

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
August 8, 2018  
7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday August 8, 2018.

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

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

Motion to accept the July 11, 2018 Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Dunn                      Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call:    AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

Motion to accept the July 24, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner McGuire                      Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call:    AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker stated that several grant projects are in progress and he pointed out that four (4) homeowners were served temporary easement papers for the water grant on Route 67. He went on to say that he has received one (1) of them back in his office, another is in the mail, and that he hasn't heard from the two (2) other homeowners but is confident he will hear from them shortly.

Commissioner Dunn stated that the school supplies that were collected in the Accounts Office for the Community Center were recently delivered. Commissioner Dunn stated they are still handing out applications for the Veteran's bricks for Tallmadge Park and that they are available via email or in the Accounts Office and once filled out they can be handed in to the Legion on South Main Street. She went on to say that her office is gearing up to do water readings with the new water meter system and the bills will be going out the end of September.

Mayor Baker added that the readings will be done using the new system and they are able to drive by properties and get readings which he thinks will make it a lot faster and easier.

Commissioner Gotti stated that he has made several attempts to get in contact with the Railroad to mow the area around South Main Street and he has been unable to find any documentation giving him permission to mow the areas. He added that without appropriate permission he is not going to mow the areas, he will not put the City at liability and most of all he is not going to assume the liability of mowing those areas because they are private property. Commissioner Gotti stated he will be doing pick-up in the fall and spring and he is working on the details and will put a template together of what will be best for the City. He added the pick-up cost over \$200,000 per year and he is trying to relieve the burden for the City taxpayers and use the money to work on the infrastructure. Commissioner Gotti stated they have been repairing structures on Saratoga Avenue, and South Central Avenue, and he is starting to see results. He went on to say they have jetted every storm drain, trunk lines, main lines and removed all debris from Eighth Avenue to Central Avenue and he is seeing an increase in water going to the Anthony Kill where it is supposed to be going. With that being said he added during the last storm they did see about five (5) or six (6) inches of water under the South Central Avenue bridge opposed to two (2) or three (3) feet which means there is a significant move in the right direction. Mr. Gotti stated that there was an issue on First Avenue but that problem has been resolved, they found a plugged pipe, and it has been repaired and it shouldn't happen again and they should see a significant increase in water disbarment in that area. Commissioner Gotti stated they are trying to obtain a grant for the sewer drains to get things where they should be. He added he is trying to get a camera to see the sewer lines, the camera they have is not working properly. Commissioner Gotti stated that most of the work they are doing is in the ground so he is hoping the citizens start seeing their progress, they are permanently fixing the issues and not just fixing them temporarily. Commissioner Gotti stated he will be releasing something to the Express so that people have a better idea of what has been accomplished in the past six (6) months he added they have made some large strides and he would like it to keep going. Commissioner Gotti stated they are a little short on manpower but they are doing the best they can.

Mayor Baker asked him to clarify what is being picked up weekly.

Commissioner Gotti stated that the weekly rubbish removal is not being affected that is normal, the leaf, brush is also normal. The debris removal is what he is referring to and he stated one of his employees caught a gentleman from Malta dumping rugs on Saratoga Avenue for pick-up and he added he has two (2) landlords in the City that every time they lose a tenant the City ends up picking up all the stuff. Commissioner Gotti informed the landlord that rental property is a business and the tax payers should not be burdened with that so from the point forward he feels it is a better use of the City's tax money to work on the infrastructure rather than being glorified garbage men.

Commissioner McGuire had nothing to report.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated he was notified by the insurance carrier that a claim has been filed against the City which occurred three (3) months prior and he has no idea what it is. He went on to say that the insurance company stated it was served upon with Commissioner Dunn.

Mayor Baker asked Commissioner Dunn if she had a response.

Commissioner Dunn stated she felt that was a set-up and she would not be responding in public.

Supervisor Richardson stated the bids were open for the grant work on the sidewalks from Frances Street to the overpass and the bid has been awarded and it is with the engineering team to make sure that everything is in proper form and hopefully that area will have new sidewalks in the fall. Supervisor Richardson stated he attended a meeting the day prior to the meeting in reference to the water problem on Central Avenue with the engineering team and DOT and the plans are set for all the work necessary to put the plans together, do the SEQRA application, and line up the money. He stated it will all take place between now and winter with hope the bids will go out late January or early February. He added that this in correspondence with the work Commissioner Gotti is already doing should alleviate the Central Avenue water issue.

Supervisor Richardson stated that DOT did mention that once the project is finished they will re-do Central Avenue so he is hoping that the water problem will be solved in late spring, early summer and then late summer, early fall all of Central Avenue will be re-done. Supervisor Richardson stated the Fire Department needed to take the banner entering the City down and he is in the process of speaking with Greg Fowler who owns Empire Design to see if he can get a more resilient banner. He went on to say that the people who took care of the banner the last few times are willing to give the City a substantial discount since the current banner only lasted two (2) years. Along with that he mentioned quite a few of the merchants around town that purchased the banners in the past are interested in doing it again. Supervisor Richardson stated that four (4) different construction companies came to look at the train station and he is hoping they will all bid on the building, he added that they are looking to combine the money they currently have from parks & recreation and the money from Senator Kathy Marchione to fix the roof, foundation, clear the inside of the building, close up the structure so the pigeons can't get in, and remove all pigeon droppings. He reminded everyone that the train station is going to be part of a railroad museum along with the XO tower. He added once the money they have is spent then they can apply for more money to finish the project. Supervisor Richardson mentioned that the homeowner of two homes on Mabbett Street, Mike Weismann, graciously painted the gazebo, deck, and benches out of the goodness of his heart. He added that Mr. Weismann stated he wanted to do it because he thought the City of Mechanicville was a great place to be he went on to say that it is a quiet place with very friendly people, he enjoyed working with John Holland the Code Enforcement Officer, and they are just happy to be in the City of Mechanicville. Supervisor Richardson added they took the Anthony Denier plaque down so they didn't get paint on it and then put it back up. He stated that people should take a look at how nice it looks when they are in the area. Supervisor Richardson stated the Commissioner Gotti and his crews have been putting in the new road at the water plant and he wanted people to know that if they haven't seen the DPW crew around town they have been very busy with things that people aren't aware of and they have been doing a great job. Supervisor Richardson stated Esperanto's from Saratoga are looking to put a baking facility at 55 Viall Avenue and he has been working with the Prosperity Partnership, which is the economic development part of Saratoga County to bring business to Mechanicville. Supervisor Richardson thanked Marty Vanags and the Prosperity Partnership for working with him to bring another business opportunity to Mechanicville. Mr. Richardson stated if anyone has any questions his number is in the phonebook and they can call him anytime.

Mayor Baker thanked the Mechanicville Fire Department with their help during the recent storms, the banner was hanging and they were afraid a tractor trailer would hit it and the Fire Department took it down.

Deputy Chief Dunn read the monthly Fire Department report which is attached to the minutes. Deputy Chief Dunn stated they are working on getting a FAST team up and running. He added it is strictly for if a firefighter goes down to go in and get them out and he added they have all the equipment which has been brought over the years so it won't cost anything. Deputy Chief stated training is the biggest thing; you have to be very efficient with it. He added he just received an email that they will no longer respond to BRAVO EMS calls, which is a county wide thing, they feel they don't need the fire department there for the calls anymore but any DELTA and ECHO determined EMS calls.

Mayor Baker asked Deputy Chief Dunn if the was previously a FAST team.

Deputy Chief Dunn stated they did not have a FAST team prior.

Commissioner Gilheany had nothing to report.

Public Comment:

Nick Rinaldi of 113 Viall Avenue asked why we would be getting new sidewalks now if the State is going to tear up the road in February.

Mayor Baker stated the grant money needs to be used before the time comes up and the State said when they so their work it will not affect the curb or the sidewalk.

Supervisor Richardson stated the sidewalks have to go in this year because the City received \$500,000 and if it is not used this year the City will lose it.

Nick Rinaldi asked if the sidewalks get damaged while they are fixing the roads will the State be responsible to fix them.

Supervisor Richardson stated he is sure they will.

Commissioner Gotti stated that when he questioned DOT on when they will be paving the road because he wants to get the catch basins done prior to that, they stated they are not paving Central Avenue until all the work is done so it probably won't be until 2019. He went on to say that they are not going to be taking anything up and he is doing the storm drains differently than the past, he is using concrete and brick so they are just going to come in and mill the road and correct it.

Shannon Roberts asked if it was possible to consider having tag days again now that the construction is complete and roads are not closed up.

Mayor Baker stated they could discuss it but it was already stated that they probably would not start them up again.

Shannon Roberts asked if there was a particular reason for that.

Mayor Baker stated because they received a lot of complaints about people being backed up on bridges and streets. He added there are other ways that could be used as fundraisers.

Shannon Roberts stated it is a convenient and easy way to raise money.

Mayor Baker agreed it was the easiest way to raise money but not for the people waiting in line.

David Hicks of 241 First Avenue gave the Council pictures of the flooding on First Avenue; he had pictures of before the Cumberland's new building and after. He added that during the last storm the water was backed up to his windows in his basement. Mr. Hicks complained that when the Fire Department stops traffic going down Central Avenue they send it to First Avenue which creates waves which wash up against the buildings and go into the cellars.

Commissioner Gotti stated that he was actually on the scene and three (3) cars actually went through Cumberland Farms to avoid the Fire Department and the Fire Department did not send them down First Avenue.

David Hicks stated that is not the first time this has happened and there should be some type of preparation out there.

Commissioner Gotti stated he feels the Fire Department did a wonderful job getting to the streets they needed to be.

David Hicks stated he was present when they were directing traffic off Central and down First Avenue they were heading north and did not come out of Cumberland Farms. Mr. Hicks asked if they have been looking into meter consolidation. He asked if anyone was aware that the City is renting wire from NYSEG to power the lights.

Commissioner Gotti stated he could not comment on that as he needs to look into it.

David Hicks stated he went over it a while ago with Commissioner Gilheany.

Commissioner Gilheany stated she does not recall renting wire, she does recall paying for poles.

David Hicks asked what is taking so long on the repairs on the potholes.

Commissioner Gotti stated a lot of the potholes are fixed and a lot of the potholes people are complaining about aren't even actually potholes, they are manhole and sewer covers.

David Hicks stated that from Spring Street to Park Avenue there are a bunch of issues.

Commissioner Gotti stated that earlier in the day they raised and repaired all of First Avenue. He added it is a fairly lengthy process, they are taking plastic out, putting water and brick back in which has to dry and be done correctly which is why they are open for a day with cones on them. Commissioner Gotti stated he is taking his time doing them so they are done correctly.

David Hicks asked if he noticed the manhole at the end of First Avenue on South Street which is tumbling.

Commissioner Gotti stated they repaired two (2) on Second Avenue and South Street earlier in the day and they also repaired two (2) on First Avenue.

David Hicks explained the one he is referring to is down the end by South Street. He added that the previous Commissioner stated it was Saratoga County.

Mayor Baker stated he doesn't recall him saying Saratoga County he thinks he stated it was DOT. He asked Mr. Hicks if it was sewer or a drain.

Commissioner Gotti stated there were fifty-seven (57) that he documented that were undermined and compromised which are high priorities and those will be the one fixed first. He went on to say that when those are complete he will go through the rest of the City and correct the remaining structures.

David Hicks gave Commissioner Gotti a suggestion to put a notebook in each vehicle so that if the employees are out and see something they can make a note of it.

Commissioner Gotti stated that although that is a great idea he wouldn't do that because he personally goes around and looks for things and then he orchestrates a schedule priority wise what needs to be done and when. He went on to say he would be more than happy for Mr. Hicks to come by and see how they are repairing the structures so he can see the detailed work that goes into them. He added it has taken over a month to do about fifteen (15) or twenty (20) of them.

Ronald Singley of 42 Underwood Avenue stated that he feels the way the junk removal abruptly ended was atrocious. He went on to say he received a letter in his mailbox on July 10<sup>th</sup> that was dated July 6<sup>th</sup> that said as of July 1<sup>st</sup> there is no longer junk removal in the City. He stated that to him that is unacceptable. He added that previously he would have to call five (5), six (6), seven (7) times over a two (2) or three (3) week period to get anything picked up. Mr. Singley also stated that he is aware that private citizens have taken their personal lawn mowers and weed whackers over to the South Main Street playground to maintain the grass and weeds and his neighbor cleaned the high grass and weeds from the sidewalk area near the dutch gap. Mr. Singley went on to say that the way the letter was put in his mailbox was illegal; he stated you cannot put something in people's mailbox it has to be mailed through the post office in a post marked envelope. He added he received a loose piece a paper with Commissioner Gotti's name on stating there was no longer junk removal as of a week ago and himself and only one (1) other person on his street received this letter.

Commissioner Gotti stated it was not a letter, it was a flyer.

Ronald Singley stated it is still illegal to put in a mailbox.

Commissioner Gotti went on to say that the flyer indicated that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> he would not be picking up anymore garbage, rubble, and debris for the next third day effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month and at the end of that thirty (30) days they are no longer picking up. He added citizens were allowed to come over and dump and the website stated the same thing. Commissioner Gotti apologized if there was any confusion and added the flyer were supposed to be handed out to individuals that were dumping mattresses and other things that they were not taking. He added the guys were handing them out to tenants and at the end of the thirty (30) days the owner would be getting a letter. He clarified the mailing would be going out to the homeowners and the fliers were to notify the tenants. Commissioner Gotti stated he is not ending the pick-up to be mean he is trying to prevent taxes from going up and utilize what is in place in the budget. He went on to say he was aware of the individual cleaning up the South Main Street playground because he spoke with the gentleman who asked permission to do it. He added he is not in charge of parks and the charter states that he is not in charge of the parks, he went on to say they have mowed them in the past and will try to continue to with the limited staff that he has. Commissioner Gotti stated that Commissioner McGuire is trying to do what she can on her end and they are trying to get there. Commissioner Gotti stated he has a short window in summer time to fix the infrastructure and people don't take that into consideration, he stated he feels fixing the infrastructure takes priority over mowing the lawn. Commissioner Gotti stated he has a staff of six (6) and there are usually three (3) guys doing one (1) manhole, he has one (1) guy watching traffic, one (1) guy running the machine, and one (1) guy in the hole actually mortaring, which leaves him (3) other guys to handle other problems. He went on to say they had to help Commissioner Dunn out with electrical issues in City Hall, getting the pools ready and every time he sends guys out to do that some other thing gets put off. He added he is not making excuses but he is trying to do what he can with what he has to work with.

Ronald Singley stated he understands that and he even understands doing a clean-up twice a year but the letter he received didn't say anything about thirty (30) days.

Commissioner Gotti apologizes for the way he received the flyer and stated they men were supposed to know on the door and hand them to the tenant and he is trying to not only notify the tenants but also wants to notify the tenants. He added that landlords were cleaning out apartments and dumping them out on the streets, there are grand pianos, futons, rugs, etc.

Ronald Singley added he is not upset that they are no longer picking up he was upset that it was abruptly ended.

Commissioner Gotti stated it was not abruptly ended.

Ronald Singley stated that he did not realize he had thirty (30) days.

Commissioner Gotti stated he had sixty (60) days and apologized for the miscommunication and added it was on the city sign, in the Express, and on the website.

Commissioner Gotti stated for the record that he is not stopping picking up mattresses or it is not that they are not picking them up anymore, Dave Higgins stopped that three (3) years prior it was already in place.

Tom Mahoney asked how it will be handled if residents continue to put things to the curb for pick-up, what incentive is there for people not to do it.

Commissioner Gotti stated that John Holland and Gina have put out numerous letters notifying people of violations and fines and he stated that John Holland would be the one to ask about the specifics since he doesn't want to give out misinformation.

Tom Mahoney asked how people pay these fines, and if they are added to the tax bills.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated if there is a violation of the property maintenance code they are cited and will be brought into court. He went on to say it they are violated and it continues after a notice it could be up to \$250 a day. He added that is what the code allows. Attorney Serbalik stated there is a provision in the City Code to cite them.

Mayor Baked added that in the end when it is figured out they will work on the fine but it has to come one piece at a time. He added he just started not picking up and they are working on some fees so they can also work on fines.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated the fines are set, people just haven't been cited.

Mayor Baker stated he has been talking with John Holland about actually getting a ticket book instead of continually sending letters to people, he said they should be ticketed and taken to court.

Commissioner Dunn asked that if things are put between two (2) houses how do you know who put it out there, she stated this will be an issue that may come up. She suggested maybe an informational reminder could go out with the water bills informing people what will be collected, what won't be collected, and other options of where they can get rid of their stuff.

Fee ordinance - Mayor Baker read the fee ordinance which is attached to the minutes.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 76-18: Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC)  
Alternate

Moved by: Mayor Baker  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0



RESOLUTION 77-18: City Court Judge

Moved by: Mayor Baker  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 78-18: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 79-18: Budget Transfers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 80-18: Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 81-18: William J Rabbitt Jr. as Acting Chief of Police

Moved by: Mayor Baker  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Mayor Baker stated there was a request for an executive session and they will not be taking any action when they return.

Close Meeting: 7:51  
Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

Executive Session:

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dun

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjournment:

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

# ***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**

August 3, 2018

## **July 2018 Chief's Report**

### **Alarms YTD- 332**

City Alarms - 46                      Mutual Aid -2  
EMS-32  
Transformer Problem-1  
CO Alarm-1  
Motor Vehicle Crash-3  
Trash/Brush Fire-1  
Power Line Down-1  
Smoke/Fire Alarm-3  
Fuel Spill-1  
Extrication/Rescue-2  
Gas leak-1

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**Month Total -48**

### **Training**

Drills: 4  
Details: 1

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Drills: Weekly truck checks, Pump training

Details: Family Day Stand -by

- Five members completed FAST training

The following amendment to the City Code regarding Fee Schedules of the Building Department is hereby introduced. There will be a public hearing on the adoption of the amendment at the next City Council meeting on September 12, 2018.

## ARTICLE VI

### Fees

#### § 80-21. Fees.

**The fee schedule currently on file at the Office of Code Enforcement is hereby approved, established, and adopted for the following enumerated permits, certificates, and inspections. The fee schedule may thereafter be amended from time to time by like resolution of the City Council. The fees set forth in, or determined in accordance with, such fee schedule or amended fee schedule shall be charged and collected for the submission of applications, the issuance of building permits, amended building permits, renewed building permits, certificates of occupancy or certificates of compliance, temporary certificates, operating permits, firesafety and property maintenance inspections, and other actions of the Code Enforcement Officer described in or contemplated by this chapter.**