

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
December 12, 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 December 12, 2018.

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

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

Motion to accept the November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Dunn                      Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call:    AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year. He went on to say that the visit from the Holiday Train was very well received. Mayor Baker added he spoke with someone from Canadian Pacific and they stated they are impressed with the crowd Mechanicville brings and he added they announced it at the performance that we get such a big crowd they open both sides of the train. He added they did say they would see us next year.

Commissioner Dunn asked when the date of the train is set.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it follows the same schedule every year so if it does come next year it would be November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Baker read the Fire Departments monthly report which is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Dunn reported that they are continuing to help the Saratoga County Clerk's office by collecting items for the Veteran's houses and she will be delivering the items that have been collecting next week. She added there is still time to donate items and had a list of necessities with her at the meeting. Commissioner Dunn stated that the Mechanicville Fire Department had breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus the Sunday before the meeting and they had a good turnout. She added they had high school students who needed community service hours help at

the event. Commissioner Dunn stated that after the breakfast Santa and Mrs. Claus went and did Santa in the Park up at Tallmadge Park.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the Finance Office is quiet and that they are looking to purchase new software in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Gotti stated they are gearing up for the sidewalk project on the North Main Street project in which he requested an extension so that they can pour the concrete in the warmer weather but at this time he is not sure if they will be issued the extension. Commissioner Gotti stated they black topped Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Avenue to correct the water problem of erosion coming off the hill and bringing debris down by the park which was located at the bottom of the stairs. He went on to say they resolved the problem, milled, blacktopped and added they paved Rohloff Avenue which had been dirt for years.

Commissioner McGuire stated the Christmas decorations on Central Avenue and North Main Street are up and look very nice and she has received a lot of positive feedback from the public. She went on to say there was a nice turnout for the memory tree dedication in Tallmadge Park. She stated that compared to other communities Mechanicville got a little later start and she is hoping next year it will be better and possible have a bon fire, music and hot chocolate. Commissioner McGuire stated that thirty (30) trees were decorated along the pathways and she thanked Jeff from Country Living who ordered the trees last minute and did not make any profit off the trees. She went on to say he sold her the trees for \$35 and she knows that other communities paid \$50. Commissioner McGuire thanked DPW for putting up the Christmas lights and for also putting up the trees in the park which they did a great job doing. Commissioner McGuire stated that several businesses participated in painting their windows and there are three (3) more businesses waiting for the kids to come and paint theirs. She gave a special thanks to Alex Dereptyny who painted the windows in the Public Safety office.

Acting Chief of Police Bill Rabbitt gave his monthly report and added they will be conducting a speed enforcement detail on South Central Avenue and DWI patrols for the Christmas and New Year holiday. He went on to say that the Police Department recently went through the taser training and the Officers have them on the streets now.

Mayor Baker opened the meeting up to a Public Hearing on the 2019 Budget.

Mark Seber of 45 Hulin Street asked how much the tax rate went up.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it was 2% which is within the tax cap.

Mark Seber asked what the rate went up.

Commissioner Gilheany said it went up 19.2 cents.

Mark Seber stated that at a previous meeting it was discussed that DPW was short workers and he asked if the budget is reflecting any additional staff for DPW.

Commissioner Gilheany stated there is one (1) additional staff added.

Tom Mahoney from The Express stated there is a \$60,000 change due to the over estimation of the fees for utilities and he stated that is essential the reason for the \$50,000 tax levy.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that was correct.

David Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked why if money was budgeted in the actual budget of 2018 and wasn't all used why the same amount is budgeted for 2019.

Commissioner Gilheany explained to him that the line on the budget he is referring to is what has actually been paid as of 12/4/18 and that another payment is due before the end of the 2018 year so all of the money on that line will be spent.

David Hicks asked why the sewer fund has different personnel than the DPW and how is it balanced.

Commissioner Gilheany stated there are two (2) employees for sewer that are part of DPW so the money is allocated for different departments.

David Hicks asked why \$10,000 is budgeted for Legal contracted services.

Commissioner Gilheany explained that the City Attorney is not interested in being re-appointed and the City is going to be contracting out for legal services and added they are hoping to hire a legal firm that can handle all aspects of the City's legal nature as opposed to a City Attorney. Commissioner Gilheany went on to say that the personal services line under water administrator was reduced by \$9176 so basically it is salary versus contracted services.

David Hicks asked why personal services were increased so much in line F8320.100.

Commissioner Gilheany explained that the water plant has three (3) employees at this time and they are adding another employee.

David Hicks asked why there is nothing under 2018 Saratoga County water.

Commissioner Gilheany explained it is because we have not hooked up yet.

David Hicks asked if there is scheduled time when we are hooking up.

Commissioner Gilheany stated she was told the end of 2019.

Commissioner Gotti confirmed that date.

David Hicks asked why the garbage collection line went down.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it was based on contract and the contract actually went down.

David Hicks asked why the Software and licensing line went up \$21,590.

Commissioner Gilheany explained it was for new for a software conversion of the accounting system and the building and code software.

David Hicks asked if that was the same as networking.

Commissioner Gilheany explained networking is for Diagnostic Services which is for all departments and networking will always be there but the software is a onetime charge. She added it is the IT guy.

David Hicks asked why there is such a large increase in the contracted services for the Clifton Park Halfmoon Ambulance line.

Commissioner Gilheany stated she put in \$50,000 because that is all the City can afford but they are actually looking for \$300,000 for 2019 and they will be discussing it more.

David Hicks asked what the increase was for on the personal service line under safety inspection.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that is the Building/Code Inspector and the Fire Inspector.

David Hicks asked if the contingency line was play money.

Commissioner Gilheany explained we don't have play money it is money for emergencies that come up that were not budgeted for.

David Hicks asked if the line of repairs and maintenance under public building was play money.

Commissioner Gilheany reiterated there is no play money in the budget and the money is for repairs and maintenance for the City Hall building and the Senior Center building and if he looks at the repair and maintenance line under the Senior Center he will see the line has decreased \$3000 and basically money was shifted.

David Hicks asked why personal services under department of law were decreased \$38,259 and contracted services increased \$75,000.

Commissioner Gilheany explained that is for legal services which she explained that the City Attorney's is not being re-appointed and they are not sure how much it will be to hire legal services.

Mayor Baker stated the City cannot operate without an Attorney and the money needs to be budgeted for one.

David Hicks asked if the public will ever know if there is excess money from the 2018 budget.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they will know when the books are closed which is usually by the end of March.

David Hicks asked what the additional services line under Public Works Commissioner is for.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it is for subs for the secretary when she is out sick or on vacation.

David Hicks asked why the equipment line under bus operation was up \$15,000.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the City is looking to get a new vehicle for Public Safety because at this time there is only one (1).

David Hicks asked why the phone line increased under programs for the aging.

Commissioner Gilheany stated a new phone line was added at the Senior Center and they are reimbursed for a portion of that from Saratoga County Office of the Aging.

David Hicks asked why the line of personal services under Commissioner of Accounts fluctuated so much over the past three (3) years.

Commissioner Gilheany explained that in 2017 there wasn't actually a Commissioner of Accounts and Emilia was acting Commissioner of Accounts and then Mark Seber came in as a part-time basis so the salaries were down.

David Hicks asked why contracted services under the Commissioner of Accounts are down.

Commissioner Gilheany explained that due to bringing in the new software payroll will be done in house.

Public Comment:

Tom Mahoney from The Express asked Mayor Baker's attorney submitted a bill yet for the investigation between Mayor Baker and the Police Department.

Commissioner Gilheany stated she has been informed that he has but she has not seen it yet.

Tom Mahoney asked if any of these legal services are covered by insurance or does the City have to pay for them.

Commissioner Dunn stated she needs to double check on it but since it was agreement she does not believe the insurance will cover the payment.

Tom Mahoney asked if this would be paid out by the City.

Commissioner Dunn stated she can speak about the Mayor's Attorney she has to look into it.

Tom Mahoney stated that we do know that Hite will be paid by the City.

Commissioner Dunn stated that was absolutely correct.

Tom Mahoney asked if we know what role Mr. Hite played in the settlement between the PBA and the Mayor, he asked if it was an active role, passive role, or irrelevant to the process.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they were not involved.

Tom Mahoney stated basically what he was getting at is what the City got for their money.

Commissioner Gilheany stated what he did they did not pay for because they didn't know anything about it.

Tom Mahoney asked if the final report was submitted yet.

Commissioner Dunn stated they are still waiting for it.

Commissioner Gilheany stated he will not be paid a penny more until he does.

Tom Mahoney asked about resolution 118-18 regarding the water meters, he stated the contract price was reduced but the scope of services also is reduced and he asked what scope of services was reduced.

Commissioner Gotti stated they ran into situations with the water meters being changed so they were released from the contract which reduced the amount of meters they were going to install which is where the \$144,000 off set. He went on to say that DPW is now going to install the meters to get it done. Commissioner Gotti stated it was to a point where they could not complete the contract within its time frame therefore getting out of the contract was the best option.

Mayor Baker added that it was not their fault, they were trying to get in the home to install the meters but the people refused to accommodate.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has to put these home owners in front of a judge to get into the homes. He went on to say he thought by having his guys go to these homes that they have always gone to it would be better but he stated it is a little better but not resolved.

Tom Mahoney asked if there was any change to the DPW land and if it was going to be developed.

Mayor Baker stated the owner has passed away and they are in legal action to try and get things resolved.

Tom Mahoney asked what was going on with the Fascia building.

Mayor Baker stated the sale has been withdrawn due to the fact too many demands were being put out by the people who were looking to buy it.

Tom Mahoney stated the DiSiena building on Round Lake Avenue was still vacant and asked about the DiSiena building on Central Avenue.

Mayor Baker stated it was sold and it is being cleaned up, the seller has had a few people interested but feels it needs to be cleaned up more before it is sellable.

Tom Mahoney stated that for the time being there isn't anything to boost the tax base.

Mayor Baker stated O'Reilly will be starting in the spring and that he has spoken with Dennis Brobston from SEDC to see if he can find someone for that building. He went on to say it needs to be a good fit for the area because it is surrounded by residential areas.

Tom Mahoney stated Brobston's competition was involved in the sale.

Mayor Baker stated they did not come through that is why he called Dennis Brobston. He added Faldoni's sold but he does not know what is going in there yet.

David Hicks asked what is going in where DC Sports is.

Mayor Baker stated he spoke with him and he doesn't know what he is going to do with the building yet. He added two (2) people contacted him about purchasing or leasing but he is not sure what he wants to do yet.

David Hicks asked when Luizzi is going to rent part of the city garage.

Commissioner Gotti stated they will just be using an office; they are looking for a space to house two (2) engineers to sit and monitor the Zim Smith trail.

David Hicks asked when Commissioner Gotti was going to finish filling the potholes.

Commissioner Gotti stated the guys put out three (3) tons of hot patch earlier in the day.

David Hicks stated he thinks an outside appraisal is required for what is wrong and how much needs to be repaired with the backhoe.

Commissioner Gotti stated he does not agree with that. He went on to say that the piece of equipment they are talking about is not within OSHA compliance and it doesn't leave the building.

David Hicks stated that being it is in the building and is unsafe it should be repaired and put back into service.

Commissioner Gotti stated it is not repairable.

David Hicks stated there still should be a blind outside appraisal done to see what is wrong with it and what it cost to repair.

Commissioner Gotti stated it cannot be done safely.

David Hicks stated he is not sure why OSHA is involved since it is a material.

Commissioner Gotti stated OSHA governs all the things that he does, safety, and machinery.

David Hicks stated that is why he thinks an outside appraisal is needed.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has worked with equipment his whole life and knows what it takes to roll over equipment that is unsafe. He added it won't meet OSHA specifications.

Patrick Bornt stated he is not a resident but does commute through the City multiple times every day and he gave accolades for the Christmas decorations on Central Avenue. He applauded Commissioner McGuire for a job well done and stated it adds to the festivities to the commute of many people who drive through the City on a daily basis. He went on to say that his hope is that throughout the years the City can expand on the decorations.

Commissioner McGuire stated that Commissioner Gilheany has given her some extra money in the budget for next year to purchase more and she went on to say she is hoping to purchase swags that go across the street like in Saratoga.

Commissioner Gotti complemented Marty Garland for re-wiring and supplied the electric to the poles for the decorations and went on to say they were going to try and move ahead to work on more of the poles.

Patrick Bornt ended by saying they look fantastic and they did a fantastic job.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 115-18: Contract Amendment Streetscape Project

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5      NAYS: 5

RESOLUTION 116-18: Lease agreement with Luizzi Brothers Contracting

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0



RESOLUTION 117-18 Cusack and Company Contract

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 118-18 Water Improvement Contract – Change Order for Utility Services Co.

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti  
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0  
Abstain -1 Commissioner Dunn

RESOLUTION 119-18: Section 3 Public Officers Law Amendment

Moved by: Mayor Baker  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 1  
NAY: Commissioner Dunn

RESOLUTION 120-18: Budget

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 121-18: Memorandum of Agreement Dispatchers

Moved by: Mayor Baker  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 122-18: Edmunds & Associates Software System

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 123-18: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 124-18: Budget Transfer

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting Adjournment: 7:48

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5                      NAYS: 0

William J Rabbitt  
Acting Chief  
[lt.rabbitt@mechanicvilleny.gov](mailto:lt.rabbitt@mechanicvilleny.gov)

# MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Alex Dunn  
Patrol Sergeant  
[alex.dunn@mechanicvilleny.gov](mailto:alex.dunn@mechanicvilleny.gov)

36 N MAIN STREET  
MECHANICVILLE, NY 12118

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December 12, 2018

- Totals:
  - Arrests 54
    - 9 Violation
    - 41 Misdemeanor
    - 4 Felony
    - 99 Traffic tickets
- 2 Officers out of the academy on field training.
- Focusing on speeding on South Central Ave and parking complaints.
- DWI Patrol for Christmas and New Year holidays.
- Taser Training is complete and they are in service.

# ***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**

December 10, 2018

## **November 2018 Chief's Report**

### **Alarms YTD- 532**

City Alarms - 43                      Mutual Aid -2  
EMS-30  
CO Alarm-2  
MVA-1  
Gas leak-2  
Fire Alarm-5  
Odor of Smoke-1  
Traffic Control-2

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**Month Total -45**

### **Training**

4 Drills

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