

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
June 13, 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 June 13, 2018 at.

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

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

Motion to accept the May 9, 2018 Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Gilheany Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Motion to accept the June 6, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Gilheany Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker announced the Mechanicville/Stillwater Elks is celebrating Flag Day on June 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lodge and everyone is invited.

Commissioner Gilheany had nothing to report.

Commissioner Gotti stated they have completed the preparations (painting, cleaning, and decontamination) of the east and west tanks and both water tanks are up and running. Commissioner Gotti asked Don Fletcher (Barton and Loguidice) if there was a time frame as to when the water pipe would be in from Saratoga.

Don Fletcher stated at this point the plans were out for review and once they are approved it would go out to bid, he added the Halfmoon contract has been approved so he is hoping this one will also be approved.

Commissioner Gotti stated they received a letter from the State Department of Health and there were things the State Department of Health wanted cleaned up and they already have the vegetation all taken care of. Commissioner Gotti also stated they have possession of the asphalt reclaimer. Commissioner Gotti stated he is in the process of getting information to the residents about going to a Spring/Fall cleanup as opposed to the daily debris cleanup that is happening now. He went on to say he is short manpower and it is too costly to the City to have a daily pickup. Commissioner Gotti stated they will still do the daily pickup of leaves and trees but will not be picking up debris daily.

Mayor Baker asked when this would go into effect.

Commissioner Gotti stated he would be getting information out to the homeowners the beginning of next month.

Mayor Baker suggested a letter be sent to all homeowners.

Commissioner Gotti stated that would be part of it and he would also be advertising it in The Express. He went on to say he needs to compile more details and work out the bugs.

Commissioner McGuire asked about possibly going to a once a month pick up.

Commissioner Gotti stated it would still require more manpower than he has and it is too costly with the contract they have with County Waste. He went on to say that right now he has his guys out there four (4) days a week picking up debris.

Mayor Baker asked Attorney Serbalik if there was some sort of fine the City could give for people who don't follow the rules and put things out there for months.

Attorney Serbalik stated he does not believe there was ever an ordinance or resolution in the past whereby the City has specific cleanup days or times therefore Commissioner Gotti can certainly change it but there needs to be ample notice and he suggest at least a month or so.

Commissioner Gotti stated they residents will have more than enough time.

Mayor Baker suggested that in the letter to residents he should inform them of what items they will not accept.

Commissioner Gotti stated that with having clean up only two (2) times a year he is working with County Waste so that they may be able to take items they don't accept now. He went on to say he thinks this will work out much better because right now it is out of control, he actually has people dumping in the City from other towns and landlords are evicting people and they are emptying there apartments and the DPW has to pick everything up.

Tom Mahoney asked about tree limbs and things like that.

Commissioner Gotti stated he will continue to pick those things up daily.

Commissioner McGuire stated that Senior Center looks amazing and the work should be completed tomorrow. She went on to say that on Friday they will be starting to put it all back together and hopefully it will be opened for the programs shortly. Commissioner McGuire stated that as of June 18th they should be back on schedule and she is hoping to have a grand re-opening in July. Commissioner McGuire stated there are a lot of people that helped make this a success and she wanted to thank them. She gave Michelle Duell a special thank you and went on to say that without her they would have had to shut down all of programs but Michelle took on a huge amount of the programs and was very gracious in helping. Commissioner McGuire stated the playground will be fully staffed with recreational leaders starting on June 25th and they will be working until August 18th. She went on to say that the County will be picking up the cost one of the staff members. Commissioner McGuire stated the ridership on the bus has been about the same and that on June 25th the bus will be running on summer hours which is 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and will only operate for church on Saturdays there will be no bus operation on Saturday mornings due to the fact that the bus is full-time she doesn't feel any need for Saturday morning runs but it will still pick-up for church on Saturday afternoon in which the bus runs 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m..

Commissioner Gotti added a special thank you to the Ademac family who has continuously been planting flowers in Patenaude Park and have taken on the complete expense. He wanted to thank them for their generosity.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated the \$125,000 contract with the dormitory authority is ready for the Mayor to sign after the resolution is passed. He added that the money will be forth coming as soon as it is signed. He went to say that Commissioner Gilheany is completing the application.

Mayor Baker stated that Attorney Honeywell is at the meeting so they will need an executive session.

Chief Waldron stated the Police Department participated in a seatbelt enforcement detail in May in which they had one checkpoint in which forty-one (41) tickets were issued for various reasons. He went on to say that the force is starting to notice that more people are wearing seatbelts and he thanked everyone for doing that. Chief Waldron thanked everyone who attended the Torch run event that happened earlier in the day. Chief Waldron stated it is a great event and he gave a shout out to all law enforcement, correctional facilities and the state correctional facilities for doing it. The Chief added it began in 1988 and he has participated by running since 1993. Chief Waldron stated that parking tickets will be going digital and they will begin the process of transitioning from hard copy parking tickets to computer issued tickets. The Chief went on to say they have a program in the Tracs system which save a few thousand dollars in the budget. Chief Waldron stated that the Fire Department was dispatched to 7 brush fires within one (1) hour if each other and the culprit was the railroad was scraping the rail lines which caused sparks to fly then starting several brush fires. He thanked the Mechanicville Fire Department for a job well done and he added that the railroad eventually brought a water truck to hose down the area. Chief Waldron stated there has been a rash of complaints regarding identity theft and several people across the State and Country have been affected. The Chief added it is widespread and several people have been impacted so he is assuming the FBI will get involved. He stated he

does not feel there was any wrong doing by the victims but that someone got their identities and tried to cash in on them.

Public Comments:

Tom Mahoney of The Express stated that it has been four (4) months since the Council voted to hire an investigator to investigate the complaint against the Mayor and he asked what reports can he receive about the activities that have resulted and secondly he asked if there are any other suits pending against the City that he isn't aware of.

Mayor Baker stated that him, his lawyer, two members of the PBA and their lawyer, Chief Waldron, and Mr. Hite met and at the of the meeting it was told to himself and everyone there that the PBA would be withdrawing their complaint. Mayor Baker added the PBA attorney was supposed to have something in writing by the meeting tonight but the attorney went away so he was hoping to have something by the next meeting. Mayor Baker added as far as he is concerned he believes it is over and they are withdrawing their complaint. Mayor Baker added as far as his second question none of them could answer that because anything else filed would be with Commissioner Dunn.

Tom Mahoney asked if there were any other details.

Mayor Baker stated that he and everyone involved had meetings with Mr. Hite and the last thing Mr. Hite said was there wasn't anything there and they would withdraw their complaint.

Tom Mahoney asked if Mr. Hite has been paid.

Commissioner Gilheany stated he has been paid through a certain period of time. She added that the Council that hired Mr. Hite did not inform them of the meeting and that they were not there.

Commissioner McGuire stated they have had no discussion with Mr. Hite and they are not aware of any withdraw of the complaint.

Mayor Baker stated Mr. Hite spoke with anyone who was a complainant and went on to say that they probably should have been invited to the meeting because they are paying for it.

Tom Mahoney asked if the full \$10,000 was paid.

Commissioner Gilheany stated no and it was never going to be \$10,000 that was just a limit.

Tom Mahoney asked if they could assume that the Mayor and Police Department cleared the air with their differences and things could operate more smoothly.

Commissioner McGuire stated they have not been informed of that.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that other than the Mayor and the Police Department they have been told nothing.

Commissioner McGuire reiterated they have been told nothing.

Dave Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked where the City recreational leader summer youth program came from.

Commissioner McGuire stated that anyone that is hired now needs to be done through a resolution but kids have been working at the playground for years.

Dave Hicks stated it is a \$20,000 bill with that amount of manpower.

Commissioner McGuire stated they have to hire a certain amount of kids.

Mayor Baker asked if that was \$20,000 for all of them.

Commissioner McGuire stated that was correct.

Dave Hicks asked if the City would be paid back for the loans to the IDA.

Mayor Baker stated that when they get a good project they will pay us back.

Dave Hicks stated he was trying to find out what was taking so long with the pothole repair.

Commissioner Gotti stated that along with the water tanks they are preparing the upper reservoir where they just constructed a road which is over 1 ½ miles long.

Dave Hicks asked what happened to the road that was there.

Commissioner Gotti stated it went through a mine and the back bank of the mine is at a very steep incline and vehicles and heavy equipment are not getting up it so they diverted and built a new road. Commissioner Gotti added that with the amount of manpower he has they are out patching doing the best they can but if they have to be out four (4) to five (5) days a week cleaning garbage it is almost impossible to cut, put them up to grade, and pave. He went on to say that a lot of the potholes people are talking about are actually catch basins.

Dave Hicks asked if the pickups of debris would be weekly or monthly.

Commissioner Gotti stated he will not be picking up debris once he gets ample notification out to the general public. He went on to say that he intends to do a spring and fall clean-up only.

Dave Hicks asked if there could be something set up in case people put things out, he suggested a citation or possible a bill sent to the owner.

Commissioner Gotti stated that he hopes the residents understand that if there is not going to be pick-ups they should not be putting anything out on the curb but if they do John Holland will handle that.

Dave Hicks asked if there will be a place for people to bring stuff up to dispose of.

Commissioner Gotti stated there will always be a dumpster on site and the residents can bring debris up and drop it off in the dumpsters. He went on to say that more details will go out after they fine tune them.

Dave Hicks asked if it is possible for the City to have a smaller bus.

Commissioner McGuire stated she was going to look into getting a van so that in the event the bus didn't have enough room for the seniors her or Alyssa would be able to drive the van since special qualifications to drive the van are not needed.

Dave Hicks asked if there was any interaction with the Community Center with their van.

Commissioner McGuire stated they did use their van but she doesn't want to keep calling them, and she would like have their own van.

Dave Hicks asked how the roads breaking up on Pruyn Hill and Viall Avenue are going to be addressed.

Mayor Baker stated they are having the Engineers get back to the contractors and then the City Attorney will get involved if he needs to.

Emily Morelli and Allison Izzo of Girl Scout Troop 1114 read a statement which is attached to the minutes.

Mayor Baker answered Emily's question by stating that the City has contacted DEC but have not heard back from them. Mayor Baker congratulated them on receiving their silver award and stated they did a lot of work to earn that.

Tim Hipwell of North Fourth Avenue stated he wanted to go on record thanking Donna Izzo and her daughter for doing a beautiful job planting and up keeping the park at Depot Square.

Gary Gaetano of 101 Harris Avenue asked if they were going to fix his problem with the road on Harris Avenue. Gary asked if it was going to get done.

Commissioner Gotti stated that the materials are sitting behind the fence at the garage he just hasn't had time to get to it.

Gary Gaetano stated that from South Street and Harris Avenue to the project circle is a parking disaster. He went on to say it is a one lane road 90% of the time.

Mayor Baker and Commissioner Gotti stated they would look into it with the Chief.

Commissioner McGuire asked if there is a time frame as to when the road would be completed.

Commissioner Gotti stated that his complaint is created by the snow.

Commissioner McGuire stated that regardless it has to be done.

Commissioner Gotti stated it will not get done right away because if there is no snow on the hill nothing is going to happen but it will be taken care of.

Commissioner McGuire asked if torrential rain will affect it.

Commissioner Gotti stated it has nothing to do with the rain the problem is created by the cemetery.

Bill Clayton of 36 Underwood Avenue asked if an officer recently resigned.

Mayor Baker stated the Chief could not comment on that because it is a personnel issue.

Nick Rinaldi of Viall Avenue stated there was a Memorial Day service at Tallmadge Park and only two (2) people from the City Council were there and there was no representation from the Police or Fire Departments. He went on to say it is hurtful to the veterans. Nick added that a statement was made by Mayor Baker that they are paying the bill for the investigator and he wanted to add that they aren't paying the bill we are paying the bill. He went on to say that every time the public asks a question there is no comment but the public is the one paying the bill.

Gene Vermilyea of 315 North Third Street asked who is going to pay for the charges against the people employed by the City and he asked what the total cost is for the charges. Gene asked how are the people involved in this going to get their reputations back. He asked if these were valid charges in the first place or not, also he asked if there was any report issued by the attorney being paid by the City residents. Mr. Vermilyea stated there was a lot of damage done to this City, to people's reputations, and the City is a laughing stock over this thing and it needs to stop.

Mayor Baker stated that they don't know what the final cost is yet because a final bill has not been submitted.

Gene Vermilyea asked will the residents be informed of what the final cost is and will there be a final report.

Mayor Baker stated they will be advised of what the final cost will be and Mr. Hite will submit a report after he gets what he needs from the PBA. Mayor Baker added that he is correct that a lot of reputations on all sides that have been ruined. Mayor Baker also stated he has had several people talk to him about Mechanicville becoming worse than Troy and Schenectady.

Tom Mahoney asked if anyone had an idea as to when the written report would actually be written.

Mayor Baker stated he thought within the next couple of weeks because they were waiting for the PBA's attorney to give his write up to Mr. Hite.

Jim Thompson of South Main Street asked if the City would be paying for both attorneys he recalls reading in the paper that the City wasn't going to pay for the Mayor's attorney.

Commissioner Gilheany stated she hadn't planned on it and she stated she is not aware if legally the City has to or not.

Mayor Baker stated the way he understands it is that by the Public Officers Law his attorney would also be covered.

Jim Thompson reiterated what Nick Rinaldi said by stating the lack of participation from the City is embarrassing for the whole community.

Mayor Baker stated normally the Police Department and Fire Department are there and he is not sure why they weren't there this time.

Chief Waldron stated unfortunately he had something come up and he is a veteran himself and he supports the veterans 100%.

Jim Thompson stated veterans support veterans it is nice to have other people support them too.

Tara Morelli stated that the Girls Scout Troop was not aware there was a service and if they had known they would have been there. She went on to say that one of the Troop members Dad is a veteran and they would have happily supported them. Tara asked if there was a better way to communicate about the events because they would like to support them.

Mayor Baker stated Joe Maiello from the Legion on South Main Street usually notifies the public and he is not sure if something slipped through the cracks.

Nick Rinaldi stated it was in The Express and that they are having a service in the park in November for Veteran's Day and he will make sure whoever is in charge will get the proper notification out there to all the groups.

Tom Mahoney added that although the turnout for Mechanicville's Memorial Day service was very poor and some may state that no one cares Stillwater held a Memorial Day parade which was well over an hour and every Fire Department was there and he is asking why Mechanicville doesn't do something besides holding a little service. He went on to say the parade consisted of girl scouts, boy scouts, Uncle Sam group from Troy, Congressmen, re-elected officials, fire departments so there are people that do care and they care but Mechanicville does seem rather indifferent.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 50-18: Funds to Mechanicville/Stillwater IDA

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 51-18: DASNY City Hall Improvements

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 52-18: Ray Martin extended term of Zoning/Planning Commission

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 53-18: Hannah Labrozzi Recreational Leader for Summer Youth Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 54-18: Cassandra McMullin Recreational Leader for Summer Youth Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 55-18: David Millard Recreational Leader for Summer Youth Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 56-18: Chloe Newman Recreational Leader for Summer Youth Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 57-18: Jenna Cebula Supervising Recreational Leader for Summer Youth Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 58-18: Lauren Ross Recreational Leader for Summer Youth Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 59-18: North Central Avenue Pedestrian Safety Project

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 60-18: Daniel Vandetta Laborer Department Public Works

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 61-18: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 62-18: Budget Transfers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 63-18: Quit Claim Deed and other Transfers to Stewart's Shops

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 64-18: Cusack and Company City Audit

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 65-18: Barton and Loguidice Contract

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 7:50
 Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
 Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Executive Session Adjournment: 7:53

 Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
 Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Adjournment: 8:22

 Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
 Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Emily Morelli & Allison Izzo Girl Scout Troop 1114, Mechanicville Working on the Dog park

Good Evening

As you know we have been working on building a Dog Park in the city of Mechanicville for the last 3 years.

The remediation of the brown field has ^{interfered with} ~~halted~~ our ability to complete the project according to our original timeline, but we have decided that we will continue to take the necessary steps to build the Dog Park. This project is important to us and is much needed in our Community, so we are committed to see it through to completion.

Our hope was to have phase 1 done and a working Dog Park before August of 2018 so we could make improvements after that for our Gold Award, but instead, we are dividing up the responsibilities left in establishing the park and will complete them on an individual basis.

Our Regional Girl Scout Council believes in us, and this project, and on June 3rd, invited us to participate in the Gold and Silver award ceremony where we were presented with our Silver Awards.

At this time, we would like to know if there has been any progress between DEC and the City, and when we can expect a more detailed update of our project. We would like to be involved in the DEC process as much as possible.

Thank you.