

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
September 4, 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 September 4, 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.
Paul Mickalonis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion to accept the June 19, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Dunn Seconded by: Mayor Baker

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
 ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gilheany

Motion to accept the July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Dunn Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
 ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gilheany

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker reminded everyone that the meeting was changed due to the fact that next Wednesday September 11th the Mechanicville Stillwater Elks club will be having a 9/11 ceremony at 7:00 p.m. and it would be appreciated if people attended. Mayor Baker also reminded everyone that the Chamber of Commerce is having their city wide garage sale and fall festival on September 28th. Mayor Baker informed everyone that the City received a notice of a public hearing in Stillwater for a solar farm project that is being put up on Meehan & Grace Moore Roads. He added they received the notification because the City owns property that encompasses that area and he added that Barton and Loguidice was notified and are looking into the project.

Commissioner Dunn stated the water bills will be going out on September 30th and are due October 31st. She went on to say there is a resolution on the agenda to increase the penalty on delinquent accounts. Commissioner Dunn added that currently there is a 2% increase the first month of delinquency and then 1% for each month after which has been in effect since the charter first existed. She went on to say that there is a large amount of delinquent accounts and at this time Commissioner Gilheany has to put budget money towards the water fund every year to keep it in the black. Commissioner Dunn stated the goal is to not have to raise water rates. She stated she is hoping the increase in penalty will encourage property owners to pay their bills on time.

Commissioner Gilheany stated her office is still working on some bugs with the new software but it is going well and they are hoping to take over payroll in house within the next month or so.

Commissioner Gotti stated he has been asked a lot of questions about the digging going on in the City, and he stated NYSEG is updating the gas lines and they will be working for at least another month. He went on to say he will be working with Supervisor Richardson doing work on the Zim Smith Trail. Commissioner Gotti stated he selected a Traffic Committee and hope to be meeting in the upcoming week. He went on to say the committee consists of Tom Richardson, Mayor Baker, Bill Rabbitt, Commissioner Gotti, and Tim Hipwell. He suggested that people bring their concerns, ideas, and thoughts to the committee.

Commissioner Gilheany asked if the meetings would be open for the public to attend.

Commissioner Gotti stated that anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. He went on to say he doesn't have a meeting date set in stone yet but he will make sure the information is out to the public as to when and where the meeting will be held.

Commissioner McGuire wished her former Deputy Alyssa Santagato the best of luck at her new job and went on to say that Alyssa was very conscientious about her work, about saving money for the City, and she truly cared about the residents. Commissioner McGuire stated she is looking forward to working with Kim Noonan. She went on to thank the Park Avenue playground staff and stated they did an exceptional job. Commissioner McGuire stated the senior center is planning a trip to Turning Stone Casino on Monday October 14th, the cost is twenty dollars (\$20) for paid members of the senior center and twenty-five dollars (\$25) for non-members and anyone interested can sign-up at the senior center or in her office at City Hall. Commissioner McGuire went on to say that members of the senior center can sign up now and it will be opened to the public on September 26th. Commissioner McGuire reminded everyone that the Mechanicville/Stillwater breast cancer walk will take place on October 13th, registration and food/vendor will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Tallmadge Park and the walk will kick-off at noon.

Supervisor Tom Richardson stated the County is in the position where they will be receiving a million dollars (\$1,000,000) each year for the next twenty (20) years and a resolution was passed to divide the money up between all the Supervisors in the Towns and Cities. Supervisor

Richardson read a letter from Supervisor Tollisen which is attached to the minutes. He went on to mention various projects that business people in the City contributed money towards: Park Avenue Playground, road going to the school, new fence along the cemetery, replaced banner on Central Avenue, and the flags (which he stated are in and Commissioner Gotti picked up and will be put up soon). Supervisor Richardson presented a check for \$30,783.69 to Commissioner Gilheany and stated this money can help with various small projects in the City and also could help match the grant money to fix the new train station. Supervisor Richardson thanked the Board of Supervisors for their hard work. He went on to say the County plans to have the Zim Smith Trail paved in the next month or so which means you can go on the trail from Mechanicville to Oak Street in Ballston Spa and added that Commissioner Gotti will do the work and the City will get reimbursed with a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) grant from the County. He stated the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) counted the number of people that used the trail and they counted seventy-thousand (70,000) people using the trail. Supervisor Richardson informed everyone that the Economic Summit will be held on Thursday October 10th and invitations would be out shortly. Supervisor Richardson ended by stated he has received positive comments in regards to the new businesses on Central Avenue and how nice it looks and stated that if anyone has any questions they could give him a call.

Commissioner McGuire stated that he forgot to mention the benches.

Supervisor Richardson stated there are going to be several benches along the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing through Mechanicville.

Acting Chief Bill Rabbitt was unable to attend the meeting but sent his 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 of 241 First Avenue stated since he only had five (5) minutes he would fire his questions off and the Council could deal with them.

- Why was the Railroad Avenue paved from Broadway to Park Avenue since it is not a prime travel or in need of serious repair? He went on to say the road could have been dressed and added there are plenty of other streets that need serious attention and repairs.
- Paving is incomplete at Depot and Viall Avenue and potholes have been generated.
- No temporary measure has attempted to divert any flooding from First Avenue or the Dutch Gap; he added berms could have been added at the beginnings of the roads to handle the water.
- American flags are in disarray and ignored
- Street sweeping in non-existence at this particular time

- Many street lights are out and he asked if it is the City's way of saving money as opposed to meter consolidation or changing the lighting to LED
- One way signs are still not put up on First Avenue
- The ability to spend the tax payers money has been displayed but not save any money
- Management skills displayed are poor and the City is suffering
- He asked what parking lot they are attempting to pave.

Mayor Baker stated it is the parking lot next to the firehouse.

Dave Hicks asked why it needs to be paved and if the taxpayers would be paying for it.

Mayor Baker stated it needs to be paved and it is paid through a grant.

Commissioner Gotti stated that Matt is out on sick leave which puts him down to five (5) guys and he does a guy who is getting ready to go out in the street sweeper. He went on to say if he added berms to the blacktop it would create speed bumps and he will not do that. Commissioner Gotti went on to say that he is understaffed and can't hire anyone because he does not have the budget.

Dave Hicks suggested he give overtime as opposed to outsourcing the work.

Commissioner Gotti stated that it is CHIPS money in which he disperses the money and it is given back to him and it is not money from the City it is from the Federal Government.

Dave Hicks asked why the paving stopped at Viall Avenue.

Commissioner Gotti explained that additional permits were needed since the paving came close to the railroad crossing. He went on to say the paperwork has been submitted and once the approval comes in that will be completed.

Fred Hosley of 36 Newman Avenue stated he has an opinion and asked to read something that he wrote after the last meeting. "I have proudly lived in this City for sixty-five (65) years; sadly I am no longer proud of my City. I believe we have had leadership problems for many years, including this group. Five (5) people have taken an oath to lead our City into better times but I believe they have failed to do so. When the leaders can't forsake their personal problems and issues with each other, for the betterment of our City, I think it is a time to sit down and take a look. Do you we need to move on or should we overcome these problems and deal with them as a group? I believe things have to not get done because of the friction. I think the public behavior in these board meetings is appalling, the way people snipe at each other and talk about this one or talk about that one. We are supposed to be here for one thing and that is to work for the City, to make this City better. I asked several times about changing the public speaking time to the end of the meeting and I will pretty much bet that has never been brought up between the board."

Mayor Baker stated that it has been talked about individually but nothing has been approved.

Fred Hosley stated that a simple decision can't be made for whatever reason so he asked what is going on behind closed doors. He continued to read "this is not an attack on anyone but as a citizen who truly cares about the future of the City everybody should look at themselves and see what we need to do.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 70-19: James Horner full-time Water Plant Operator

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 71-19 Award the South Central Avenue Drainage Improvements
Project Contract No. 1

Moved by: Mayor Baker

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: Commissioner Dunn

RESOLUTION 72-19: Penalty Schedule for inside/outside water accounts

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 73-19: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 74-19: Alyssa Santagato Resignation

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 75-19: Kimberly Noonan Reassigned to Account Clerk in Public Safety Office

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 76-19: Eileen Day Part-time Office Clerk Accounts Office

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 77-19: North Main Street SEQRA

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: Commissioner McGuire

Commissioner McGuire stated that she was abstaining because there is no address on the resolution.

RESOLUTION 78-19: North Main Street Parking Lot Improvements (Sign project documents & authorize advertisement

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 79-19: South Central Avenue Drainage Improvement Project
easement with Joseph F. Kearney

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 80-19: Michael Burgess Temporary Full-time

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 7:38 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Executive Session: 7:50 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0