

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Central Fire Station, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY, on Wednesday, December 21, 2012. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 2011 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said he didn't get any correspondence this week outside of junk mail.

Comm. Seber said they will be holding a budget meeting workshop here at the Central Fire Station tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. and next Thursday at 3:00 p.m. here they will have a meeting to vote on the budget. Asked for an executive session after the meeting today.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

City Attorney Serbalik had nothing to report at this time.

Chief Waldron talked about 911 and how it needed to be upgraded. Said Supervisor Richardson was trying to get money from the county but the county updated themselves. Said he and the Mayor looked into it and the estimate was \$291,000 to do the upgrade and \$25,000 a year to maintain it. Said after meeting with the City Council they just couldn't afford it. Said as of January 3, 2012 the Mechanicville Police Department will not be answering 911 calls, they will go to the county but they will still be answering 7383. Said the person answering the 911 call may not be familiar with Mechanicville and you may have to give additional information. Said he just wanted everyone to know that 911 calls will be answered in Ballston Spa and not Mechanicville. Discussion was held on this.

Mayor Sylvester said next will be a presentation from Theresa Ayala from Monolith Solar Associates on the Solar Project that the city may be undertaking.

Ms. Ayala said what her company does is purchase the solar system and place it on the roof of the building which will give the city a 30% discount in electricity which will benefit the city. Asked if anyone had any questions.

Comm. Seber asked what other municipalities are doing this.

Ms. Ayala said Schenectady County will be doing 10 buildings.

Amelia Izzo asked how they would pay for it.

Ms. Ayala said if you look on your bill you will see a line item SPCRCS that they set up. Said if she set one up on her house and her electric bill was \$100.00 she would pay 70% of it. Said most companies offer 20% but they offer 30% and it will never go down.

Chief Waldron asked if there was a lifetime guarantee on it.

Ms. Ayala said there is a 25 year warranty. More discussion was held on this.

Comm. Seber said they need to work through the contract in executive session.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to public comment.

Amelia Izzo, Mulberry Street, said on the final consideration of Local Law 2011-1 that authorizes a property tax levy, can they raise taxes once this is passed.

Mayor Sylvester said if they want they can raise it over the 2% if they pass this.

Mrs. Izzo asked if it gives them the opportunity to raise it 6 or 8%.

Comm. Seber said whatever they want. Said this has to be passed before the budget.

Comm. Chauvin said this is the way it should be handled because if they run into a problem they can make the budget what it should be.

Mr. DeFelice said he is against raising taxes. Said they should try to be more frugal. Said they may be able to save money in all departments. Said he's a retiree and has to get by on what he gets.

Comm. Chauvin read LOCAL LAW NO. 2011-1 AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY
TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED
IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL SECTION 3-C

Introduced by Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Mayor Sylvester.

Comm. Seber said he was opposed to this, he still thinks they can bring in a budget under 2%. Said they are flying blind. Said last year they increased it 5% but he feels that they have the fund balance so he will oppose it.

Mrs. Izzo asked if he had the fund balance.

Comm. Seber said no.

Mayor Sylvester said he would vote yes but he wouldn't go for 8 or 9%, wants it less than 2%.

Roll Call:	Mayor Sylvester	- voted yes for 2%
	Comm. Chauvin`	- yes
	Comm. Seber	- no
	Comm. Higgins	- no
	Comm. Hipwell	- no

Mrs. Izzo asked what this would do with the state.

Mayor Sylvester said they won't send it in.

Comm. Seber said they can't exceed a 2% tax increase.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 74-11 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO RECEIVE A
GIFT OF REAL PROPERTY WITH NO COST TO THE CITY

Mrs. Izzo said what they are saying is the city wants to take over the Railroad Station. Said it will cost us money.

Mayor Sylvester said right now someone is taking care of renovating the building free of charge, it's being done by Vince Lorenzo and his people.

Comm. Higgins said when everyone is gone, who will pay for it.

Mrs. Izzo said that we would end up paying for it in the end. Asked what's happening with the XO Tower, no one uses it and we're not making any money on it and its cost a lot to fix.

Mayor Sylvester said he donated a window for it and other people did too.

Comm. Higgins asked when the Heritage Society goes out who will take care of it.

Nick Izzo asked who would take care of it.

Mayor Sylvester said you may not be in support of it but a lot of people will take care of it.

Comm. Seber said if it starts costing us money we will get rid of it.

Mayor Sylvester said the Zim Smith Trail will bring people in. Said it's a win win situation for the city. Said he met with Senator MacDonald and people from RPI want to bring small businesses in. Said he got two calls on Friday on this. Said things are being worked on. Said this is one of the things that will bring people to Mechanicville.

Mr. Izzo said then that building isn't going to cost one penny.

Mayor Sylvester said no, if it does we will get rid of it.

Introduced by Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin.

Roll Call:	Mayor Sylvester	- yes
	Comm. Seber	- yes
	Comm. Chauvin	- yes
	Comm. Higgins	-no
	Comm. Hipwell	-no

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 75-11 AMENDING THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mayor Sylvester said this is just extending the contract they have with DEC.

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

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 76-11 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY TO RETAIN THE ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES

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

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 77-11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RATIFY THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH CHIEF OF POLICE JOSEPH D. WALDRON

Introduced by Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell.

Comm. Seber said this is in compliance with what they did with the PBA.

Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

No new or old business.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Hipwell, moved that the regular meeting be closed at 3:59 p.m. to go into executive session. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the executive session be closed at 4:40 p.m. to re-open the regular meeting. Roll Call: Affirmative – all.

Negative – none.

Comm. Chauvin, seconded by Mayor Sylvester, moved that the regular meeting be adjourned at 4:41 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.