his street and driveway are littered with colorful broken balloons, said the kids have no respect for others property, privacy or peace and some are taller and heavier than him. Talked about all the games they set up. Said if the police had enforced the NYS Pedestrian Law a long time ago he probably wouldn't be here tonight. Said if the playground didn't exist the kids had a lot of other options where they could play. Said he appeals to them, it's been going on for 10 years. Said if a police cruiser went by once a day this would end.

Angelo Rossi, Second Avenue, said the food pantry at the Community Center provides food for people for 3 days once a month. Said he's been looking at a couple of pieces of property. Gave the council a description of what he wants to do. Talked about children when they don't eat right. Wants to construct a place or buy one to feed children especially in the summer time and especially breakfast. Said a lot of parents don't have the ability to feed them right so he wants to give them a proper meal. He wants to give them nutritional meals. Said he will put the first \$100,000 into either a piece of property or a building, he's not asking the council for anything but their permission. Said this has been successful in many areas around the country. He just wants their support; he knows what he needs to do.

Mayor Baker thanked him and said they appreciate it.

Comm. Seber said on Res. No. 51-15 this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we've seen this resolution. The report went to DOH prepared by Barton & Loguidice, the cost is about \$32,500, and they applied for a \$7,500 grant to fund a portion of it with the US Department of Agriculture. Said they actually receive \$21,500 so instead of paying \$25,000 they now have to pay \$11,000. The USDA wants the resolution re-worded to talk about the exact figures so they can distribute the money so this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time they did this resolution and it reflects the numbers the USDA is requiring us to put in this resolution so they can fund this program.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 51-15 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 25-15 TO  
REFLECT THE ACTUAL EXPENSE FOR ANY AND ALL  
DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE APPLICATIONS  
FOR USDA AND/OR EFC FUNDING

Moved by Comm. Seber, seconded by Mayor Baker. Roll Call: Affirmative – all.  
Negative – none.

Comm. Seber said if you add the numbers up here it's not \$32,500 its \$29,000. They don't pay for the actual preparation of the application which is about \$3,500 so the city is picking up that part of the \$11,000 that he mentioned earlier. Said there will be a part B to this once they start getting funded for this then they can start applying for funds up to ¼ of a million dollars to do some work up at the reservoir.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 52-15 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW WILL MEET ON FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015

Moved by Comm. Seber, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 53-15 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BARTON & LOGUIDICE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SARATOGA COUNTY INTERMUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Comm. Seber said there are no local funds involved in this.

Moved by Comm. Higgins, seconded by Mayor Baker. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Gilheany read RES. NO. 54-15 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

Moved by Comm. Gilheany, seconded by Comm. Seber. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

No new or old business.

Comm. Higgins, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
AT A MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THIS 3 DAY OF

JUNE 2015

  
CITY CLERK