

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
January 8, 2020
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 January 8, 2020.

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

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

Motion to accept the December 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner McGuire Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Abstain: Commissioner Seber

Motion to accept the December 30, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner McGuire Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Abstain: Commissioner Seber

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker stated the City Council Meeting times will be changing to 6:00 p.m., he stated they will still be held on the second Wednesday of each month but the time will now be 6:00p.m. Mayor Baker read end of the year reports from both the Fire Safety Inspector and the Building/Code Enforcement Officer which are attached to the meeting minutes. Mayor Baker stated they are looking for a new City Attorney and thanked Honeywell law firm for stepping up and helping the City out for the last year. He went on to say the City Charter stated that the City Attorney is required to live in the City of Mechanicville and at this time there are only two (2) Attorneys that live within City limits and neither are interested therefore they needed to bring it to the State for approval to hire an Attorney in Saratoga County or adjoining counties. He went

on to say when the State passed the resolution it just included Saratoga County and the adjoining County portion was dropped. Mayor Baker stated he wants to speak with the Council and get their opinion as to whether they want to leave it as is and hire only within Saratoga County or if they want to re-submit when the State meets again and have it changed.

Commissioner Seber stated he has the end of the year report for the Accounts Department which is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Gilheany stated her department did their first payroll in house, there were a few glitches but overall it all went well. She went on to say negotiations have been ongoing and they have been reviewing the City handbook and finding things need to be clarified so she will be setting up a committee to review the handbook. She stated she would like to include residents and if anyone is interested they can contact her after the meeting or in her office.

Commissioner Gotti asked Don Fletcher when the kickoff date for the SCADA system at the water plant was.

Don Fletcher of Barton and Loguidice stated the contract bonds were given to the insurance company and they are looking at next week.

Commissioner Gotti stated reclamation work is being done at the water processing plant, the lagoons have been patched, re-cleaned it and it is up and running. He went on to say drainage work is been done around it.

Commissioner McGuire stated the memory trees were a huge success and they looked beautiful in the park. She went on to say they are in the process of cleaning them up. Commissioner McGuire stated it is very windy in the park and it is difficult to keep the tree upright. She announced the Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 4, 2020 and they will be partnering with the Mechanicville Fire Department who will be having the Easter Bunny breakfast then the hunt in the park. Commissioner McGuire stated they are in the process of having a skating rink at the Park Avenue playground and are just waiting for colder weather to get it going.

Acting Chief Rabbitt gave his monthly report which is attached to the minutes. He went on to say that he has been very busy with the new bail reform and will have a detailed comprehensive report for 2019 at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Karen Green of the Midrise Apartments stated she uses the City bus several times each week and stated that recently they have had to ride in the six (6) passenger van and it is impossible for the seniors to get into the van, it is too high and impossible to access the two (2) rear seats. She went on to say she has a "petition" that was signed by seniors and gave a copy to Mayor Baker. She added the concerns are for their safety.

Commissioner McGuire stated the van is not used every day.

Karen Green stated that she never stated it was used every day and added she has had to ride it twice.

Commissioner McGuire asked her if she has ever ridden in a mini-van.

Karen Green stated she has never in rode in a mini-van.

Commissioner McGuire stated that 90 % of people have ridden in a mini-van at some point in their life since they are common. She went on to say that if anyone doesn't want to ride in the mini-van they can call the office and see what vehicle is being used that day. Commissioner McGuire stated that no one is forced to ride in the van and added that the van and the City bus is a privilege and they do the best they can. She went on to say some days Debbie drives the bus and other days she drives the van so if they don't want to ride the van they are not under court order to do so.

Karen Green stated she was not there for an argument she just wanted to make her statement.

Commissioner Seber asked Commissioner McGuire if she considers it a privilege to ride the bus.

Commissioner McGuire stated she does.

Commissioner Seber stated he thought it was a service to City residents.

Commissioner Gotti added that sometimes the van is used when the bus is being repaired.

Dave Hicks of 241 First Avenue asked when the energy audit contractor would be starting.

Mayor Baker stated he told him he would speak with him after the first of the year and the budget was approved.

Dave Hicks asked what is going to be done to prevent the flooding on First Avenue. He added the road repairs are inconsistent and not up to date. Mr. Hicks also asked where we are at with back tax payments. He also asked who owns the Saratoga Avenue overpass and if it was deeded to the County.

Mayor Baker stated that when they spoke with the County they didn't necessarily have an interest in it but added he will speak with them again.

Dave Hicks stated how much disruption the bail reform act that was just passed has caused within the City.

Commissioner Gotti stated they are preparing to do the water lines down First Avenue and when they do he is going to try and address the drainage.

Dave Hicks asked what the problem is with the repair of the roads.

Commissioner Gotti stated they are working on them but are having trouble keeping up with them all especially on Central Avenue.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street asked if there was a policy in place if a Commissioner or City employee hasn't paid their water/sewer bills.

Commissioner Seber stated he does not believe there is a policy, they are encouraged to pay them on time but there is no policy.

Kim Dunn asked why the entire City Council was not informed of the date and time for the swearing in but Tom from The Express was called.

Mayor Baker tried to answer but Mrs. Dunn asked him to wait till the end, she stated she wants to make sure she has time to get all her questions in.

Kim Dunn stated she is still waiting for FOIL information that she requested and is wondering if she is ever going to get that or if she is going to need to take further action.

Commissioner Seber asked what the date was on the FOIL request.

Kim Dunn stated it was before he was here.

Commissioner Seber stated he understood that but if he knows the date he will be able to follow up on it.

Kim Dunn stated she would speak with him after about it. She also asked when a chairperson was going to be appointed for the Civil Service Commission and when the Civil Service Commission meets. Mrs. Dunn stated the results for the sergeant exam have been out for months and is wondering why no one has been appointed. She went on to ask why she hasn't seen any advertisements for the hire of the new City Attorney.

Mayor Baker stated that is why he just asked the Council if they wanted to keep it within Saratoga County or get it changed to adjoining county so they can advertise.

Kim Dunn stated it was already with the State to act upon.

Mayor Baker stated as she knows they left out the adjoining Counties portion of it.

Kim Dunn stated they she recently spoke with the State and it is in the session to go forward.

Mayor Baker stated they called them back and asked them to do that but he is making sure that is what the Council wants to do.

Kim Dunn stated she has been speaking with Senator Tedesco about the new bail reform and she asked the Council if they would send a letter to the Governor about this new bail reform and how it will impact our City.

Mayor Baker stated he will speak to the Council and if they agree he will send a letter.

Kim Dunn asked if the reports from the Fire Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer need to be FOILED or can she get a copy.

Mayor Baker stated she can get a copy.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they are part of the minutes.

Mayor Baker stated they will be attached to the meeting minutes.

Kim Dunn stated that the Council does not do what they are supposed to with the minutes so she asked if she can come to the office tomorrow and get a copy.

Mayor Baker stated she could call him and he will let her know.

Kim Dunn stated since the acting City Attorney was at the meeting maybe they could address her FOIL of past information.

Jack Messoro of 212 Railroad Street stating the bus has come a long way since his mother first started it many years ago when it was an old school bus that had a big step to get into.

Commissioner McGuire stated they do have a step stool.

Jack Messoro stated he went for a ride around town and there are twenty-seven (27) lights out.

Commissioner Gotti asked if he has a list of the lights out.

Jack Messoro stated he has a list and just found five (5) more. He added there used to be a fax number where you can fax the entire list and they would handle it.

Commissioner Gotti asked for a copy of the list. He added that you can no longer do that, they want each pole number and they need to be called in one at a time.

Jack Messoro they have to have a fax number for municipalities.

Commissioner Gotti thanked Mr. Messoro for the list.

Mayor Baker added that when he was a Police Officer they kept a pad in the car and filled it out when they saw a light out.

Kim Dunn asked if they were going to answer her questions.
Mayor Baker asked which one.

Kim Dunn said all of them.

Mayor Baker stated he would not be answering them all tonight and he doesn't remember which one she said she wanted an answer for right away.

Kim Dunn stated Civil Service.

Mayor Baker stated Civil Service has not been appointed and he is looking for the right person. He added he has spoken with someone and he thinks she is going to take it but it is not easy to fill Chummy's shoes. He went on to say he is looking for someone that does not have any connections with Civil Service which is not easy to find.

Kim Dunn asked if the meetings were posted.

Mayor Baker stated he is not sure about that but he would ask Dawn.

Kim Dunn said she was asking about the Sergeants exam.

Mayor Baker stated the Sergeants exam is still open and he will take care of the Chief's first and then take care of it.

Fred Hosley of 36 Newman Avenue asked if someone has a doctor's appointment they have to wait to see what vehicle is being driven that day.

Commissioner McGuire stated if they have a doctor's appointment Stillwater has a minivan that they use to take people to doctor's appointments.

Fred Hosley stated if we have a vehicle like the bus that can accommodate everyone why would the van be used, it sounds like it is based on what Debbie feels like driving that day.

Commissioner McGuire stated in the summer the bus does not cool down and in the winter it takes longer to heat up. She went on to say that she takes the van maybe once a week.

Fred Hosley stated that regardless of cooling down or heating up should they ever use a van that is not easily accessible to all the senior citizens.

Commissioner McGuire stated the van is also used for an overflow and other than that she only uses it maybe one (1) day a week.

Fred Hosley stated he does not understand that, and that those people can't travel on that day and they don't know because it depends on what vehicle she decides to take that day.

Commissioner McGuire stated they call the office to get picked up so they can ask what vehicle is being used since they have to call the office anyway.

Fred Hosley stated that he has found that senior citizens like routine, they don't want to have to make the phone calls, and they like to know that bus is going to be there at that time.

Commissioner McGuire stated there is a route it follows but if someone needs to go to the doctors or somewhere at a special time they call and request that in which they can then ask what Debbie is driving. She went on to say that she thinks Debbie usually drives the van on Tuesdays because the mid-rise has a bus that goes out on Tuesdays.

Fred Hosley stated that what Commissioner McGuire basically said was to adjust to it because the bus is a privilege.

Commissioner McGuire stated she thinks the bus and van are a privilege for the residents of Mechanicville to use. She went on to say that it is a service that is provided but it is a privilege, the City is not mandated to provide the bus.

Fred Hosley asked who pays for it, the taxpayers?

Commissioner McGuire yes.

Commissioner Seber stated he thinks it is a right to ride the bus.

Commissioner McGuire stated they could debate it.

Fred Hosley stated privilege is a big word when he pays taxes.

Commissioner Seber stated that is why it is his opinion that it is a right.

Tom Mahoney of the Express asked if the bus was handicap accessible.

Commissioner McGuire stated it was.

Tom Mahoney stated just for consideration of that wouldn't it make sense to run the bus every day.

Commissioner McGuire stated they do have a van.

Tom Mahoney stated in which is not handicap accessible.

Commissioner McGuire stated they do not have handicap people every single day all day long. She added if Debbie was out in the van and somebody needed the handicap accessible bus she could go over and get it.

Tom Mahoney stated he was confused about the significant of Tuesdays.

Commissioner McGuire stated that on Tuesdays the mid-rise has trips in which most of the people go on their bus so she might take the van that day since there a fewer people. She added it takes a lot less gas and is more comfortable.

Tom Mahoney stated that the only drawback is it is not handicap accessible.

Commissioner McGuire stated there is a step stool that helps her get in the van.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 01-2020: Roberts Rules of Order

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 02-2020: Code Enforcement Amendments to City Charter

Commissioner Seber asked if a public hearing was required for this resolution.

Attorney Paul Aloy stated the charter is not clear as to whether or not a public hearing is required to revise the charter but the proposed amendments have been posted on the City's website.

Commissioner Seber asked if it was appropriate to vote on this in his opinion.

Attorney Paul Aloy stated they are able to do so.

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 03-2020 Commissioner of Accounts as Section 3 Coordinator

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 04-2020 Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Benefit Disability Benefits Program

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 7:40 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Executive Session Began: 7:40 P.M.

Executive Session Ended: 8:20 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 P. M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

William J Rabbitt
Acting Chief
lt.rabbitt@mechanicvilleny.gov

Alex Dunn
Patrol Sergeant
alex.dunn@mechanicvilleny.gov

MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

36 N MAIN STREET
MECHANICVILLE, NY 12118



January 8, 2020

- Totals for December 2019:
 - Arrests 49
 - 5 Violation
 - 40 Misdemeanor
 - 4 Felony
 - 83 Traffic tickets

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
Alexander Dunn**

January 10, 2020

December 2019 Chief's Report

Alarms YTD- 708

City Alarms - 60	Mutual Aid -9
EMS-43	
Building Fire - 2	
Fire Alarm-10	
Hazardous Condition - 2	
MVA - 5	
Carbon Monoxide - 1	
Gas Leak - 3	
Water Problem - 2	
Power Line - 1	
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Month Total -69	Fire- 26 EMS-43

Training

4 Drills

City of Mechanicville
Building and Code Enforcement Department

City Hall
36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118

Jim Herkel
Building/Code Enforcement Officer
Phone (518) 664-5001 Ext. 330
Fax: (518) 664-5362

1/7/2020

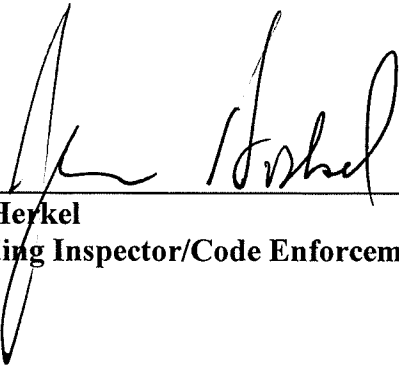
Mayor Baker,

Pursuant to Chapter 9, Section 6, Sub-section-B of the City of Mechanicville Code, I maintained records and reports for the calendar year from January 1st through December 31st, 2019. Reports can be printed from our software Emergency Reporting.

I would like to report that there were 191 Building Permits issued for 2019 with a total revenue of **\$22,989.00** received. Two city owned properties; 96 Saratoga Ave and 237 South Main Street were posted with a RED 'X' to signify in case of fire, attack from outside.

One house was condemned, 127 North Main Street due to the fact there were **59** Code Violations for deplorable living conditions.

Sincerely,



Jim Herkel
Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

City of Mechanicville
Building and Code Enforcement Department

City Hall
36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118

Jeff Alonzo
Fire Inspector
Phone (518) 664-5001 Ext. 330
Fax: (518) 664-5362

January 8, 2020

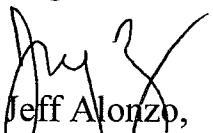
Mayor Baker:

My apologies as I am unable to attend this evenings City Council Meeting. As required by Code of the City of Mechanicville 2017, Chapter 9, sub section 9.6 A. & B. I have maintained records and reports of all fire inspections I conducted from January 1, 2019 through December 31st. Reports can be printed from our software Emergency Reporting and Gina Kenyon has duplicated records as well as my paper reports.

For 2019. I completed 106 Fire Safety Inspections as compared to 86 in 2018. The revenue from these inspections totaled \$8,685 which is down from \$12,905 in 2019. The inspections will continue at this pace with the revenues fluctuating based on size of business or number of apartments inspected.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me.

Regards,


Jeff Alonzo,
Fire Inspector