

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON**  
**AUGUST 10, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday August 10, 2016.

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

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Tom Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Baker: Announced that Deputy Commissioner Amanda Proper was at the meeting in place of Commissioner Gilheany.

Motion to accept the July 13, 2016 Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Duell

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

Roll Call: AYES: 3

NAYS: 1

ABSENT: 1

Mayor Baker states that the agenda has an executive session with the Engineer at this point but since he is not present at this time they will go ahead with the Commissioner Reports.

Commissioner Reports were as follows:

Mayor Baker: The firetruck is here and the trainings are going great, Chief Jeff Alonzo is present so Mayor Baker does not want to step into his area and would let Jeff talk about the new engine. The

bridge is poured and essentially done on the South side so they will be moving barricades and closing the North side down and opening the South side up.

Commissioner Duell: States that she received a letter from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and they are continuing with taking soil samples along the Hudson River so she is advising that if anyone witnesses people along the river collecting soil from the banks they are continuing to look into the PCB's that are present in some of the areas along the floodplain as well. She will put this on the website and there will also be copies in her office for anyone interested as well as the link to the EPA site to get more information.

Deputy Commissioner Proper: Has no report at this time.

Commissioner Higgins: Has nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Hipwell: Thanked the Mechanicville Fire Department for all they do for the City and also thanked the DPW and Dave Higgins for all they do for the City.

City Attorney Val Serbalik: Nothing to report.

Supervisor Richardson: The stone wall going up to the school was falling down and wants to thank Kevin Tollisen and John Pingelski for taking down the old wall, leveling off the ground, planting grass seed, and states it looks great. Mr. Richardson wants to thank them for the great cooperation between the communities. There is a banner and Dave is working with a local company and it will be going up soon. The banner was purchased by local merchants and Mr. Richardson mentions who they are: Tom Salvadore from DeVito Salvadore Funeral Home, Roger Grout from McDonald's, Bob Cuilla from LaVigna Insurance, Kevin Connors from Connors Agency, Jack Byrne from Ford/Mercury Sales, Jeff Bagnoli and Kevin Tollisen Attorneys at Law, Bob Brown from DC Sports, and John Pickett. Mr. Richardson states that he is working with Commissioner Higgins to put new benches in Tallmadge Park and that he has collected just about all the money and the following people are donating the benches: John Bove, The Richardson Family, C.J. DeCrescente, Matt Coreno, Debbie Izzo, Michael Raucci, Kevin Connors, Tom Salvadore, Bill Frucci, and Nick and Marie Rinaldi. He will have the money to Amanda in the next few days as everyone is writing checks for the benches. Mr. Richardson reiterated it is great participation from this city and people are really interested in this community and they love to make it better. Mr. Richardson mentions the Economic Summit that the Chamber of Commerce puts on is

being held on Thursday October 20, 2016. It begins around 5:00 and runs until about 9:00. This year's speakers that have been lined up are Mike Russo from Global Foundaries who has always given updates as to what is going on with Global Foundaries, Gary Dake from the Stewarts Corporation, and Dr. Michael McCarthy from the school district to give us a update on what our students are doing as well as a briefing on the \$32,000,000.00 bond issue they have to bring our schools up to date. It is possible that we will hear a few minutes from Senator Kathy Marchione, Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, and Paul Tonko. This year the Chamber is honoring Tom Salvadore who has been a great asset to this community for many years not only as a Police Officer but as a business person.

MPD Chief Waldron: States that the department is extremely busy. As of July there were over 7,000 calls handled, 441 people were arrested and 1336 tickets were issued. As far a revenue is concerned we are way surpassing our expectations of what we are supposed to bring in which is really good on the financial end of it. Even though it is not being done for that purpose, he stated that it is his job to participate and he usually goes by years of records and this just happens to be one of those years that there is just a lot larger amount of money coming in. He received a resignation of one of the full-time police officers, Zachary Pastore, who has accepted a job in the City of Watervliet; he stated it was because they get paid more. We put a temporary full-time job up and filled it but, he is resigning to go to Hudson Falls, he will be starting off there at about \$7,000-\$8,000 more than at Mechanicville. He stated they will be canvassing and looking to fill that full time slot.

MFD Chief Alonzo: States that the Fire Department has been extremely busy as well. In the month of July he recorded that there were 78 total emergency calls between fire and EMS that were responded to. This year there has been an average of around 60 calls which is still elevated compared to years past. They have had 469 total responses this year as opposed to 347 in 2015. There was 1 structure fire in July and there has been at least 1 structure fire every month since the first of the year. One month there was 2. The department has also been on additional mutual aid structure fires. He did state there was no need for concern that the fires were all accidental and not related. Chief Alonzo informed everyone that one of his members used a tourniquet to control bleeding that may have been fatal to a patient last month. Chief Alonzo gave a big thank you to Commissioner Higgins because with aging infrastructure and aging equipment the hot water tank went and Mr. Higgins had his guys in the firehouse the next day and were back up and running. The new engine has been very well received. There was an article in The Express last week explaining the three year process working with the City. Chief Alonzo stated that with all due respect he is addressing the entire City Council and that he is a

team player. He states that with the position he holds he needs to work with all members of the Fire Department even the ones that didn't support him being voted in. When he was away on vacation there was an issue with the new truck which was all over social media and in The Express and he was taken back by some of the things he read. The main thing he was taken back by was that any or all of the Council did not know that the new firetruck was being delivered on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Commission Duell is the only one that should be excused because she didn't vote to approve it in 2015. Wednesday night is training night for the Fire Department so it is not always easy for the Chief's to get to the meetings, but they do try to keep everyone informed and talk to each Commissioner one on one to make sure the communication is good. If they are doing something wrong they want to know and they want this to be a team effort for the community. He stated that everyone knew the new firetruck was coming on July 1<sup>st</sup> or at least he thought they did since there was an article in The Express with the payment schedule printed. He recalled Commissioner Seber securing a USDA loan and it seemed like everything was going in line then the new truck came and we can't have it because there was no payment for it. Feels that everyone needs to work together and the Council needs to work together and communicate with one another because if truly someone didn't know this firetruck that has been talked about for the last year and a half was coming then that is very sad. He goes on and states that when the truck had to go back because of no payment there were a lot of frustrated members and he tried to keep them under control but, the volunteer participation decreased immensely. Once the new truck arrived he had around 20 members come for a carbon monoxide alarm. The new engine orientation he had 42 members present. The training is going great and he wants to keep the lines of communication open. The volunteers are not happy about how this went and we have to keep our volunteers happy. He tells the Council that the Fire Department is there for you and that they want to be there for you but reiterates that everyone needs to work together because there are good things being done out there.

Mayor Baker: Added that he is familiar with the frustration and does think the Council is working hard to make sure they work together and if anything this issue has made that better. He believes they are heading in the right direction.

Mayor Baker Announces they will be going into executive session at 7:19 P.M.

Motion to except Executive Session:

Dave Higgins

Seconded by:

Tim Hipwell



Kim Dunn: In reference to the North Main Street Streetscape, asked how much is the grant we are getting, what is the total cost to the City, what exact work are we doing and where, is the \$49,000.00 covered under the grant?

Commissioner Duell: The \$49,000.00 is covered under the grant and the scope of the project is from the corner of City Hall up to where the bridge crosses the river. It is a matching grant. It will not cost the taxpayers any money. It is Streetscape: Sidewalks, greenery, benches, street lights.

Kim Dunn: Posed her concern that they are doing sidewalks here but then expect other people to put in their own sidewalks. Stated that doesn't sit well with most people.

Mayor Baker: Informed her that the City gets grants where they can get them and this just so happens to be the location we can get it. They don't offer them in residential areas but in business areas.

Dave Hicks 241 First Avenue states that if someone missed a meeting and has to read into the minutes they don't really get the full knowledge of what is going on, he wants it so that someone can come in and read what actually happened. He also states that if the people want the minutes word for word then they should be done that way.

Mayor Baker told him that the Council was advised by the New York Conference of Mayors not to put minutes word for word and that they would not be done that way.

Dave Hicks asked what is wrong with the sidewalks and why they need to be replaced up to the bridge, was it just because they have a grant for it. States that in the past he told the City they should eliminate concrete sidewalks so there isn't a heaving problem and made the sidewalks out of brick.

Commissioner Duell informed him they were in bad shape; the trees have raised parts of the sidewalks which have made a trip hazard for residents.

Mr. Hicks asks about Resolution 76-16. He wants to know if we are paying for the increase on it because the Department of Transportation approved it.

Commissioner Duell informed him that this is for the Engineer and that Real; the construction company is not getting an increase in what they bid for the job.

Mr. Hicks wants to know if the State said it was okay for them to charge us and was wondering why they are eligible now and were not before.

Commissioner Duell informed him that it wasn't that they weren't eligible before it was just that the Council didn't agree on the figure they had given them so that is why it was voted down.

Mayor Baker told him that the State said that the amount of money they are requesting to possibly need for overtime is not out of line.

David Hicks stated that whoever bid the job should have known that something was coming in since there is usually a 20% factor for overtime and emergencies when you bid on a job.

Mayor Baker said that was correct for the contractor not the Engineer but, we are approving money for the Engineer. If the contractor works overtime then they have to work overtime and that is the increase.

Commissioner Duell: Informed him that there is nothing set that says they are going to use this whole amount of money it is a projection of what they feel it could cost in the end.

Kim Dunn: For the loan resolution 78-16 (Kim read: Not to sell, transfer, lease, or otherwise encumber the facility or any portion thereof, or interest therein, or permit others to do so without the prior written consent of the Government. She asked that if the City came into a lot of money someday and we wanted to upgrade that firetruck, or want to trade it in for something else, or sell it does this prevent us from doing that?

Commissioner Duell stated that it is similar to you buying a car and having a loan on it, you can't sell it without someone who has a lien on it knowing that you are selling it, until it is paid for. It doesn't





Commissioner Duell read RESOLUTION: 84-16: Water System Improvement Project

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

Commissioner Duell read RESOLUTION: 85-16: North Central Avenue Sidewalk Project B&L Contract

Moved by: Mayor Baker

Seconded by: Commissioner Hipwell

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

New Business: Mayor Baker gave each council member a packet and stated he received a call from a Scout leader there interested in maybe trying to develop a dog park and are looking at the area behind Tenendaho. He states that there are a lot of things that need to be looked at; parking issues, clean up issues, etc. But just wanted to let everyone know they have packets to look at.

Old Business: None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11

Introduced by: Dave Higgins

Seconded by: Commissioner Hipwell

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
AT A MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF

September 2016.

Michelle L Duell  
CITY CLERK