

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
February 10, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday February 10, 2021.

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Attorney Jeff Honeywell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	Present
	Commissioner Seber	Present
	Commissioner Johnson	Present
	Commissioner Gotti	Present
	Commissioner McGuire	Present

Mayor Baker announced they would be going into executive session.

Executive session ended and regular meeting resumed 6:15 p.m.

Motion to accept the January 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Johnson Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYES: 0

Abstain: 1 Commissioner Seber

Mayor Baker stated no action was taken during executive session.

Mayor Baker stated they would now be going into a public hearing.

Commissioner Seber explained there is a new round of CDBG funding and the City is going to explore the options which are a \$50,000 study which is a \$25,000 match for the City, he added in order to get the grant a study must be performed, and the second option is \$1,000,000 with no match or loan to do water main replacements.

Don Fletcher from Barton and Loguidice explained they would need to decide if would be drinking water, water main improvements or sanitary sewer. He went on to say that there are two (2) different applications one is the planning grant which is \$50,000 with a 5% City match which would do a drainage study of the western side of the City and looking into further

drainage improvements and the second one would be is a \$1,000,000 with no match or load which is for construction implementation of improvements. He went on to say that they would not do both they would pick one of them and the intent is to go after the funds in this round which is the 2020 money and then the next round in the summer would be the 2021 money and they would go after the other.

Commissioner McGuire asked if he meant the area near the playground and the park when he said the west side of the City.

Don Fletcher stated essentially what happens with the drainage in the City is the drainage comes west to east because the river is on the east side but when it hits Central Avenue it actually heads north towards the Anthony Kill and doesn't continue past Central which is unusual.

Kimberly Dunn of 250 South Main Street asked if you have to do the study grant first or do apply for them at the same time.

Commissioner Seber stated there were two (2) different things.

Kimberly Dunn asked if for some reason the City did not get the study grant but they get the second one will it prohibit you from having an idea of what you are doing or is there enough data from previous studies.

Commissioner Seber stated he understands it as if the City gets the second grant and not the first grant they will still precede.

Kimberly Dunn stated they City has been very fortunate to obtain these grants and asked that since we have gotten so many does it decrease our chances of getting more.

Commissioner Seber stated that over the years the City has built quite a bit of credibility with the State Departments.

Don Fletcher stated there have been two (2) active open and both were completed on the latest schedule in December which was done purposely because you can only have two (2) active open. He went on to say there are ten (10) regional councils around the State and there were sixty-one (61) applications and twenty-three (23) were funded and Mechanicville was one of them. Don Fletcher stated the City gets the job done. He went on to say they actually asked the City for a meeting to discuss if the City wanted to go after anything in the next round which is a good sign.

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker announced "The Mechanicville Central School Logo Committee is hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 24th at 6:30pm to continue the conversation and get feedback from the community regarding the re-branding process. There will be opportunities to ask the panel of committee member's questions via the chat and email. Login information will be shared via email, Facebook and on the District website."

Mayor Baker went on to say that he has a meeting set up with Saratoga County so they could look at the senior center as a possible vaccination site.

Commissioner Seber announced the tax bills are due to go out on March 1st and payment is due on March 15th. He added that they bills have been received by the county and may go out sooner than the 1st. Commissioner Seber stated that the Accounts office will be open on Saturday March 6th and on Saturday March 13th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm so that people may pay their taxes. He went on to say that City Hall is closed on Friday February 12th for Lincoln's birthday and Monday February 15th for Presidents Day. Commissioner Seber stated for the year 2020 revenue in his office was down \$600 but added they were closed for three (3) months and there was no revenue from bingo licenses, bell jar, games of chance and things along those lines. He added the Certificate of Residencies is also down. Commissioner Seber stated that when they were doing the budget workshops he put money in the budget for updating the tax assessments and after discussion it was decided to be taken out of the budget but he was just notified by the State that the equalization rate went down from 100% to 93%. He added that the taxable rate will go down about 7% which means tax rates will go up unless that is brought back up to 100%.

Commissioner Johnson had nothing to report.

Commissioner Gotti complimented John Amos for staying on top of the grants that were just completed and added they were able to pick up ten (10) extra fire hydrants. He went on to say they pulled a few components out of the box today to make sure everything will transfer smoothly for the Saratoga water which will be working before they shut down and actually taking anything off line. Commissioner Gotti stated they had an issue where Bellamy accidentally hit a line but they replaced everything and the bacteria tests came back really good the first two (2) days.

Commissioner McGuire stated her department gave a donation of \$750 to the Fire Department from the memory tree donations. She also added that a resident Kathy Frasier was unable to purchase a tree this year but sent a donation to the Fire Department.

Police Chief Rabbitt gave his monthly report which is attached to the minutes. He added they are working with the Reinvention Collaboration and made a commitment to look at all of their policies and bring them up to date and currently they have one hundred and fifty-five (155) in the Police Department and have completed one hundred and thirty one (131) and should have the remaining twenty-four (24) done in the next couple of weeks.

Fire Chief Matt Dunn was unable to attend the meeting but the monthly report is attached.

Michelle Duell (Chairperson for the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Committee) stated the committee met last night and she presented the Council with their draft which will be posted on the City website. She added their next meeting will be February 23rd at 10:00 am and the meeting can be accessed virtually or in person at the Mechanicville Library. She personally thanked all of the committee members: Megan Quillinan, Chief Rabbitt, City Attorney Lyn Murphy, District Attorney Karen Heggen, Public Defender Matt Maiello, Supervisor Richardson, Patrolman Jordan McBride, and Mike Butler for all of their help and hard work on the plan. She

added they are open to more thoughts and suggestions and hopefully will bring the plan for hopefully final acceptance at the March meeting and then from there it will go to the State.

Mayor Baker asked if there will be an opportunity to ask questions and make comments once it is out to the public.

Michelle Duell stated once it is posted to the website people can send comments or can attend the next meeting and ask their questions or make their suggestions then.

Public Comment:

Marylou Cebula of Lee Street asked if there is any update or status on the City's interest in the change of government or revision of the charter.

Mayor Baker stated they were going to form a committee for it but were waiting to get the police one completed first.

Marylou Cebula asked if they were intending to still have it on the November ballot.

Mayor Baker stated he wants it done the right way so if it takes longer it won't be.

Marylou Cebula added she would be interested in the committee. She went to say that she put in a FOIL to see if there were any advertisement, ads, or applications that are used to hire extra help during snow storms and was told there was not. She went on to say she then put in a FOIL request for the bills in the big snow storm in December and it was close to \$25,000 for extra help and she asked what the criteria was for obtaining extra help, how do they get the extra help, and how does the City budget for that.

Commissioner Gotti stated that in a case like the December storm it is declared an emergency and he goes by a list that was created before he was elected and he calls off of that list to see who he can get. He added since it was a State emergency they are looking to see if there is funding to be reimbursed for some of it.

Marylou Cebula asked if there is an existing budgetary line in the budget for snow removal.

Commissioner Gotti stated there are a few lines for winter snow and salt.

Marylou Cebula asked how it is determined and emergency, it is winter and it snows.

Commissioner Gotti stated under this particular situation they predicted six (6) to seven (7) inches of snow and it ended up being three (3) feet and he stated he doesn't understand how that wouldn't constitute an emergency. He went on to say that he has been following what the State says, if they call it an emergency he will follow in their tracks.

Marylou Cebula asked about the list he previously mentioned.

Commissioner Gotti stated there is a previous list with names and numbers.

Marylou Cebula asked if asked if the resolutions for the public law 18 was automatic.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy informed her that the law states it has to be adopted by the municipalities by resolution.

Commissioner Seber stated it allows the Council to make a decision.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated each individual application would need to be voted.

Marylou Cebula asked if it was just civil matters or does it cover civil matters.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it was civil matters.

Dave Hicks of First Avenue stated purchasing a new backhoe is unacceptable and the equipment that the City owns now should be repaired and asked why the City is selling two (2) and only purchasing one (1).

Commissioner Gotti stated the equipment that was auctioned off has parts that are obsolete and added the new one will be under warranty

Dave Hicks added there were holes at the end of First Avenue and it took a long time for the lights to be fixed on Main Street.

Commissioner Gotti stated there was a broken wire underground on Main Street and he didn't want to dig up the sidewalk to find the wire, he contacting NYSEG and after the snowstorm hit they were able to get some of the lights working and they are still looking into the others.

Kim Dunn of South Main Street stated she is confused as to why the Council went into executive session for a contract negotiation and took no action when resolution 10-2021 was added with the CSEA contract.

Commissioner Seber explained that the agreement was signed by the union the previous night and they had the executive session prior to the meeting because it was added to the agenda and they were hoping to vote on it and they wanted to bring the Council up to speed before they voted.

Kim Dunn asked if there are currently any pending or anticipated civil actions that would be covered by resolution 08-2021.

Commissioner Seber stated there is a possibility and in his research pursuing something else this came to light. He went on to say this dates back to 1981 and he isn't sure if the Council passed it in 1981.

Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that most insurance carriers recommend you pass this so the City Council can get reimbursed through insurance.

Kim Dunn stated she attended the virtual meeting for the Civil Service and went on to say it was stated the meeting was virtual because of COVID but it was actually held in the public library which was open to the public and every member of the committee were in attendance at the same table. She went on to say that when they were asked when the meetings were going to return to in public in person it was stated "I don't have to dispose any type of criteria; it is just what we decide". She went on to say she is very concerned about it. Kim asked when it is legal for a plow truck to drive up a one way street the wrong way. She went on to say there was no emergency.

Attorney Lyn Murphy stated if Kim gives her the date and time she will look into it and see what the circumstances were.

Kim Dunn asked what circumstances would allow that.

Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she cannot just pull out whatever unbelievable circumstance may have occurred without looking into what the facts are so the question can't be answered fully until looking into what the facts are.

Kim Dunn stated that in the research she has done there is no situation where a plow truck can do such a thing.

Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she may be correct but until she looks into the facts she cannot give her that answer.

Kim Dunn stated that she thinks it is ridiculous that the civil service meeting is virtual and needs to be looked into.

Commissioner McGuire stated she asked Attorney Lyn Murphy about resolution 08-2021 and that she did say Commissioner Seber had previously mentioned paying the Mayor and Commissioner Gotti's lawyers and she said they couldn't do it through this and it would have to be through an additional resolution.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 05-2021 Backhoe Purchase

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 06-2021 RS Bond \$109,440 (Backhoe – DPW)

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 07-2021 Backhoe Rebid

Commissioner Seber asked for a motion to remove this resolution from the agenda due to the fact the bidder withdrew their bid and the next successful bidder and they were not interested. There was a motion to accept the removal of the resolution and to resubmit the backhoe for auction.

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 08-2021 Adoption of Section 18 of NYS Public Officers Law

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 09-2021 Payroll and Voucher

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotte

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 10-2021 CSEA and City of Mechanicville Memorandum of Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting Adjourned: 6:56 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

William J Rabbitt
Chief of Police
chief.rabbitt@mechanicvilleny.gov

Alex Dunn
Detective Sergeant
alex.dunn@mechanicvilleny.gov

MECHANICVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

36 N MAIN STREET
MECHANICVILLE, NY 12118



February 10, 2021

Mayor and Council Members,

For January we:

- Responded to 359 calls for service,
- Made 32 arrests,
- Issued 125 traffic tickets.

Mechanicville Fire Department

36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118
Tel: (518) 664-6121 Fax: (518) 664-6123

Chief
Matthew Dunn

Deputy Chief
Alexander Dunn

Assistant Chief
John Dunn Jr.

January Chief's Report

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	51
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2
600 - Good intent call, other	2
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	2
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	2
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	2
Total Incidents:	62