

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:	Mayor Sylvester	- present
	Comm. Seber	- present
	Comm. Chauvin	- present
	Comm. Higgins	- present
	Comm. Hipwell	- present

Comm. Seber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Seber, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 19, 2011 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said he got a letter from Barton & Loguidice; we're making arrangements with them to investigate the quiet zones here in Mechanicville so we will no longer hear the whistles blowing as they come to the crossings here. Said there is quite a bit of criteria to make that happen. Said he's working with Dave to get someone to get traffic counters, we have to count the number of cars that go over each one of the crossings in a 72 hour period. Said they have to go onto the website of the FRA where there is a formula there, a whole thing to go through to tell them what they have to do to become a quiet zone or maybe not have to do anything to become a quiet zone. Said that's where they are heading with that.

Comm. Seber said the water bills are out; they are due at the end of the month. Said they are still taking applications for the Microenterprise Grant Program which is a loan program. Said they have given out 31 sets of applications so far. Said they either come to him or they come to Camoin Agency who is administering this. Said he doesn't know how many are actually back yet but there is a lot of interest in it, not only with firms that are in the city but they have several firms that are looking to move into our city that are looking for some financial help. Said they have until October 21st to submit their application.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Hipwell had nothing to report at this time.

City Attorney Serbalik said he got a letter from the engineers for the Esplanade, they are putting their final request for site plan approval for the Planning Board; they've been going on for six months. Said our engineer requested that they revise the plans and they finally sent them in so they will be before the Planning Board in another month.

Chief Waldron said he went down to Westchester Convention Center to view new police cars to replace unit 8. Said a new dealer was present and he learned there that they still have Crown Vics available even though they are going to get rid of them for a different style vehicle. Said at the end of the day they secured two Crown Vics for him and they are on hold. Said he wanted the council to know there are a couple of options. Said if they lease them for 2 years, at the end of the lease for \$1.00 they will own both vehicles that way the cost of the vehicles are split from this fiscal year and the next fiscal year which will control the budget. Said he doesn't like the new cars coming out because he feels the flaw they have is they are from Australia and they will never be able to get parts from it except from Australia. Said by keeping the Crown Vic he can utilize the same equipment he has in the Crown Vic now which will save him money such as the computer system which costs \$5,000 and he can put it in the new car. Said it would be his recommendation that they purchase the two Crown Vics either on lease or his personal preference, that they buy them outright so they own it but knowing the condition the budget may be in, perhaps spreading it over two years would be the appropriate thing. Said once he gets the lease from the company he will give it to the Finance Dept. to review it. Said if they feel that this isn't for us, that's fine and if you feel that you have enough money and actually buy the cars outright and own them, he would be happy with that. Said that's his feelings on the Crown Vic and he would rather buy two.

Comm. Seber asked how much they are.

Chief Waldron said between 22 and \$24,000.

Comm. Seber said they're talking around 40, \$45,000. Asked if it was State Contract.

Chief Waldron said all State Contract, that's how they get a cheap price on the cars.

Comm. Higgins asked what year they were.

Chief Waldron said 2011.

Comm. Seber said ideally then he's looking to buy one out of this year's budget and then budget for one next year.

Chief Waldron said he's got it. Said as they know, Unit 8 is out of service completely and Unit 9 is not far behind it. Said it's up to them. Talked about video tape interrogation cameras in the police station and will be located in the conference room where they do most of their interrogation. Said this system runs between 15 and \$25,000 but they went for one grant with police stations within Saratoga County, State Police and Saratoga Sheriff's Department, Saratoga Springs Police Department, Washington Police Department and they got approval for some of it and the County will pick up the rest of it. Said he had Tenn Chenn come in and run the wire for it and it is

completed. More discussion was held on this and cameras in the cars and foyers. Said he looked at the 2011 budget and they are doing okay, they're on mark and if all things go well, he may be able to purchase the cars out of his own budget without tapping city funds. Said he submitted the 2012 budget to the Finance Department and with the exception of putting the car in there, they have very minor addition to it, around \$7,000.

Comm. Seber said he knows he needs new equipment and he's not saying yes or no but he and the Mayor went to Albany to the Office of the Comptroller yesterday, they had a session on the new 2% property tax increase and their 2% will be roughly 38 to \$40,000 so they as a group have to be very cautious as they go through the budget process. Said somewhere along the line, something has to give or somebody because it's going to be a difficult budget.

Chief Waldron said along with it would make more sense to budget both those cars out of this year's budget if it's there.

Comm. Seber said the 38 or \$40,000 doesn't cover the contractual raises they have in the city. Said they have their work to do.

Mayor Sylvester said that meeting was disappointing because they didn't have answers to all the questions, whether it would go beyond the 2%. Said it should have been another year away before it was implemented so they can tell everybody just exactly what they want and how it's going to work. Said he wants to request an executive session after this meeting regarding legal questions and police negotiations.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:15 p.m. to go into the second Public Hearing on the City's Intent to Apply for a CDBG Micro-Enterprise Program through the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation and the Governor's Capital District Regional Council, seconded by Comm. Higgins. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Comm. Seber attested to the fact that the notice was duly put into the Gazette.

Mayor Sylvester asked Comm. Seber to explain the purpose of the hearing.

Comm. Seber said they are submitting a second application for a \$200,000 Microenterprise Grant Program. Said they were rewarded one last year in the spring and even as they speak their distributing money to 9 different businesses in town who received about \$166,000 in grant money. Said they have distributed \$175,000 of that. Said they are asking for a second round of Microenterprise Money. Said they have a big monitoring session in two weeks to make sure they did the first one correctly. He thinks they are in pretty good shape there. Said it was a very successful program, they put a lot of money into a lot of businesses and they are looking to apply for it again. Said he would read the public notice:

Public Hearing No. 2 – October 5, 2011

This public Hearing is a requirement of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act in order for communities to submit applications for CDBG funding. This is the second public hearing on this matter.

The City of Mechanicville intends to submit an application for a Microenterprise Program in the amount of \$200,000. If and when the funds are awarded, businesses that submitted survey forms will be invited to apply for the program. The program will be advertised and other businesses will be invited to apply also.

Individual grants will be between \$5,000 to \$35,000, and business owners must supply 10% equity toward the project. They must also be enrolled in a small business training program offered through the program.

The funds will be used only for eligible uses mandated by the CDBG program. These are: acquisition of real property, financing of machinery, furniture, fixtures and equipment, working capital, inventory and employee training expenses.

The purpose of the program is the creation or retention of permanent job opportunities principally benefitting low to moderate-income persons. Low to moderate income thresholds are established by HUD each year.

The purpose of this public hearing is to solicit public comments before the City passes a resolution to submit the application, and I will now turn the program back to the Mayor for the public comment period.

Mayor Sylvester asked if anyone had any comments. No one did.

Comm. Seber said the beauty of this is the \$34,000 in this program for the city to administer this so there is no money out of pocket for the city to administer the program. Said it's the best grant he has seen in a long time.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the public hearing and re-open the regular meeting at 7:19 p.m., seconded by Comm. Chauvin. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment asking people to stand and state their name and address.

Noreen Cunningham, 15 Tenendaho Lane, said she was here to talk about Tenendaho Park. Said a lot of people don't even know that it's there because it's so far back. Said there is no electricity there so she went to see about solar powered lights that would be motion detected because back there you need to have some light in order

to know there are people back there doing things. Said there are teenagers down there making a mess and drinking back there, they are creating a lot of noise and there are fights back there and she knows that because her own son was assaulted back there. Showed them pictures she took of the park and the other playgrounds which she said are a little better kept. Said they would like better maintenance for the park and also maybe put some basketball hoops back their along with lights so that the kids have something to do. Talked about the fact there is no upkeep back there. Said she's not complaining about DPW because she knows they have a lot to do and they have done some things like clearing the growth from the fence because you couldn't see behind it which is what happened when her son was assaulted, they couldn't see behind it or they would have been able to go down there and get him and maybe stop the fight. Said DPW took out a broken picnic table and put a new one down there but they need a few more down there. Need something positive down there for the kids to have something to do.

Comm. Higgins said so she knows he is working on all 3 playgrounds since he took office. Said he's been up to her location, he believes they had a conversation a couple of times, and he's working with the Commissioner from DPW, they are cleaning everything. Said he was going through some old records today and he has a paper here what they wanted to do in the past and he will take a look at this like putting the tennis court back, put a basketball hoop up, picnic tables, everything she said but the only thing it doesn't have is lights and he will look into that. Said he will work with them.

Mr. Cunningham said there is no power at all down there so it may be cheaper going with solar lights. Said when the police come they have to use their big spotlights to see down there.

Comm. Higgins said they can try a solar light but he doesn't have much faith in it.

Mayor Sylvester said the playground falls in the area of their Riverfront Revitalization Program. Said that bridge isn't in the best shape and he would be in favor of taking it down so that when the police car comes down front of Tenendaho Lane the kids won't have no place to go but back up the same way they came in. More discussion was held on the bridge.

Comm. Higgins said he would rather leave the bridge but they can put a gate on it and lock it.

More discussion was held on the playground.

Chief Waldron said he sends details down there and Comm. Hipwell is trying to correct it.

Dennis Baker, Broadway said the trucks that go over Viall Avenue to the railroad yard, he was told that there is no weight limit on that.

Comm. Higgins said there is a 15 ton weight limit. Said he talked to the railroad people and the trucks should stop by next week.

Mr. Baker asked about the parking lot on Elizabeth Street.

Mayor Sylvester said his biggest fear is it's out of sight and anyone can do anything to it.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 62-11 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE NYS
HOUSING
TRUST FUND CORPORATION FOR CDBG FUNDS IN AN
AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FOR A MICROENTERPRISE
PROGRAM AND UPON APPROVAL IS FURTHER
AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE AN
AGREEMENT WITH THE HOUSING TRUST FUND CORP.
THROUGH THE GOVERNOR'S CONSOLIDATED
FUNDING
PROCESS FOR SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Introduced by Comm. Seber, seconded by Mayor Sylvester. Roll Call:
Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said the next resolution on the railroad quiet zones gives him permission to sign but he's not going to sign it right away because Dave has to find someone to do the traffic count to get the numbers, hopefully for free.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 63-11 CITY OF MECHANICVILLE HEREBY
AUTHORIZES BARTON & LOGUIDICE, P.C. TO
PROCEED WITH SERVICES TO ACHIEVE RAILROAD
QUIET ZONES IN THE CITY FOR A FEE NOT TO
EXCEED \$2,900.00 UNLESS THIS TASK ORDER IS
REVISED BY THEM AND THE CITY OF MECHANIC-
VILLE

Introduced by Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin. Roll Call:
Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mimi Izzo said she thought she read in the paper they wanted a quiet zone from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Mayor Sylvester said no, all day. Said for the houses around the crossings it's a lot of noise to have in your kitchen window.

Mrs. Izzo said she thought it was a warning to drivers blowing the whistle.

Mayor Sylvester said it's a gated crossing. Said under new business they put in for a grant for fixing up homes, owner occupied houses. Said he got a note that they won't know if they got it until December. Said they hope they will get it, they've had it for years. Said they're back in pretty good shape.

Comm. Seber said the Governor now has a consolidated grant operation in Albany. Said you make your application and then however they make that determination, you do wait a little bit longer for this grant award than it has in the past. No old business.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. to go into executive session, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the executive session and re-open the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:01 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.