

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
December 30, 2019  
6:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Monday December 30, 2019

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 6:05 P.M.  
Mark Seber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Baker Announced the first thing on the Agenda was the Public Hearing for the budget and turned things over to Commissioner Gilheany.

Commissioner Gilheany handed out final copies of the budget and explained that very little has changed since the budget workshop. She went on to say a few dollars were added to salaries in the Accounts Department, and there were taxes that needed to be adjusted. Commissioner Gilheany stated the percentage increase is at 1.98% and went on to say the appropriations went down and the estimated revenues also went down due to a few facts one in which was the Midrise no longer being under the PILOT program and now taxes will be collected. Commissioner Gilheany stated interest in penalty has been reduced, City Court fees have been down, and the sale of properties were the major items that went down on the revenue.

Mayor Baker stated that last year Kennedy Gardens came off the PILOT and asked if they are up to full tax.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they are in the tax levy. She then opened the discussion to the floor.

Tom Mahoney of the Express asked if the highway administration is broken down under DPW.

Commissioner Gilheany stated highway administration was DPW employees, vehicles, insurance, and gas.

Tom Mahoney asked what department the highway administration came under.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it was under Commissioner Gotti.

Tom Mahoney asked if there was a breakdown of what the total budget is per department.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the total for highway administration is \$449,606.00. She went on to say that under DPW this is the highway part, and added there is also the garage, offices, snow removal, and garbage. Commissioner Gilheany added part of his personnel and expenses fall under water and sewer.

Marylou Anatriello asked where the money that is received from the gas companies for tearing up our roads to make improvements is put and who has the right to use that money.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it is located in revenues under street opening permits and went on to say that Commissioner Gotti can use some of that money to help with the repairs since they (the companies) pay the City to do the repairs instead of hiring outside contractors.

Marylou Anatriello asked if there has ever been a problem where we do not get paid enough to cover the repairs.

Commissioner Gotti stated the money is paid in advance through the street opening permits.

Tom Mahoney asked how much the railroad pays for the tracks.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the railroad owns the tracks and they do not pay us.

Tom Mahoney stated so they are just another tax payer as they just pay for the land they own.

Commissioner Gotti stated that was correct.

Tom Mahoney asked if they pay a different rate than other land owners.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they do not and everybody pays the same rate.

Dave Hicks asked Commissioner Gotti how he comes up with the estimates of how much needs to be paid for the street repairs after the street opening permits are obtained.

Commissioner Gotti stated they take the square footage off the prints they use for the projects and they base it off that.

Dave Hicks asked how the reimbursement is set up and if the paving that was done through the street opening permits.

Commissioner Gotti stated that 90% of the patching and paving is through them and some was done through the CHIPS program.

Dave Hicks asked how the City is compensated for the men doing the paving.

Commissioner Gotti stated the companies have two (2) choices, they can either hire outside contractors or they can give the money to the City to do the work. He went on to say that he

accepted the work because the money that was received through the street opening permits was more than enough to cover the work and labor.

Dave Hicks stated he is trying to find out how the man power is charged.

Commissioner Gotti stated his man power is already slated in the budget for the year therefore it doesn't matter if they are driving trucks, cleaning up, or paving.

Dave Hicks stated that when they are doing this road repair the City duties are not being done.

Commissioner Gotti stated he actually gets more money for the City by doing the work.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that this is not referring to the budget so they need to move on. She went on to say that we bill the companies for cutting up the road and we use the money we get in return to pay the city for the work.

Dave Hicks stated we are not supposed to be doing contracting as a municipality.

Mayor Baker stated this has been done this way for a very long time.

Commissioner Gilheany asked if there was anyone else to speak in reference to the budget.

Mayor Baker closed the public hearing for the budget. Mayor Baker then opened a public hearing for the franchise agreement.

Commissioner Gilheany introduced Kevin Eagan from Charter Communications (known as Spectrum) who was there to answer any questions in regards to the franchise agreement.

Kevin Eagan introduced himself as Director of Government Affairs for Eastern New York and stated he was here to open the public hearing for the franchise agreement which was proposed to the City and is willing to answer any questions.

Mayor Baker asked if there were any questions. There were no questions so Mayor Baker closed the public hearing and opened the meeting to public comment.

Dave Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked what the situation was with the signs for the one way on First Avenue.

Commissioner Gotti stated they are advertising the change to alert the public and then sometime around the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January the signs will go up.

Dave Hicks asked why picking up Christmas trees and leaves has become a priority over repairing roads.

Commissioner Gotti stated they started picking up Christmas trees within the last few days and the process has not changed in years.

Dave Hicks stated that a few years ago a computer upgrade was done at the cost of over \$40,000 and is asking why it is being done again.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the last upgrade was done in either 2014 or 2015 and effective January 10, 2020 there is no longer support for Windows 7.

Mayor Baker stated that when the upgrade was done they had no way of knowing it wouldn't be supported in 2020.

Commissioner Gilheany stated she is not happy that this needs to be done but there is nothing that can be done about it.

Dave Hicks asked what Windows it would be upgraded to.

Commissioner Gilheany stated it will be upgraded to Windows 10.

Dave Hicks asked what the predicted time was before Windows 10 comes to an end.

Commissioner Gilheany said she can't predict the future.

Tom Mahoney of the Express asked about updated the employee handbook.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they were going to table that resolution.

Marylou Anatriello stated that she wanted to talk in reference to what was discussed during old business at the last City Council meeting by Commissioner Dunn. She went on to say that not long ago Commissioner DiNapoli descended upon City Hall and did an audit on how the City's records were kept. She went on to compliment Commissioner Gilheany on the fact that our report have gone from a poor report to a much better report. Mrs. Anatriello stated that the City Council gave no approval on the repairs that were done at the Senior Citizen Building and there was no signature from the Mayor on the \$85,000 check that was paid for repairs. She stated she has not seen any legal report from the Department of State or ENCON regarding the fact that it truly involve hazardous waste and went on to say she finds it very alarming that the City Attorney was not aware of the procedure being underway and \$85,000 was paid out and the Mayor who is supposed to oversee the projects and DPW who is supposed to maintain the building were pushed out of the way. Mrs. Anatriello stated she can't imagine any department finding it easy to step aside and let someone else do a job that is under their job description. She went on to say she was appalled that this topic was discussed during old business and anyone with common sense with how any organization runs was going to accept that. Mrs. Anatriello stated there has been a lot of talk since the last Council meeting about the spending of this money and DPW being pushed out of the way. She went on to say in this day in age there is no contract that is given out without there being a bid and three (3) or four (4) companies given the opportunity to put in a bid on it and you would have to live under a rock to accept that kind of a procedure.

Mayor Baker stated he thinks that after he is out of office changing the form of government in the City needs to be looked into because somebody needs to be at the head of decisions. He went on to say that he has already discussed putting a committee together to look into changing the form of government and the City Charter, which would need to be voted on by the people.

Marylou Anatriello stated that changing the form of government has been discussed at the City Council meetings for several years and there was a committee that was put together who met a few times but there was never a formal written report given on the pros and cons. She went on to say she personally would love to see a change in the form of government and she believes there should be someone at the helm. She added she does not feel the \$85,000 incident did not have anything to do with the form of government but it was due to animosity and lack of respect and communication.

Mayor Baker stated Saratoga and Mechanicville are the only two municipalities in New York State that have this form of government so it obviously needs to be looked at and possibly changed.

Commissioner Gilheany stated Saratoga voted down to change the form of government. She added that it is about people getting along and working together.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 99-19: Agreement with Spectrum Northeast LLC (Charter Communications)

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 100-19: 2020 Budget

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 101-19 Resignation of Eileen Day

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 102-19 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 103-19 Resignation of Kimberly Cooney

Moved by: Mayor Baker  
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 104-19 Microsoft Update

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany  
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 105-19 City Handbook Amendment

TABLED

RESOLUTION 106-19 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award to General Control Systems to replace the automated SCADA control System (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition at the water plant

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti  
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 107-19 Saverio (Sam) Carabis appointment on the Board of Assessment Review

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire  
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4                      NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 6:40 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0