

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Citizen's Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, NY on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. Mayor Sylvester opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

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

Supervisor Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 1, 2012 and the special meeting of July 27, 2012 be accepted as prepared. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester said if anyone has old drugs to be disposed of bring them down to the CVS on September 29<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. they will properly dispose of them for them so they aren't flushed down the toilet and eventually wind up in the river with the fish that people eat. Said that's the safe way to get rid of them. Said at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month on the 19<sup>th</sup> they will hold a public hearing to put out a non-binding vote to abolish term limits here in the City of Mechanicville. Said they want to see if people want this or not and then they will make their decision based on what people vote for. Said it will be a night meeting too rather than a day meeting so that more people will have the opportunity to come and speak.

Sam Carabis asked what non-binding meant.

Mayor Sylvester said if it's a binding vote, it's not legal because it's taking away the council's job according to our Charter of making this decision so by doing it non-binding they can get the pulse of the people.

Emilia Izzo, Mulberry Street, asked if they would decide at that meeting or decide what's on the ballot.

Mayor Sylvester said they will decide whether they will put it on the ballot.

Mrs. Izzo said then it won't be the final decision, the people will make the final decision.

Mayor Sylvester said right, they will go be what they have to say, if they say no we won't step on their rights but they can do it tonight if they wanted to, that's the way the Charter is written. Said he and the council don't want to do it that way.

Joyce DiVirgilio, 270 South Main Street, said they definitely should put it on the ballot so the people can find out and it can be voted on.

Nick Izzo, Mulberry Street asked if it would be just a raise of hands or will it be a box.

Mayor Sylvester said it would be on the November ballot when you go out to vote.

Man in audience asked if there is no one running, do they get to keep the position.

Comm. Chauvin said no, they wouldn't be able to be on the ballot.

Mayor Sylvester said the sitting council would have to appoint someone.

Mrs. DiVirgilio said this would let people run for re-election but if people don't like them they can just vote them out, right but if they like them they can vote them back in.

Mayor Sylvester said that was right. Said term limits take away somebody's right to vote for who they want to vote for in the long run. Said in a small town like Mechanicville, people know what they want, who they want.

Comm. Seber said water meters are being read by DPW and October 1<sup>st</sup> the bills will go out. Said it will be officially announced at the next meeting that there will be a public hearing at their October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to talk about changing the Procurement Policy of the City to make it more in line with what the state recommends. Said they will announce it at the next meeting.

Comm. Chauvin had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Higgins had nothing to report at this time.

Comm. Hipwell said movies in the park this year went over real good better than last year. Said on October 6<sup>th</sup> they are having a chicken barbecue, \$10.00 a ticket, to raise money for the seniors, he would like to see a good turnout. Said tickets can be bought in his office or here at the Senior Center. Said not to forget next Tuesday is 911 Anniversary.

Mayor Sylvester said that anniversary will be celebrated 8:30 in the morning at the Elks Club; there will be a ceremony with light refreshments afterward.

Chief Waldron said summer went very well, arrests were no more or less than normal. Said it was a busy summertime but it turned out to be pretty good. Said he wanted to talk about the school stairs because they had concerns with the South Street Hill being closed that a lot of people would drop their children off at the bottom of the stairs and have them walk up them. Said he assigned a police detail to monitor and track if there is a major influx to see if they needed to make some changes on road patterns up on upper Park Avenue for just a 5 minute timeframe but as of this morning it was very limited because as the cars pulled up the kids got out so it wasn't like

overwhelming, it was easy paced, it was actually 7 cars with 9 kids so it was nothing outlandish. Said they will probably do this for one week and if it stays the same it won't require police.

Stephanie Proper said they all had that idea to bring their kids to the first stair but it's not going to be the first week because they are all letting their kids take the bus for the first week and then let them start walking. Said it's not going to be the first week and if not next week, the week after and then they will probably see a lot more.

Chief Waldron said they will see how that comes out. Said the school has assigned the Assistant Principal to be at the top of the stairs so it's really covered on all fronts, they just want to make sure traffic wise everything is good and the kids can get up the stairs to school without being harassed or pushed around. Said as far as the police car they have been waiting for it, they are waiting for the State of New York to give them a contract for the new police car and they have not given them the contract at this point in time, not just to him specifically but the whole state. Said he will say something that Saratoga County doesn't take advantage of but at least other counties do, Geneseo County has put out to bid a police car and its package so if he does have to make this purchase of a police car it will probably be Geneseo County's bid plus what he did with Westchester County. Said it's something Saratoga County should look at when buying police cars or any vehicles for that matter, they go out and do competitive bidding in all counties and Saratoga County and purchase off of that competitive bid. Said it's something to think about. Said at this point in time Geneseo County has it and he has it on his desk and the purchase of the car is \$25,000 and hopefully they will get a discount purchase. Said he wanted to wait for the state but the county does work just as sufficient for comptrollers review as the State of New York. Said this year's budget looks good, revenues are on place with what he had earmarked they would make and they are there. Said he doesn't see any difficulties in their budget, there are no big spikes. Said he is preparing next year's budget now and the only thing that will be difficult is planning for retirement without a person saying he is going to retire, those are the difficult ones so he's going to try to pin down a retirement date.

Comm. Seber said he got the retirement bill that was all done based on the fact there was going to be a retirement. Asked him as a school board member how did the opening go with the buses and stuff generally.

Chief Waldron said the opening day went very well, all buses arrived on time, they had put in for 9:20 for the elementary grades which worked wonderful. Said the buses will follow the detour. Said it's not their jurisdiction so they don't have anything to say but a lot of people have called him and told him traffic is backed up all the way from the top of Ted Bailey's Hill all the way to Pruyn Hill because buses had to come to a complete stop to make a right hand turn onto Pruyn Hill road. Said that's the way it's going to have to be. Said the Sheriffs are up there trying to slow people down but otherwise it's going pretty well.

Supervisor Richardson had nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Sylvester opened up the meeting to the public.

Kathryn Lynch, North Main Street, asked how people will know about the meeting for voting.

Mayor Sylvester said it will be put in the paper as a legal notice at least 10 days ahead of time.

Comm. Seber said he would expect that the Express will have something in their paper about it, said he talked to them today and they expressed some interest in it.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. 62-12 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR A RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,999 TO FUND A REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES

Mayor Sylvester said last year they got \$99,999 and they said we could go up to \$200,000 but they suggested to us to go under \$100,000 and more than likely we would get the grant. Said this grant has helped 11 businesses in Mechanicville. Said small businesses are the lifeblood of our town, they pay a better portion of our sewer bill every year than individual homeowners. Said if you have two apartments you pay two sewer bills plus the cities.

Comm. Seber said it's about \$460.00.

Mayor Sylvester said a business pays for 13 units which is roughly \$2,600 just to open their door before they do any business. Said these grant programs help these businesses, that's why they go out to find these grants to keep businesses in Mechanicville.

Mayor Sylvester introduced the resolution seconded by Comm. Hipwell. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.

Mayor Sylvester read RES. NO. 63-12 CHANGING THE TIME OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT THE SENIOR CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON VOTERS INTEREST IN ELIMINATING TERM LIMITS

Introduced by Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Saber.

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

Comm. Chauvin read RES. NO. 64-12 PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS

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

No old or new business.

Mayor Sylvester, seconded by Comm. Chauvin, moved that the meeting be  
adjourned at 7:26 p.m. Roll Call: Affirmative – all. Negative – none.