

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
April 11, 2018
7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Central Fire House, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday April 11, 2018.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	Present
	Commissioner Dunn	Present
	Commissioner Gilheany	Absent
	Commissioner Gotti	Present
	Commissioner McGuire	Present

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

Motion to accept the March 14, 2018 Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Baker Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti
Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker stated that April 28th is opening day for Little League and the Council has been invited to attend. He went on to say that April 22nd is the 2nd Annual Sasha's Run.

Commissioner Dunn stated the Accounts Office participated in Freedom Boxes which is a program run through Craig Hayner's office (Saratoga County Clerk). Commissioner Dunn stated there were boxes in the Account's office, Mike Rabbit's Barber Shop, and the Mechanicville Police Department. Commissioner Dunn thanked everyone who made a donation. She went on to say she delivered the boxes and they had the New York State Yellow Ribbon Ceremony which was a very moving experience to witness. Commissioner Dunn stated her Deputy is very busy dealing with the water meter readings which have been complicated due to the installation of the new meters. At this time the Deputy is dealing with hundreds of replacement meters which results in multiple readings and a lot of additional data that needs to be entered for this cycle. Commissioner Dunn stated that they do anticipate having the water bills out on schedule and they will be due by May 31st before having penalties.

Mayor Baker added that Emilia is doing a great job.

Commissioner Gotti stated that the west tank on DeVoe Road is offline and at this time is being cleaned. He went on to say that they are getting ready for the dredging and at this time they are waiting for the bids to come back on the lower reservoir. Commissioner Gotti stated he is looking into purchasing a hot box which is an asphalt box for the City so they can perform real

asphalt repairs instead of cold patch. Commissioner Gotti stated that Mayor Baker has approached him about doing some of the work in front of City Hall and the Fire Department for the new sidewalks and they are looking forward to doing the work. Commissioner Gotti stated his department would also be helping at the Veteran's Memorial.

Mayor Baker added that there is streetscape grant for North Main Street but the present prices compared to when the City received the grant are not comparable therefore if Commissioner Gotti's department can do some of the work the City will get a lot more work done with the grant. He went on to say he appreciates Commissioner Gotti being willing to help.

Commissioner McGuire stated on March 24, 2018 they had a very successful Easter Egg Hunt in Tallmadge Park. She stated they had over 100 kids and over 2000 eggs were distributed throughout the Park. Commissioner McGuire stated the Easter Bunny was on hand for pictures and she especially thanked her Deputy Alyssa Santagato for making it such a success. She went on to thank Kim Dunn, Matt Dunn, the Mechanicville Fire Department, Linda Santagato, Madison McGuire, Amiyah Daniels, Isabella Dickson, Olivia Hernandez, Tiffany Zennaiter, Alexis Kusius, Issac Cutler, Jeff Hotaling, Nick Petta, and Peggy Sue and McKenna Sherman and the Easter Bunny. Commissioner McGuire stated there was an issue with the ladies room at the Senior Center on February 23rd, which resulted in minor flooding and was taken care of. She went on to say that on April 5th there was a major issue of flooding in the men's room in which Quick Response was called. Commissioner McGuire said sheetrock and carpeting needed to be removed and the Center will be closed until renovations are complete and she gave an estimated time of approximately the end of April but was not sure when it will be up and running. Commissioner McGuire stated the taxes being done by AARP was relocated to the library as well as the Wellness Fair. She thanked the library for pitching in and helping out. Commissioner McGuire added the City Bus has been operating with one part-time operator but they are still running as many trips as possible and that she has not received any complaints due to the shortened hours. She said at this point the ridership and donation amount are up over the past two months. Commissioner McGuire stated they are interviewing for the position and hopefully it can go back to running where it was previously.

Commissioner Gotti added that he has been in contact with a plumbing company because the Senior Center is experiencing failing drains, the drains in the bathrooms cannot accommodate the amount of water. He stated he has a gentleman that will put cameras in there to see what is going on so it can be correct.

Chief Waldron stated there was a robbery on Saturday night at the Sunoco on Central Avenue. He said a male subject entered the Sunoco and handed the teller a note stating he had a gun and he wanted the register emptied. The teller complied and without giving the amount of money handed over Chief Waldron stated it was a lot and no weapon was ever displayed. He went on to say that the subject fled on foot towards Frances Street, and this was the same "mo" as a robbery in Schuylerville. Chief Waldron stated that the Mechanicville Police Department is working with the Sheriff's Department and at this time they have some good leads. He went on to say that they installed cameras on Central Avenue and they were essential getting the Department the direction of travel, they watched the male come across the parking lot and watch the store, he waited for the store to empty out and then he entered. The Chief stated K-9 was

brought in and the tracking stopped at Frances Street which indicated there was a car there waiting. The Chief reassured everyone that the Patrols have been working hard but they are working with very low manpower. Chief Waldron complimented his Police Officers and Dispatchers stated they are working a strenuous amount of hours. He went on to say that the Department is working under emergency condition bases which mean he has the authority to change schedules, deny days off, and mandate the staff to work the excess hours. Chief Waldron stated they are working on the Civil Service process to get people hired. He said they are also doing a re-write of the policy procedure manual and are currently working on the use of force, domestic violence crime scene, and evidence collection. Chief Waldron stated that Sergeant Dunn and Sergeant Rabbit have worked very hard to get the evidence room cleaned up. Chief Waldron stated that unit 9 was involved in a crash responding to a call and although no one was injured the insurance company notified him today that the car is totaled. He went on to say that it basically means they will give \$10,000 and the car is gone, he stated they will figure something. Chief Waldron stated they want to remodel the dispatch room to make it a nicer approach when entering the Police Department and the bids coming in were over \$18,000 which is more than they want to spend. He went on to say that W.B. Mason is having a sale for people who do business with them and they will go down there and buy office equipment and will then do the work themselves along with the DPW crew. Lastly, Chief Waldron stated the last three recruits from Zone 3 Police Academy graduated which will help the City out in a big way. Chief Waldron stated that the part-time Police Officers that work in Mechanicville volunteer to go to the Police Academy on their own and it is much appreciated but it can't be done that way, he feels that there is an obligation to come up with an agreement that is fair to all and they have always met the FLSA standards which state that no employee can volunteer for their job, but if you come up with an agreement that is fine. Chief Waldron stated going through the academy is a lot of work and he thanked them. The Chief stated he planned on giving the Council recommendations for full-time employment but the backgrounds are lengthy and they are in full force right now with eight (8) backgrounds going through now so he is hoping by May he will have them.

Commissioner Dunn asked if the people that will be hired will be road ready or will more people have to go through the Academy.

Chief Waldron stated Civil Service takes the top three (3), if you score and you are in the top (3) and you are not certified you are getting hired, that is just the way it works and he has to follow that. He stated there are two (2) people on the list that are currently Police Officers and would do well assisting the Mechanicville Police Department if they can get to them.

Mayor Baker stated he received he February and March reports from the Mechanicville Fire Department and they are attached to the minutes.

Public Comment:

Tom Mahoney of The Express stated that a number of subjects came up at the Zoning and Planning meeting the previous night. He went on to say that one of the things was that Stewarts was approved contingent upon the plan fitting with the City's Comprehensive Plan, but the City does not have a Comprehensive Plan and he thought maybe the City should implement such a

plan. He went on to say that it was also brought up that although we have a Building Inspector, we do not have a Plumbing Inspector and with the recent flooding in the Senior Center it might indicate the need for the City to obtain and Plumbing Inspector on a part-time basis.

Mayor Baker stated that he will look into it to see if that falls under the Building Inspector.

Commissioner Gotti stated that plumbing should fall solely under the Building Inspector. John Holland's position is structural, electrical, and plumbing. The inspections would be done by him.

Tom Mahoney stated he noticed on Round Lake Avenue there is open land with no fence.

Commissioner Gotti stated there should be guardrails and that he has it in his plan but is looking for the guidelines and he has to approach DEC in reference to it.

Tom Mahoney stated that at the last meeting there was a dispute about unpaid bills in the Public Safety office and he wanted to know if that has been resolved. Mr. Mahoney went on to say that it was stated there were several unpaid bills but the predecessor stated there were only two (2) and he wanted to know if that has been cleared up.

Commissioner McGuire stated they are still working on one (1) unpaid bill and there were some bills in her office that needed to be paid.

Tom Mahoney stated that two (2) months ago the Council agreed to hire an independent counsel and he asked where we stood on that, he asked if the counsel has been paid yet.

Mayor Baker stated he thinks he is still working but he is not sure of that.

Tom Mahoney asked if he is still investigating.

Commissioner Dunn stated they have no comment.

Tom Mahoney stated it is the City's money either they cut him a check or they didn't.

Commissioner Dunn stated as far as she is aware of they have not paid him yet.

Tom Mahoney asked if they have any idea how much longer the investigation would take.

Commissioner Dunn stated she did not know.

Tom Mahoney asked if the independent counsel is in contact with anyone.

Commissioner Gotti stated he hasn't seen anything and Commissioner Dunn stated she has not seen anything either.

Tom Mahoney asked if there are any time space parameters on this or is it open-ended.

Mayor Baker asked the Council if when they had the meeting with him did they set any parameters.

Commissioner Dunn stated this is all a personnel issue and she would not get into it. She went on to say that she has said it at every meeting that it is a personnel matter and they can't make a comment on it.

Dave Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked if anything has gone forward with the light on Pruyn Hill and if there was litigation in process for the contractor who put it up to straighten that up. He went on to say that the hill is deteriorating and the pavement is coming up.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has reached out to a few people but at this point it is too vague to make a comment.

Dave Hicks asked if there are any blue prints of the lights owned by the City and of the lights owned by NYSEG so there can be an audit done.

Commissioner Gotti stated that without digging into it he believes the City owns the steel poles and decorative poles and the wood poles are owned by NYSEG.

Dave Hicks stated that the school stairs and the Park Avenue Playground are 100 feet away from one another but have two (2) different meters.

Commissioner Gotti stated they may be off different grids.

Dave Hicks stated he has been pushing for the hot asphalt and that he suggests they blow out the holes with the air compressors so they get all the way down.

Commissioner Gotti stated it is more involved and it is coming with hot tack tank and the holes will be cut square, blown out, and tacked.

Dave Hicks asked about the entrances and approaches to the area businesses. He asked if there were any spec sheets for the boilers that were installed at the Central Fire House.

Commissioner Gotti stated that the Fire Department might have that.

Dave Hicks stated that as he pulled in he noticed the exhaust and the intake are too close and he wanted to know if anyone checked the code for that.

Commissioner Gotti stated there was a professional here that brought them online, up to snuff, and revamped the one here and the Police Department. Commissioner Gotti stated they just passed inspection and Commissioner Dunn has the certificates.

Commissioner Dunn stated they were recently inspected and the insurance company sends someone out once a year to inspect them.

Commissioner Gotti stated they are absolutely up to code.

Dave Hicks asked if the cameras they talked about using in various parts of the City to match the blueprints and if they were telemetrically involved.

Commissioner Gotti stated the cameras that the company is using are just going to be inside the Senior Center checking out the drainage which has nothing to do with mapping of the City streets.

Nick Rinaldi of 113 Viall Avenue told Chief Waldron that he has nothing but the upmost respect for his Police Department and wanted to know what the reason is for low manpower.

Chief Waldron stated a lot of them leave for other jobs.

Nick Rinaldi asked if the City would ever do anything to make the Officers commit to a certain amount of time at least to have the City recoup the money for their training. He stated it seems silly we are paying for people to go work at other Cities.

Chief Waldron stated that they City Council has negotiated into the contract that has allowed us to go after money if they leave within a period of time, it is a broken down ratio.

Nick Rinaldi asked if they have gone after any money for people that have left.

Chief Waldron stated that they have.

Nick Rinaldi asked if the \$10,000 cap for the independent counsel was still in effect.

Commissioner Dunn stated that was correct unless they passed another resolution.
Commissioner Gotti stated that they Council would need to vote on that at an open meeting.

Jim Thompson of 354 South Main Street stated that he knows they are short a person at the Water Treatment Plant and wanted to know where they stood with that.

Commissioner Gotti stated there is an individual there that is experiencing health issues and will be taking time off so he is looking to put another person up there ASAP because it is a twelve (12) month process.

Jim Thompson stated they were still short one (1) person.

Commissioner Gotti stated that the person has not left and by hiring another person there is a year process training them before they can be released to work a shift on their own. He went on to say he will have four (4) guys but still will be down to three (3) men on three (3) shifts.

Commissioner Gotti stated that at the end of the twelve (12) month training the gentlemen will

be introduced into his own shift so there will be four (4) guys for three (3) shifts. Commissioner Gotti went on to say that he did not lose a guy.

Jim Thompson stated the main operator left.

Commissioner Gotti stated that he left before he was in office.

Jim Thompson stated he understands that but the job was never filled so they are still short a man.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has three (3) guys up there and hopefully hiring a fourth.

Sam Carabis of 908 Elizabeth Street asked for the status of the old Railroad Station.

Mayor Baker stated it is moving along but there isn't a lot of money to do what they need to do.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 31-18: Authorize Commissioner of Finance to issue checks from load proceeds for the Home Grant

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Dunn & Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 32-18: Reporting of Elected and Appointed Officials

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 33-18: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

Abstain: Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 34-18: Animal Shelter Resolution

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn
AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner McGuire stated that Barbara Zecca contacted her in reference to the Duck Derby and that Public Safety will be working with her to make it more involved than it was last year and a lot more fun for the kids. Commissioner McGuire stated there are a lot of different ideas and they will be working together to see if they can make it better than last year. She went on to say everyone likes the duck derby and everyone wants to win the money. Commissioner McGuire stated she spoke to Matt Dunn of the Mechanicville Fire Department and depending on the interest they may be able to shut down the road between Frances Street and Hill Street and use the section.

Mayor Baker stated that the reason it was done on the dock was to promote the canals.

Commissioner McGuire stated it would still be on the dock but if they had a lot of other people and vendors they could use the road but if they don't need it they won't shut down the street.

Mayor Baker stated he thought it was a great idea but stated that this is a busy road at 5:00.

Dave Hicks asked if it has to be a Friday.

Commissioner McGuire stated that is what it has always been and that it is controlled by the Chamber of Commerce.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Tom Mahoney asked that since there were only two (2) Council votes to pass resolution 31-18 what does that mean.

Mayor Baker stated it did not pass.

Tom Mahoney stated that it means they don't get paid.

Mayor Baker stated that was correct.

Close Meeting: 7:43 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire
AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Executive Session Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Adjournment: 8:31 p.m.

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Mechanicville Fire Department

36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118
Tel: (518) 664-6121 Fax: (518) 664-6123

Chief
John Dunn

Deputy Chief
Matthew Dunn

Assistant Chief
David Zecca

April 12, 2018

February 2018 Chief's Report

Alarms YTD- 85

City Alarms - 41 ✓ Mutual Aid - 3

Water Problem-2

Smoke Condition-1

Motor Vehicle Accident-2

Gas Leak-2

Wires Down-1

Ems-30

Month Total - 44

Training

Drills: 4 FAST/STICO CLASS

Details: 2

Drills:- Station cleaning, Driver/Operator training, EMS training, Ground Ladder/Tower Ladder and Pump Operations.

Details: (2) Wake Detail, Stand BY for Waterford/Northside Fire Dept.

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**Chief
John Dunn**

**Deputy Chief
Matthew Dunn**

**Assistant Chief
David Zecca**

April 12, 2018

March 2018 Chief's Report

Alarms YTD- 153

City Alarms - 57 Mutual Aid - 2
EMS-45
Gas Leak-1
Wires Down-4
Fire Alarm-3
Fire-3(2 Cooking,1 Dryer)
Fuel Spill-1

Month Total - 59

Training

Drills:

Details:

Drills: Gear

Details: (2) Station maintenance details- Locker were replaced