

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizens Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on December 7, 2011. Mayor Sylvester called the meeting to order 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 made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2011, seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester read a report from Barton & Loguidice on the DeCrescente Point of Sale Warehouse and Training Facility Waterline Completion and Certification saying they inspected the installation of the waterline by JRP Excavating. Said upon its completion the waterline was chlorinated and left for a twenty-four hour period and after a sample was taken to St. Peters Bender Laboratory. They enclosed a copy of the results showing negative results for total coli form. Said to contact their office if they had any questions. Read a letter from Momentive asking for an extension of 6 months to clean up the canal bed. Mayor said the city doesn't have the equipment to do the work and it's cost effective for the city because they don't have to pay for any of that stuff to be done. Said the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation sent a spill record on the train station with spills up there and what happened. Said last week the NYS Small Business Development came to Mechanicville and went around and looked at different things, they looked at the Fortune Building and the old Masonic Temple Building looking to bring small business to Mechanicville.

Comm. Seber said tomorrow morning at 10:0 at the Central Firehouse there is going to be a budget workshop to discuss the budget.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins said the weather was good last week and the lagoons dried up and they were able to get them out.

Comm. Hipwell said they have a new bus coming in with another grant. Said it should be here within two weeks. Said the bus they have will be going back so the city will be getting a brand new bus.

Chief Waldron gave a report of the stats for the month of November (see attached).

Comm. Seber asked if that compared to last year.

Chief Waldron said all the revenue figures are exactly the same, the difference is grants. Said for example last year they received a \$20,000 grant. Said it is right on par with normal. At this point, all the revenue that we anticipated in the budget has been met or exceeded at this time. So we are right on par with normal. I gave you a list of transfers to the Commissioner of Finance and to the Mayor, that transfer will hopefully be the last transfer. Said they moved the money within the police department itself and allow for the expenditure of another vehicle. Said as you know, we are down two vehicles; we only have two working at this stage. So, it is of a necessity to get to one and get it up and running. Said other than that 4 more radios have arrived, brand new radios for the individual police officers and he expects them to get that out within the next week. Said he wants to get some language from the lawyer so when he issues them to the police officers they assume responsibility and liability for them. Other than that, that is all I have Mayor. Happy Holidays.

Mayor Sylvester made a motion to close the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m. to go into Public Hearings, seconded by Comm. Chauvin. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said the first public hearing is on the Farm Animal Ordinance 2011-3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 70 OF THE CITY CODE OUTLAWING THE HARBORING OF FARM ANIMALS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS (see attached). Said residents have complained about chickens and things being kept in the city, running out in the streets. Asked if anyone had any comments on this? No one did.

Mayor Sylvester said Pete this is yours.

Commissioner Chauvin said this hearing is to ENACT LOCAL LAW 2011-1 TO ALLOW THE CITY OF MECHANICVILLE TO RAISE THE STATUTORY PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012, IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C (see attached).

Mayor Sylvester said they are not voting on this tonight, it's just a public hearing. Said they have to wait 7 days and it has to be filed with the state and the state has to okay them. Asked if anyone had any comments, come to the podium and state your name and address.

???????, 17 South Railroad Street, said he's lived in Mechanicville 3 years now and doesn't understand why they need the property tax up above the 2% cap. Said the grant they got to bring the train area here to bring in small businesses, why are you going to increase the tax, you don't want to chase small businesses away.

Mayor Sylvester said the rail yard is not in the City of Mechanicville, it's in the Town of Halfmoon and the Town of Stillwater. Said 99% of that is in the school district, that will be school taxes. Said they held public hearings this last year, people want them to \$2,000,000 to dredge the reservoir. Said the fire department wants to buy an \$800,000 fire truck. Said they just spent \$130,000 for air bottles for

the fire department because the bottles they have are out of date. Talked about other things that need to be done and the costs involved.

Man said he does worry about the rail yards coming in because it will increase the number of trains coming in and these guys blow the horn all the way through town here. Said it wakes him up 2:00 in the morning.

Mayor Sylvester said that is the railroad law, it's the law of the land that they do that. Said they have been looking into this quite awhile and they are waiting for the results of one more crossing numbers. Said if they meet the standards, they can get them not to blow the horns so they are working on it. More discussion was held on the railroads.

Amelia Izzo, 49 Mulberry Street, said she comes to all the meetings and said the council decided to give the firemen the \$800,000 to buy the truck. Said about the water, she didn't think anything was decided yet on what they are doing about the water. Asked if anything is being done.

Mayor Sylvester said they are doing tests on it. Asked if she wanted county water.

Mrs. Izzo said no but asked how can they raise taxes with not knowing what they are going to spend.

Mayor Sylvester said they are paying for a lot of studies being done. More discussion was held on this and on raising the taxes.

Ann Marie Boucher, 25 Grove Street, said the government put a 2% cap because we are one of the highest states in this country that is being crucified with taxes. Said at the same time all these cities get the right to raise them and the people don't get to vote on it. Said many people in Mechanicville are retired and once you are retired you don't have the money so how can they pay for them. Said they have to find some other way to come up with this money. More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber said he is against increasing the cap.

Dave Hicks said the tax cap was put in place for a reason, to stop the free style spending of the government. Said the City of Mechanicville has had an increase in the tax base by 24 duplexes and 18 single units. Said that is more funds in the coffers. Said they have had other properties that were built on and upgraded so he can't understand why the tax has to be increased when your tax base on the bottom has increased.

Comm. Seber said the tax bills actually went down \$100,000 this year.

Mr. Hicks asked how many outstanding taxes are there.

Comm. Seber said a lot, about \$300,000. Said they collected over a million and a half in the last 4 years on outstanding taxes. Said there's a law that you go back 3 years and it takes a full year to go through the process. More discussion was held on this and why taxes go up because everything else goes up like health insurance, retirement, etc.

Mrs. Izzo asked if we were a village, would our assessment from the state be less.

Comm. Seber said no that is state wide. Asked if she was talking about retirement.

Mrs. Izzo said yes.

Comm. Seber said no, it doesn't make any difference; the retirement system is the retirement system. The state just bills you.

Steve DeFelice, 24 Round Lake Avenue, said he agrees with that young lady who spoke about raising taxes should be voted on by the people. Said he's been retired 18 years and he does odd jobs to pay for his dental work, doctor bills. Said he feels the City of Mechanicville is wasteful in a lot of departments. Said he went to a workshop meeting at the Central Fire House and it was 75 degrees in there, it was so hot in there. Said he feels the city should be a little more frugal they wouldn't have to raise taxes.

Comm. Seber said this 2% is a misnomer, said they could bill 4% and still be in the 2% cap.

Mrs. Izzo said she heard taxes would be raised 23%.

Comm. Seber said what they addressed at their workshop was a 22 or 23% increase but hopefully it will be less.

Comm. Chauvin said they are trying to knock that down.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, made a motion to close the public hearings at 7:56 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment.

Mrs. Boucher said the guy who bought the St. Paul School has it for sale again. Said she thinks he bought it just to sell it.

Mayor Sylvester said he got transferred but has now moved back. Said he had a couple of people look at it but he wants too much money for it. It's on the tax roll.

Comm. Seber read Ordinance 2011-3 on Farm Animals.

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

Mrs. Izzo asked who would maintain this.

Mayor Sylvester said the Animal Control Officer and the Building Department.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 68-11 AWARDING THE LOWEST QUALIFIED BIDDER, KERLS ELECTRIC – GENERATOR DIVISION THE GAS FUELED GENERATOR BID AT A COST OF \$30,015.00

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

Mayor Sylvester said this money is coming out of a grant from DEC.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. 69-11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMENDING CONTRACT OF HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THE PBA

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

Comm. Seber explained it was the same deal they made with CSEA a couple of years ago, making the co-pay higher and then reimbursing the person through the city. Said they saved about 15 to \$18,000 for two years. Thanked the PBA for agreeing to this. Said the next resolution is on the contract and they will have a net savings on that too. Said they pay 25% of their health insurance.

Comm. Seber read RES. NO. 70-11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH PBA ON LABOR CONTRACT

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

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 71-11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT GIVING MOMENTIVE A 6 MONTH EXTENSION

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

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 72-11 APPROVING THE PROPOSAL FROM AUSFELD & WALDRUFF LAND SURVEYORS TO COMPLET THE ADDITIONAL STREETScape WORK FOR THE CITYH AT A COST OF \$1,500.00 REIMBURSABLE TO THE CITY

Mayor Sylvester said this is part of the grant money that is reimbursable. Said possibly the county will replace the bridge on DiSiena's on Central Avenue this year. Said it will cost us nothing.

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 73-11 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

Mayor Sylvester said Post 91 has invited everyone to Pearl Harbor Day on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:19 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.