

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
DECEMBER 21, 2016  
3:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Central Firehouse, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday December 21, 2016.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	Present
	Commissioner Duell	Present
	Commissioner Gilheany	Present
	Commissioner Higgins	Present
	Commissioner Hipwell	Present

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.  
Mayor Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment:

David Hicks 241 First Avenue stated that in reference to the Barton and Loguidice he felt it was an outrageous amount of money to be paying out from this little City. He would like to see how much the City has paid out to Barton and Loguidice in the last ten (10) years to see if it would be beneficial for the City to have an engineer of their own.

Mayor Baker stated that Barton and Loguidice bring a lot more to the table than just the City Engineer.

David Hicks said there seems to be no contingency plan for people leaving office. He used the example that Commissioner Duell is leaving and there is someone else stepping in but he didn't know what the time frame was as to when her notice was given.

Mayor Baker informed him it was just a couple days.

Commissioner Gilheany explained to Mr. Hicks that we have Deputies who take over the role of the Commissioners.

David Hicks stated that he feels that you need to be prepared ahead of time that someone is going to leave.

Commissioner Gilheany explained it is different because we are dealing with elected officials and when someone resigns they just can't run out and hold an election.

David Hicks complained that Mr. Seber was part of the financial issues that the City of Mechanicville had and it was never resolved while he was there. Mr. Hicks stated he can't see bringing part of a previous problem back to the current situation.

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Mayor Baker stated that Mr. Hicks is correct in saying that Mr. Seber was in office during a difficult financial time but he did state that once Commissioner Gilheany came on board all the Commissioners, including himself, Commissioner Hipwell, Commissioner Seber, and Commissioner Higgins all came together to get the finances where they are today. When Commissioner Seber left and Commissioner Duell came in she jumped right in and worked with the Commissioners. He stated that he felt, then he talked with the people, that in order to keep going in the direction the city is going, he doesn't want to fall back where they were previously, so they wanted to bring someone back in that has been working on that plan with them. Therefore, Mr. Seber fell into that role. Mayor Baker also stated that the other issues he had is that he does not believe in appointing someone who can run for office in November. He feels that gives them a leg up on the election and it is not fair to the other party. Commissioner Duell is a Republican, and there are three (3) Democrats and luckily there is cooperation between all of the departments. Everyone may not support Mr. Seber but overall, Mayor Bakers feels everyone is going to be fine with Mr. Seber coming on board to help get through this next year.

Commissioner Gilheany added that Mr. Seber did work with the Council for two (2) years in which we the City was in the black and that the City was in the black when he walked out the door. It was a group effort.

Mayor Baker stated that Commissioner Gilheany had a terrific article in the Times Union and, for the first time in a while the City is in the black. He commended her and her Deputy Amanda Proper for this and also stated that everyone else did what they needed to do to make this happen.

Mr. Hicks reminded Mayor Baker that taxes were raised to compensate for all of the other issues. He also stated that although the Council has done a lot to get to where we are today the taxpayers have actually done more.

Mayor Baker stated he understands that and has thanked them.

Commissioner Duell added that as per the resolution Mr. Seber is not coming back as the Commissioner he will be the Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Hicks stated he understands that but he will still be involved and have an influence.

Mayor Baker added that by having Mr. Seber come back as an Assistant the City will be saving money because he will not be getting paid as much as Commissioner Duell would have made.

Kim Dunn from 250 South Main Street asked if the water resolution would all be covered under the grant.

Mayor Baker informed her that is would be covered under the grant.

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Kim Dunn stated that as far as the resolution for Mr. Seber that he would only be part time so we would not be paying benefits and it would be a cost savings. She asked if he would be in office until the election and then the new person would take office after that. Mrs. Dunn also asked that since he was Deputy Foard's assistant would Deputy Foard be going to the meetings.

Mayor Baker informed her that he will be appointed on January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. Mayor Baker stated Deputy Foard would be the one going to the meetings.

Tom Mahoney from The Express commented about the term limits that are in place that set a precedence where the next time someone can be acute, someone run for office after they have serve their eight (8) years, someone runs for office, gets elected and after a year that person decides to resign then the previous Commissioner gets appointed which is a way to scurry around the term limits.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that he is not a Commissioner and has no voting rights.

Tom Mahoney stated he understands that but, they are in that position and have influence. He states with the term limits it puts you in a bind with getting people to run. He is worried that maybe the next time it may be someone under not so pleasant circumstances and gives the opportunity for someone to be pre-acute.

Mayor Baker informed him that would be up to the Council at that time to figure it out and do the right thing. Also, Mr. Seber is not there for the whole term, he is there for just the one (1) year until the November election and then the person that will be elected in November has to run again in two (2) years because of the expiration of the term. It is just a temporary appointment.

Commissioner Hipwell stated that while he doesn't have anything against Mr. Seber and he knows he can do the job but he also knows that in the past both Commissioner Rielly and Commissioner Higgins were both appointed because a previous Commissioner resigned. He stated again that it is nothing against Mr. Seber but that he feels that someone should be appointed to the position as Commissioner whether it is a Republican or a Democrat that doesn't matter if they are right for the job. But, he feels the Council should appoint someone to take Commissioner Duell's position as a Commissioner not an Assistant. He stated on record that he has already talked to Commissioner Seber and is voting no for this resolution.

Resolution 113-16: New York State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Moved by: Commissioner Duell Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

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Resolution 121-16: C. Mark Seber as Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of  
Accounts Emilia Foard

Moved by: Commissioner Duell    Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4    NAYS: 1

Meeting Adjourned at: 3:15 P.M.

Motion by: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

Roll Call                    AYES: 5                    NAYS: 0