

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
OCTOBER 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday October 12, 2016.

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

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Mr. Clayton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion to accept the September 14, 2016 Minutes:

Motion:	Commissioner Duell	Seconded by:	Commissioner Higgins
Roll Call:	AYES: 5	NAYS:	0

Commissioner Reports were as follows:

Mayor Baker stated that the bridge is a little behind they had some issues with beams but it has been taken care of. They originally said they were 2 weeks behind and he stated it is still in that same ballpark. He informed the public that the firetruck bonding was signed on October 11, 2016 through the USDA and it will be final on October 13, 2016 and that a \$50,000 grant has been received and the balance has been bonded through USDA.

Commissioner Duell informed everyone that her office is collecting for the water bills the bills are due at the end of October.

Commissioner Gilheany was looking for some information pertaining to the resolution to hire a new Animal Control Officer. She asked Commissioner Hipwell about the Animal Control Officer's credentials and if he has any training? Commissioner Gilheany asked if he would just be handling dogs and if so why is he being referred to as Animal Control. Commissioner Gilheany asked how many calls were dog related in the last (2) two years.

Commissioner Hipwell stated that from 9/1/2015 to 12/31/2015 there were 34 calls and from 1/1/2016 to 9/19/2016 there were 59 calls. Commissioner Hipwell stated that Anthony Gotti filled out all the paperwork and attended a class in Clifton Park and has been trained similar to the past two animal control officers. Mr. Gotti began on September 23, 2016 and he will be paid \$8,200

Commissioner Gilheany asked if the 59 calls were actual calls from residents or was this door to door checking on licenses also.

Commissioner Hipwell informed her that they were calls from the Mechanicville Police Department.

Commissioner Gilheany asked if these calls were just dogs and if Mr. Gotti would be doing just dogs.

Commissioner Hipwell stated that according to New York State Law he only can pick up dogs, I would like to change it from ACO (Animal Control Officer) to DCO (Dog Control Officer) but was told we didn't need to do that. Commissioner Hipwell stated he cannot pick up anything else for those things ENCON needs to be called.

Commissioner Duell added that in the month of September the Accounts Department did over 40 dog licenses that were issued or renewed which she stated was an extremely high total from previous years.

Commissioner Hipwell informed everyone that the Animal Control Officer's name is Anthony Gotti and it is the same cellphone number as the previous ACO.

Commissioner Higgins stated that on October 26, 2016 if everything goes well they will be paving various streets in the City. Also, in March or April NYSEG will be putting new gas services and gas lines on Main Street and will hopefully be done by June.

Commissioner Hipwell added that on November 12, 2016 in Tallmadge Park at 11:00 A.M. there will be a re-dedication of the monument that was moved from Main Street to Tallmadge Park. It is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Val Serbalik stated that the last day of redemption for the 2013 tax sales is December 31, 2016. He also requested an executive session on a litigation matter.

Chief Waldron informed everyone that he is working on the 2017 budget and hoping all the figures will be finalized and he is working with the Mayor and the Commissioner of Finance.

Chief Alonzo stated that in the month of September the Mechanicville Fire Department responded to 50 total calls which is a combination of fire and medical related calls. They are currently at 566 total calls for the year which is up from 455 calls from the same time last year. They did respond to a low angle rescue on September 11, 2016 and learned from that rescue that they could use more rope rescue equipment and he is also working on the budget and will make sure rope rescue equipment is in there. He stated this month is Fire Prevention Month and the committee is well under way and he participated with the Kindergarten and First Graders along with the Hillcrest Fire Department. He commented that it is a great team effort. The elementary school is being taught this week and the preschool's in the City will be taught next week and they are going to the religious Education classes at All Saints On The Hudson to do fire drills with them. Also, they will be meeting with the Senior Citizens next week.

Mayor Baker informed everyone that the next thing on the agenda is a public hearing but actually it is announcing a public hearing. The properties on Davenport Square, the Railroad Station, the Rescue Squad building, the XO tower, Bove's building, will all be brought to the zoning code that they are supposed to be at. There will be a public hearing on November 9, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Senior Center with regards to the zoning.

Public Comment:

Allison Izzo from the Girl Scouts thanked the City Council for giving the dog park consideration. Allison stated that the troop has been addressing some of the concerns that were brought up at the past

meeting and have identified some potential solutions which are outlined in a document provided to the Mayor. She asked the Council to please let them know if there are any questions about their solutions.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street asked about resolution 96-16 and who will be enforcing the resolution and how and also what will happen if the repeatedly don't follow it.

Mayor Baker informed her that the Building and Code Enforcement Officer will enforce it. He let her know that he rides around every day so he will be checking for the signs. He told her that they will be cited for the violation once the Council makes it known that they will be enforcing it.

Kim Dunn asked in reference to resolution 98-16 asked how much this will cost the City and the sidewalk's from City Hall to what point will be replaced and why are we putting trees, wouldn't that be more maintenance for us.

Commissioner Duell responded that the grant for this project is a matching grant and that the State has allowed us to use what we have put into the bridge projects on Main Street and Frances Street to be our match so it will not cost us additional money. The original plan was for it to start at Hill Street and go up to the bridge but that is more than we have money for so we are looking to scaling back the project.

Kim Dunn posed her concern that this is costing us money we already paid for through the North Main Street/ Frances street project, but we are going to be putting sidewalk in front of places that are not City owned. She stated it is not fair that some people will get their sidewalks replaced while others in the City have to pay to have theirs replaced.

Commissioner Duell said that now that we have to scale back the project it may very well only be in front of the City Hall and the Firehouse.

Mayor Baker added that the sidewalk in front of the building next to City Hall had sunk in because of a water leak under it and it is our responsibility so we will replace that.

Commissioner Duell stated that as for the trees they want a certain amount of green space for every project. The issue with some of the trees planted now are they weren't the correct type of tree to be planted for that, there are trees that grow down and not out and we will be looking to plant those so the sidewalks don't heave.

Kim Dunn asked in reference to the ACO resolution that it states \$8200 plus all such benefits allowed what are the benefits allowed? Do they get health insurance, dental, vision?

Commissioner Duell stated they do not get health insurance but it is for mileage reimbursement if they use their own personal vehicle and reimbursement if they use their own personal phone.

David Hicks of 241 First Avenue questioned the resolution 96-16 stated that the City should go a step further with this and if they are worrying about a wheel chair not being able to get by a sandwich sign they should worry about the utility poles blocking sidewalks. He is asking why this resolution is particularly targeting these signs.

Mayor Baker informed Mr. Hicks that the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement went to a class last week and the signs were a specific thing that came out of the class that there are no signs blocking the sidewalks.

Mr. Hicks asked what was going on with the ACO. He asked if the old ACO resigned or was fired.

Mr. Hipwell stated that he resigned.

Mr. Hicks wants to know what credentials or background check has been done on the new ACO?

Mr. Hipwell informed him that after Mr. Gotti filled out the paperwork it was sent to the Mechanicville Police Department for a background check. Once that was cleared he was hired and then he went to a class in Clifton Park.

Mr. Hicks stated that if he only does dogs the name should be changed to dog warden or something similar to that.

Mr. Hipwell stated he checked with the City Attorney and the name does not need to be changed.

Mr. Hicks questioned his past employment.

Mr. Gotti spoke up and stated he is a local business owner here in the City.

Mr. Hicks stated that at the City auction precedence was set that no one will ever buy property until the taxes are written off.

Janet Ganom stated that she is in favor of the dog park whether it is at the proposed location or a different location and that she owns a dog and would definitely pay for a pass to use the facility.

Mr. Hicks recommended that the ACO get an ID tag as opposed to a badge.

Mr. Hipwell stated he will be keeping the badge and already went to the Mechanicville Police Department for a badge but it will take 2 to 4 weeks to come.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 96-16: ADA (Signs in the public right away)

Moved by: Mayor Baker Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 97-16: Main Street Streetscape Lead Agency Status

Moved by: Commissioner Duell Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 98-16: Main Street Streetscape SEQRA

Moved by: Mayor Baker Seconded by: Commissioner Duell

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 99-16: Animal Control Officer Appointment

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins Seconded by: Commissioner Hipwell

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 100-16: Sale of Delinquent Tax Property (237 South Main Street)

Moved by: Commissioner Duell Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 0 NAYS: 4 Commission Hipwell abstain

RESOLUTION 101-16: Sale of Delinquent Tax Property (96 Saratoga Avenue)

Moved by: Commissioner Duell Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 0 NAYS: 4 Commission Hipwell abstain

RESOLUTION 102-16: Sale of Delinquent Tax Property (14 Warsaw Street)

Moved by: Commissioner Duell Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 2 NAYS: 3

RESOLUTION 103-16: Payroll and vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

Mayor Baker Announces they will be accepting a motion to go into executive session and will be returning to regular session but will not be taking any action.

Motion to except Executive Session: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

Roll Call AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Back in at 8:15 P.M.

Motion to return Commissioner Higgins

Seconded by: Commissioner Hipwell

Roll Call AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Motion by Commissioner 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 9th DAY OF

November, 2016

Michelle L. Orrell
CITY CLERK