

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
DECEMBER 14, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday December 14, 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.  
Sam Carabis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion to accept the November 9, 2016 Minutes:

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

Commissioner Reports were as follows:

Mayor Baker had nothing to report.

Commissioner Duell stated that the office is ending the year with collections and gearing up for next year with taxes and foreclosed properties. Commissioner Duell thanked the residents of the City of Mechanicville for electing her as Commissioner of Accounts for the City of Mechanicville. She informed the public that effective as of December 31, 2016 she will be resigned from her position of Commissioner of Accounts and will be taking the position of Director of the Mechanicville Public Library.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that there will be a vote on the 2017 budget during the meeting and she feels it is a respectable budget and that it stayed within the tax cap of .68%.

Commissioner Higgins had nothing to report.

Commissioner Hipwell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Commissioners and City employees.

Mayor Baker wanted to wait until after Commissioner Duell gave her resignation and he thanked her for a good year. He stated that with all the present Commissioners the City is in good shape and he thanked her for her year of service.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated that the City vs. Enel case has been settled and the City would be receiving a check for that.

Chief Waldron stated it has been quite busy. Four police cars were involved in accidents and Chief Waldron stated there will be a mandatory 6 hour defensive driving course in January that all officers will be required to take.

Chief Waldron gave his department stats through November were as follows:

Accidents Investigated	176
Open doors or Windows	61
Police calls investigated	9313
Total call volume	10,056
Total Arrest	615
Total Traffic Tickets	1903
Total Parking Tickets	198

Chief Waldron stated they have exceeded all their revenue expectations. He said that around \$40,000 to \$45,000 was budgeted for traffic and at this time we are at \$70,511. Total revenue less than \$90,000 was budgeted and it is at \$116,000 at this time. Also, stated that he will be in the black for the expenditure part of the budget and complemented his part-time officers for saving the City a lot of money. Chief Waldron thanked Commissioner Duell and stated he enjoyed his time working with her. Chief Waldron explained that the Police Department has been busy with other things as well. They participated with the Shop with a Cop. The police department picked a family, a single mother in the military with 4 children. The family was extremely happy and appreciative. Chief Waldron thanked Officer Alex Dunn who went and represented the Mechanicville Police Department and for always being willing and able and an all-around good police officer. The Mechanicville Police Department also adopted 3 families and individual officers are adopting families themselves. The Police Department is filled with toys and hopefully they can help as many families as possible. The Police Department is also collecting toys and money for the Momentive Employees. The Mechanicville Police have started to collect toys and will be filling up a trailer and bringing to Momentive to give out. The City had a fleeing felon, he was wanted and jumped out of a moving car and fled into the woods. As suspected he was on drugs. He was captured on Tuesday night in possession of 18.9 grams of cocaine, 15 bags of heroin, and several other pills. Chief Waldron commended the City of Troy for their assistance with this. Chief Waldron informed everyone of an issue where a call came in that a suspect wanted to do self-harm on himself but decided to change from self-harm to himself to killing any police officer that came to assist him. Unfortunately the city was tied up a bit but the police set up a perimeter to protect the residents in the area. We received the assistance from The Saratoga County Sheriff Department Swat Team, the State Police Swat Team, crisis negotiators, a barricat, and a helicopter. We brought everything we could to protect and make sure the scene was safe. The subject exited the house, pulled a gun out of his waistband. At this point, Chief Waldron stated that the suspect could have been shot but the Officers showed great restraint in not doing that. He ultimately put the gun down and walked toward the Police but did not surrender so needed to be brought to the ground. Chief Waldron added that there is a resolution for this meeting in reference to his dispatchers receiving a \$1 per hour raise. He commended the dispatchers for doing a phenomenal job and stated they are the lowest paid dispatchers in the capital district. He stated that college

dispatchers make more than our Mechanicville Police Dispatchers. Our dispatchers make \$14 per hour and he stated we actually have a part-time dispatcher that makes \$27 per hour at his full-time dispatcher job. Chief Waldron thanks his dispatchers for staying at the City of Mechanicville and not going elsewhere to work. Chief Waldron is asking the City Council for their support with this resolution.

Chief Alonzo stated that the Mechanicville Fire Department responded to 49 total calls in the month of November. 45 where alarms within the City and 4 mutual aid responses. 2 of the mutual aid calls were structure fires one in the Town of Stillwater and the other in the Town of Halfmoon. He informed the residents to check the batteries in the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. The Mechanicville Fire Department also had 1 vehicle accident and Chief Alonzo thanked Chief Waldron and his department for their assistance. Chief Alonzo thanked the residents of Mechanicville for their donations from the door to door collection that was done in November. He stated this helps fund fire prevention that is providing to the local schools. The Mechanicville Fire Department participated in Sheriff Zurlo's Toys for Tots fund drive; they had a breakfast with Santa this past weekend and then transported him to Tallmadge Park for the annual Visit with Santa in the park. The pole barn is completely up and the bay doors have been completed and Chief Alonzo thanked the Council and Assemblywomen Carrie Woerner for the much needed additions. Chief Alonzo thanked Commissioner Duell for all of her assistance and appreciated all of her help throughout the past year. Chief Alonzo stated that although it increased he feels it is a very fair and reasonable budget. Chief Alonzo wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Baker opened the floor for public hearing on the 2017 budget.

David Hicks 241 First Avenue stated that he went over the budget and stated the Commissioner Gilheany anticipated the general revenue as having \$1 million plus and according to the budget as of 11/3/16 after his calculation he states there is \$2.7 million dollars "floating" around he is confused as to why the tax is being raised.

Commissioner Gilheany explained that there are a lot of expenditures that come at the end of the year and also some of the invoices that were paid in October haven't show yet and guaranteed him that there will not even be \$1 million dollars left at the end of the year.

David Hicks stated he felt the budget should have been a little tighter.

Kim Dunn from 250 South Main Street stated she was pleased that the budget was not going over the tax cap and appreciates that everyone is being fiscally conservative and thanked the council for not going over the tax cap since a lot of people are having tough times right now and that it is much appreciated.

Mayor Baker closed the budget portion of the meeting and opened the meeting to public comment.

Pam Sgambati President of the Junior Dante asked about information pertaining to a letter of the rules and regulations for a City rental. She informed the Council that she is the President of the

civic organization and they have 49 active members that pay \$3 every month and they meet 6 months out of the year at the senior building. They donate to local charities and help families within the city by donating each month to the Community Center food pantry and give \$100 scholarships to two (2) graduating seniors at Mechanicville High School, and stated that \$100 donation is given to the Senior Citizens for use of the building for their meeting. She stated that they are concerned as to the letter they received and wanted to know when it would be in effect since they do not have their next meeting until January 18, 2017. They are asking if they need to purchase insurance in order to use the building.

Commissioner Duell stated it was a Certificate of Insurance and asked if there organization carried insurance.

Pam Sgambati and Emilia Izzo (also a Junior Dante Club member) stated that mostly all of the members of their organization are senior citizens and belong to our senior citizen group.

Commission Duell stated that the council would need to discuss this and realizes they are a non-profit organization. Commissioner Duell stated the Commissioners would discuss this and would get back to them.

Thomas Mahoney from The Express asked what they Council is going to do to fill Commissioner Duell's position.

Mayor Baker informed him that at this time they are investigating the issue right now and that he made a call to the State Comptroller's office to get some guidance from them and that the City wants to make sure they do it correctly and that they get the right person in the position. He stated that it probably won't happen until the next meeting in January. Mayor Baker stated that someone will be appointed pending the November election (this November) and then that candidate would have to run two (2) years later in November also because that is when the term ends.

Mayor Baker stated that at this time there is nothing in place.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that when the Commissioner is not available the Deputy is then in charge.

Mayor Baker confirmed that from when Commissioner Duell is gone until the time someone is appointed the Deputy Commissioner will be running the office. Mayor Baker said that all of the offices have been working very hard to get the finances in order so they want to make sure they get the right person in there and do it the right way.

Tara Morelli on behalf of Girl Scout Troop 1114 stated that last month it came to their attention that they Council was thinking of using the South Main Street playground as the possible site for the dog park and she has a few questions in reference to the plans for it. If the location is picked how will the dogs get from the parking lot to the dog park since it is surrounded by the tennis courts and playground? One of the questions is the dogs interacting with the playground and the children so they were wondering how to keep them separate.

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Mayor Baker stated they it doesn't seem possible to keep them separate but hopefully the dogs going to the dog park can be controlled on a leash. The reason they proposed this location is because of parking. A major issue for the Council is that there will be ample parking and at the South Main Street location there is sufficient parking. Mayor Baker also stated that although the playground is used it does not have a lot of activity so he does not feel as though there will be an issue.

Tara Morelli also asked about the hill that goes to the proposed area. It is steep and wasn't sure if there were plans to put in stairs or if that was something that the Council planned on having the Girl Scouts help with from there fundraiser.

Commissioner Higgins stated that they could grade the hill better and make easier access.

Tara Morelli asked if the Council has checked into the flooding and asked if the Council checked with the EPA about the flooding in that area.

Mayor Baker informed her that anything along South Main Street is in the floodplain but does not flood all the time.

Commissioner Higgins stated that in the spring it floods.

Mayor Baker stated that there may be a two (2) or three (3) week period where they may not be able to use the dog park.

Tara Morelli stated that there are a lot of trees there at the present time and what is the plan for that. Also, some of the trees have the green moss on them and she wasn't sure if that kills the trees, and if the overgrown brush would be removed and how big the boundaries for the dog park would be.

Mayor Baker informed her that they will look into it and if there are too many trees they may take some out of there but also stated that it is important to have shade. Also stated that he would be going down there with Commissioner Higgins and mark it out and let you know what the area will be.

David Hicks 241 First Avenue asked what the results were for the energy audit.

Commissioner Duell stated the paperwork has been sent in and they are processing it and communicating with anyone that supplies utilities to Mechanicville. This is different from the NYSEG outfit that comes in.

David Hicks asked what was found out about the extra utility poles that were left by the phone company.

Commissioner Duell stated she has not received any reply yet on that.

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David Hicks asked if anything has been done in reference to the flooding on Central Avenue.

Mayor Baker stated that they met with DOT and walked the site and they are looking at some plans for it.

David Hicks asked if the water line and tanks with Barton and Loguidice were already paid.

Mayor Baker stated it was the same project but it is additional money.

David Hicks asked about the status of the sale of the lot at the Department of Public Works.

Commissioner Duell informed him that the mortgage was satisfied that was held on it and they own it full outright.

David Hicks asked now where the snow would be dumped now.

Commissioner Higgins stated there is room at the DPW yard.

David Hicks asked if the MS4 are up to speed.

Mayor Baker stated they all attended a meeting in Ballston.

Commissioner Duell said everything is set for the laws and we accepted them at the last meeting and the report has been sent into the State. She stated we are all set to go.

David Hicks suggested that people in the community need to be made aware of who is delivering in the City maybe they should have identification on.

Mayor Baker thanked him for the suggestion.

Kim Dunn 250 South Main Street asked if the \$241,500 that will be paid additional to Barton and Loguidice if that is coming out of a grant.

Mayor Baker informed her that it is grant money.

Kim Dunn also asked in reference to resolution 114-16 healthcare insurance providers is that for all the City Employees or just certain ones.

Commissioner Duell stated that it is for all the City employees and the retirees. The current employees that work for the City are under the MVP plan and the retirees are under the United Healthcare plan.

Kim Dunn asked in reference to resolution 115-16, of the recipients in violation of their agreement. What is exactly the process does this mean the City is out this money? What typically is the time line for this type of thing?

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Commissioner Duell informed her that this is the USDA business loan so it is not money from the City it is money from the USDA we are overseeing those loans. We did do this in the past for a business and she is now paid in full.

Attorney Val Serbalik commented that the time line depends if they answer the violation, if they answer it, it could be four (4) or five (5) months if not then they take a default and that could be a couple of months.

Kim Dunn asked what it they just refuse to pay.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated that basically they have refused to pay so we will have to take a judgement against them in the Mechanicville City Court but, whether or not we collect against them is another thing. In terms of actually putting money to pay USDA it is probably very sketchy for them. Attorney Serbalik said unfortunately you still have to go through the motions or it will affect the eligibility for future USDA loans.

Commissioner Duell stated that USDA is not going to require the City to pay back any unpaid balances.

Kim Dunn asked per the CSEA agreement what will the increase be.

Commissioner Duell informed her 3%.

Commissioner Gilheany added 3% the first year, 3% the second year, and 2.75% the third year.

Kim Dunn commented on resolution 120-16 that she feels it is great to give them a raise. She stated people don't realize what an important job they have; they have the officer's lives at their hands and civilian lives at their hands. She stated she is very happy that the raise will be given and also thinks the Council needs to look into what we can do for officer retention. Kim Dunn stated she feels once we train our officers we need to do whatever we can do to keep them here.

Tom Mahoney from the Express stated that he thought if they hadn't done any remediation work within a year at the DPW land that the DEC would do something.

Mayor Baker stated that they had just met with the DEC on Tuesday so they are working on it.

Tom Mahoney asked in reference to the USDA list that if you are on that list then you have missed quite a few payments.

Commissioner Duell stated that they have had several chances of being contacted and rearranging and setting up different payment arrangements has been offered.

Commissioner Gilheany asked if they offered any collateral.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated that the collateral was mostly inventory and equipment which is gone.

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David Hicks asked why the Mechanicville Fire Department website is gone, is the MS4 regs for snow dump going to be involved. Mr. Hicks asked if the “esplanade” is dead.

Commissioner Duell stated the MS4 has been talked about.

Mayor Baker stated that as far as the Council and HCR are concerned the “esplanade” is out but, he may go somewhere else for funding. Mayor Baker stated there is the possibility of there being a meeting of the Zoning/Planning Board on January 2, 2017 at the senior citizen building. It will be an informational meeting. It may or may not happen, if they withdraw everything it won’t happen and they will make sure that notice gets out there.

Resolutions:

Resolution 111-16: Gary Sweeney to the Board of Assessment Review  
Moved by: Commissioner Duell      Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins  
AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

Resolution 112-16: Roger Jackson to the Board of Assessment Review  
Moved by: Commissioner Higgins      Seconded by: Commissioner Duell  
AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

Resolution 113-16: New York State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund  
Tabled

Resolution 114-16: BlueChip Financial Health Insurance  
Moved by: Commissioner Duell      Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany  
AYES: 4      NAYS: 0  
Mayor Baker abstain

Resolution 115-16: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business  
Enterprise Grant Program  
Moved by: Mayor Baker      Seconded by: Commissioner Duell  
AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

Resolution 116-16: Budget Transfers  
Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany      Seconded by: Mayor Baker  
AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

Resolution 117-16: Payroll and vouchers  
Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany      Seconded by: Commissioner Duell  
AYES: 5      NAYS: 0



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Resolution 118-16: City Budget for the fiscal year of 2017

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Resolution 119-16: Memorandum Agreement between City and CSEA

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Resolution 120-16: Increase of Pay for Dispatcher

Moved by: Mayor Baker Seconded by: Commissioner Hipwell

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 go into Executive Session: 7:49

Motion by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Duell

Roll Call AYES: 5 NAYS: 0