

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
October 9, 2019
7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday October 9, 2019

Roll Call:	Mayor Baker	Present
	Commissioner Dunn	Present
	Commissioner Gilheany	Present
	Commissioner Gotti	Present
	Commissioner McGuire	Present

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Michelle Duell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion to accept the September 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Gilheany Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

Roll Call: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker announced the Veteran's Day celebration will be held on November 11th @ 11:00 a.m. in Tallmadge Park. He also announced that he met with the contractor for the South Central Avenue drainage project and the work will begin the week of October 30th and should be completed on the week of December 9th. He went on to say that is a tentative schedule since issues may arise but this is the schedule they are hoping to follow.

Commissioner Dunn stated the water bills went out the end of September and three (3) inserts were included in the mailings. She went on to say the pink insert explained the new five percent (5%) penalty on delinquent water accounts; the blue insert was from building/code enforcement; and the yellow insert was for DPW cleanup dates in which one was already completed and the next one is this Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Commissioner Dunn reminded everyone that the five percent (5%) delinquent penalty will only impact the accounts that are delinquent, anyone paying their bill November 1st or later will be penalized five percent (5%) and every month thereafter until it is paid. She added the blue rental dwelling registry can be mailed in with the water bill or dropped off to the office. Commissioner Dunn thanked Michelle Duell from the Mechanicville Public Library for all of her help with the sexual harassment training which the state is mandating. She went on to say the training was very

informative and covered many interesting facts about who a perpetrator can be such as visitors, and customers of a place of business. Commissioner Dunn stated she spoke with CDTA in reference to the CDPHP biking program and they are interested in touring the City and possibly having the program come to Mechanicville which she added would be a great benefit to our residents.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that her office has payroll training with the bank and she hopes that they will be taking over the payroll in house shortly which will save the city between \$400 and \$500 a month.

Commissioner Gotti stated the railroad finally issued the permit so they were able to finish the patch at the Railroad Street/Viall Avenue intersection. He added they are still plugging away with the meters and they are working with residents doing sidewalk patches.

Commissioner McGuire stated they will be doing the memory trees again this year in Tallmadge Park, the trees will be \$40, they will be put in the week of November 18th, and the dedication of the trees will be the same day as Santa in the park which in December 8th. She directed any questions to her office. Commissioner McGuire stated there are eight (8) seats left on the bus for the senior trip to Turning Stone and if anyone is interested it is \$25 for non-member; \$20 for members and \$30 is given back, \$25 in free play and \$5 for lunch. She went on to say that she is working with Don Fletcher from Barton and Loguidice (City Engineers) to see if they can flood the playgrounds for skating in the winter. She stated they were going to see if the pavement could handle since they do not want to ruin the tennis/basketball courts.

Supervisor Richardson stated that Saratoga County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution that detailed the sharing of half of the landfill profits received based on a formula including population and property assessments to each Saratoga County Supervisor to carryout special projects that fulfill specific needs in their individual communities. He went on to say that Mechanicville received a check for \$30,778.68 in which some was already spent on purchasing flags for Central Avenue since the microburst that came through the City in June destroyed them. Supervisor Richardson stated in the past he had to go to local merchant for money to complete projects but now this money will be designated for this. He went on to breakdown where he would like to spend the money: crushed Stone for the floor in the Train Station totaling \$6000; South Main Street Playground bathrooms and pavilion totaling \$3600; landscaping at the Tallmadge Park gazebo costing \$4500; landscaping at Anthony Denier Park totaling \$700; landscaper pavers on the Saratoga Avenue overpass triangle totaling \$5700; cement work on the Saratoga Avenue overpass triangle \$4200; two (2) maps of the City of Mechanicville to be put on the bathhouse at the dock and on the billboard located on the dock totaling \$2000; and expansion enhancement on the Veteran's Memorial totaling \$3000. He went on to say that all of the project he mentioned will be completed within this year. Supervisor Richardson asked if anyone had questions for him.

Dawn Dawson stated that getting all this work done is much needed and would be incredible but she stated that the road around Tallmadge Park and the pillars at the entrance of Tallmadge Park both need major work and asked if he thought if some of the money could be used for that.

Supervisor Richardson stated that Commissioner Gotti receives money from the State every year for road repairs and asked when the Tallmadge Park Circle is on the schedule again.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has not looked at that road recently and at this point was concentrating on the major roads.

Supervisor Richardson stated the Tallmadge Park sign was re-done a few years ago after being hit by a truck and added the pillars are in need of white washing and he will be doing that himself.

Marylou Anatriello stated she is very happy to see the Zim Smith Trail is nearing completion in our City and she asked if the road near Elizabeth Street will be repaired.

Supervisor Richardson stated the entire road will not be repaired but he did say they received a \$10,000 grant from Saratoga County trails committee and Commissioner Gotti and his team are working on it.

Commissioner Gotti commented and stated there is an issue with an easement that is slowing them down at this point.

Nicholas Rinaldi asked where the road for the Zim Smith Trail was going to go.

Supervisor Richardson stated it will go behind the Little League field.

Nicholas Rinaldi asked if that was where the railroad was.

Supervisor Richardson stated not quite it is going to come down by the minor league field and skirt behind the pony league field and they are hoping to bring it into the Industrial Park but there is private property there that is causing some difficulty. He went on to say they are looking into two (2) options; either to skirt it into the cul de sac in the Industrial Park or to skirt it along Clement Street, either or depending on the easement.

Nicholas Rinaldi asked what happens if someone buys the building.

Supervisor Richardson stated that is what they are working on.

Dave Hicks asked if the money was to be dispensed to the City to dispense out.

Supervisor Richardson stated the City is the pass through so instead of the County having to take care of all the grants and money what they asked the City to do is act as a pass through.

Dave Hicks stated his question is are they going to be paying independent or is the City going to be doing the work

Supervisor Richardson stated the City would not be doing the work; it would be done by contractors.

Dave Hicks stated \$2000 for maps at the dock is exuberant.

Supervisor Richardson stated the maps have to be encapsulated so that they are protected and they have to be designed and put together and that is the cost of it.

Acting Chief Bill Rabbitt gave his monthly report which is attached to the minutes

Deputy Fire Chief Matt Dunn gave his monthly report which is attached to the minutes.

Public Comment:

Dave Hicks, 241 First Avenue, stated there are multiple lights out. He asked if DPW had all the equipment set up for winter, and asked why it took so long to pave the Railroad/Viall Avenue area. He also asked if they needed a permit how were they able to ground up that portion of the road. Mr. Hicks stated the one way signs are still not up on First Avenue and stated the street sweeping started to come to his area but he needs a crystal ball to determine when he needs to move his vehicle. Mr. Hicks asked if the parking lot at the firehouse was ever going to get paved and asked about the consolidation of the meters and the update of the electrical system to change to LED lights.

AnnMarie Erno, 35 Mulberry Street, asked for Maple Street to become parking on one side only. She went on to ask about the clean-up of debris on Mulberry Street.

Commissioner Gotti stated the debris was cleaned up but the remaining debris was on railroad property.

Dawn Dawson, 139 Saratoga Avenue, stated she did an appeal because she did a FOIL request for work performed at the Senior Center on June 5th and October 4th and neither have been addressed. She went on to ask what type of penalty/punishment the City plans on levying if found guilty the Supreme Court action referring to the FOIL request.

Mayor Baker cautioned Mrs. Dawson on personal attacks.

Mayor Baker stated they are not aware of it at this point.

Dawn Dawson stated she thinks the City should know who is going to be financially responsible for the payment of legal court fees.

Mayor Baker state the City Attorney would inform them when the time comes.

Dawn Dawson stated she does not feel the public should be financially liable.

Attorney Paul Alloy stated it is still currently pending for a judgement in front of the Supreme Court which makes it an ongoing litigation and cannot be discussed at this point in time.

Dawn Dawson asked that when it is finish who will be legally financially responsible for the cost.

Attorney Paul Alloy stated it will ultimately be up to the judge to assess the cost.

Dawn Dawson stated it will ultimately be the taxpayers.

Attorney Paul Alloy stated that potentially could be the case.

Dawn Dawson asked why the City purchased a van that is not handicapped accessible to transport the seniors that have mobility issues when the City has two (2) buses.

Commissioner McGuire stated there is only one (1) working City bus.

Dawn Dawson asked why they wouldn't repair the other bus.

Commissioner McGuire stated the cost to repair it exceeds what it is worth.

Dawn Dawson stated that a group of seniors are alienated because it is not handicap accessible. She went on to ask if every employed member of the City would be signing the anti-harassment policy.

Mayor Baker stated they would.

Dawn Dawson stated it "strictly prohibits and does not tolerate unlawful harassment against other employees or any other covered persons", and wants to know if this includes: off hand sarcastic comments, pictures and video of City employees while on or off duty by other City employees, the pulling of City officials records. She asked if it was going to be specific.

Mayor Baker stated they would act on everything that is a violation of the harassment policy.

Dawn Dawson asked if this included harassment against other city commissioners, and city employees within their job scopes.

Mayor Baker stated that if the person that is harassed would like to pursue it then it will absolutely be pursued.

Tom Mahoney from The Express asked if the traffic committee has met yet in reference to the one way street on First Avenue.

Commissioner Giotti stated they have not had a meeting but he is trying to schedule a meeting within the next few weeks.

Tom Mahoney asked if the one way street is already in the charted why does there need to be a meeting.

Commissioner Giotti stated they still need to discuss it and other things that have come up.

Tom Mahoney asked where they plan on flooding for the skating rink.

Commissioner McGuire stated that Don Fletcher would be going with her to look at both South Main and Park Avenue playground and they want to make sure nothing happens to the pavement.

Tom Mahoney suggested that maybe they could do both.

Commissioner McGuire stated that would be great and if they can't do it in one of the playgrounds they could possibly do a section in Tallmadge Park.

Mayor Baker stated the only problem in Tallmadge Park is the lack of lighting. He added that the kids would probably like to skate at night but that would be Commissioner McGuire's call.

Tom Mahoney asked if there was any information on the investigation being done by Mr. Hite.

Commissioner Gilheany stated he sent them a draft and was supposed to contact them but she has not heard from him.

Tom Mahoney asked if Mr. Hite was paid \$10,000.

Commissioner Gilheany stated he was not paid \$10,000 he was paid around \$4000 but she doesn't remember the exact amount since it has been so long.

Tom Mahoney asked if there was some sort of performance clause in the contracts in reference to the work being performed in a certain time frame.

Commissioner Gilheany stated there was no time frame in the contract.

Tom Mahoney stated in the world of business if you don't do a described service after a year you would usually be brought to collections. He added the tax payers are the ones paying for this and they seem to be getting nothing and should get their money back.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they did get a draft in which they were supposed to sit down and go over it. She went on to say that she will contact him.

Tom Mahoney stated a few months ago money was allocated for another lawyer to investigate something and asked if there was any type of stipulation in that contract.

Commissioner McGuire stated there is no stipulation for a time frame

Roger Shufelt of 233 First Avenue asked if there is something that could be done about the people who are parking on the corner of Spring Street and First Street due to the fact that it is hard to see at the intersection.

Acting Chief Rabbitt stated there are stipulations on how close you can park to an intersection.

Roger Shufelt asked if a sign could be put up stating no parking from here to corner.

Acting Chief Rabbitt stated that this would be something for the traffic committee to look into it.

Mayor Baker stated at minimum he could put a yellow line down.

Marylou Anatriello of Gilbert Street asked if she is correct in assuming that the questions she is going to ask do not need to be answered by the Council at this time but the Commissioners could get back to her within a couple of days.

Mayor Baker stated that is correct and if someone would like to answer it they could or they can wait and get back her. He also stated that it is a curtesy to have an open meeting and have questions but it is not a necessity. Mayor Baker also stated that they as a Council try to do the best they can with questions but if it can't be answered tonight someone will get back to her.

Marylou Anatriello suggested that if the answers come forth could they be shared with The Express then all in attendance would get the response.

Mayor Baker stated that if the person who receives the answers would like to do that they may or if the Commissioner chooses to they can.

Marylou Anatriello stated she is a lifelong resident of the City and has written many articles regarding her concerns with the City and has stood at many meetings asking questions. She

went on to say that when you do that you are usually looked at in a strange way. Mrs. Anatriello stated she cares about her community and chooses to come forward to get answers. She stated that with the Zim Smith Trail coming down Elizabeth Street something needs to be done with the intersection at Depot Square. Mrs. Anatriello asked Commissioner Gotti if the gas companies that are tearing up City roads and sidewalks are responsible to put the roads and sidewalks back to their original condition. She went on to ask Commissioner Dunn why the properties in arrears for the city and school taxes have not been in the papers. Mrs. Anatriello stated every three years there is supposed to be an accounting of the properties with outstanding balances. She asked Commissioner McGuire if there has been any research or development on looking into a splash pad.

Commissioner McGuire stated she has reached out to Senator Daphne Jordan, Carrie Woerner, and has researched it personally to see if there were any grants for splash pads and there are not.

Marylou Anatriello stated that on the contrary she has found out that there are.

Commissioner McGuire stated she is just informing her of what she did.

Commissioner McGuire and Mayor Baker informed Mrs. Anatriello that her five (5) minutes were up.

Nicholas Rinaldi of 113 Viall Avenue stated that he has lived in Mechanicville his entire life and still thinks it is a great City to live in. He added he knows there are problems and everyone is going to have complaints but there are options for the people who don't like they can leave. He added Mechanicville is a great place to live with police and fire protection, running water, and sewer. He added some of the million dollar homes in other places have septic tanks and a well for water.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 81-19: Michael Cefferillo Resignation

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 82-19 Carl Vredenburg Cleaner

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 83-19: Anthony Accetta Mechanicville Housing Authority Board
of Commissioners

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 84-19: Zoning and Planning Board of Appeals Members

Commissioner Dunn asked if it was spread out that some members are one year
and other two (2) so that they don't all end at the same time.

Mayor Baker stated that was the correct.

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 85-19: Train Station

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 86-19: Chief Elected Official Authorize Signature

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 87-19: Jeffrey N. Bagnoli City Court Judge

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 88-19: County Board of Supervisors Additional Landfill Profit

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 89-19: Frank Scheaffer Part-time Officer

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 90-19: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 91-19: Sexual Harassment Policy

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 92-19: Re-appoint City Assessor

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 7:57 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Executive Session Began: 8:12 P. M.

Executive Session Ended: 9:45 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 9:46 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0