

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
February 13, 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 February 13, 2019

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

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

Motion to accept the January 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Gilheany Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker informed everyone that the White Water Derby will be held on Sunday April 7, 2019 and they will be bringing back the anything that floats category.

Commissioner Dunn stated that the tax bills will be sent out at the end of next week and are due without penalty by March 15th, 2019. She added that the envelope needs to be postmarked no later than March 15th and stated that people are confused and think that if there check is made out on or before March 15th it is accepted but that is not the case the envelope has to be postmarked by March 15th. Commissioner Dunn stated that Accounts Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 2, 2019 and Saturday March 9, 2019 for tax collection. Commissioner Dunn stated an auction will be held on Friday March 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. She added she has copies of the legal announcement if anyone would like one.

Commissioner Gilheany stated that the Finance Office is working on the yearend things and will know more at next month's meeting as to where they stand. She went on to say she will give a final yearend report at the April meeting.

Commissioner McGuire stated everything is going good in Public Safety and requested an executive session for a personnel issue.

Mayor Baker stated that the Acting City Attorney Paul Alloy was at attendance of the meeting and would be attending executive session. Mayor Baker added that Supervisor Richardson was in his office earlier in the day and was pleased as to how the Train Station was progressing.

Acting Chief Bill Rabbitt gave his monthly report which is attached to the meeting minutes. He added there are two (2) temporary full-time positions on the agenda that he would like filled. Acting Chief Rabbitt stated they have an Officer going out on an extended medical leave and they are still short an Office from Officer Waldron's resignation.

Deputy Chief Matt Dunn gave his January Fire Department report which is attached to the meeting minutes and added they are using Target Solutions and it is going very well. Deputy Chief Dunn stated they are still waiting for the stats from Lexipol and feels they will be going with it since it will protect them if anything happens. He went on to say he received a letter from the White Water Derby Committee and with the anything that floats category being added he reached out to a few mutual aid departments that do water rescues.

Mayor Baker stated that he heard they were going to try and do the duck derby on the same day.

Commissioner Dunn stated she heard the same thing but she heard they are just going to drop the ducks in the water and not have the stuff at the docks.

Public Comment:

Clifton Park/Halfmoon ambulance gave a power point presentation which is attached to the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Dunn requested a copy of the presentation.

Lillian Hamel owns a home on James Street and stated this is the second snowstorm this year that James Street was not plowed. She added that she called and complained during the first storm and it took them almost the entire day before they got to her street, and this storm her husband and daughter-in-law both called and it was never plowed. Mrs. Hamel added that her grandchildren's bus was picking them up at 10:30 and the street was never plowed until after the bus came. She added Burke Street is also not plowed well. Mrs. Hamel stated that she has four (4) grandchildren that live in her house on James Street and if there was ever an emergency they would not be able to get their car out. She then addressed Acting Chief Rabbitt stating that during the last snowstorm she tried to go up the hill at Burke Street and there was a police vehicle on the wrong side of the street facing down therefore she not only had to worry about not making it up the hill she also had to worry about not hitting the police car. Mrs. Hamel added

that when she called the DPW office today the woman that answered the phone stated she didn't work yesterday.

Michelle Eidens of 214 South Second Avenue stated she has some issues to bring up to Commissioner Gotti and wasn't sure what to do since he was not in attendance.

Mayor Baker stated she could state her issues and they would pass them along to Commissioner Gotti.

Michelle Eidens stated her first issue was snow removal. She went on to say she owns a double lot and her driveway is on First Avenue across from Cumberland Farms and stated there is very little space between her privacy fence and the curb therefore the only place she has to put the snow is in the street. Michelle stated that during the first storm Commissioner Gotti approached her and asked her to not place the snow in the street and she explained she had no place to put it. She went on to say that he suggested she put it up against the fence and he would come the next day and remove the snow. Michelle stated the street was never cleared. She went on to say that earlier in the day she was out trying to clear the driveway and a plow driver stopped and was furious she was putting the snow in the street and she explained to him there was nowhere to put it and explained what her and Commissioner Gotti discussed during the previous storm. Michelle stated he then called the Police. She stated she spoke with the Police Office and that then three (3) plow trucks came and one of them took the snow and pushed it all back onto her sidewalk and at this time it is still there. She asked for suggestions on what she can do with the snow.

Mayor Baker stated it is a very difficult issue in the City. He went on to say that when the City was created there were very few cars and that is certainly not the case now.

Michelle Eidens stated she doesn't know what to do; she would like to keep her sidewalk clean and clear even though other residents don't.

Mayor Baker stated that the new Building/Code Enforcement Officer has been doing a nice job issuing letters to people making sure they clean their sidewalks. He went on to say that he cannot answer her question as to where she can put her snow.

Michelle Eidens stated she has an issue with a "City" tree in the front of her property that she reached out to Commissioner Gotti about in May of June of the previous year in regards to having it removed. She went on to say the tree is causing problems with her sewer line, which has already been replaced once. Michelle stated she spends a lot of money yearly to have the tree roots cleared out of the line, have the guts of the toilet replaced, and buy special cleaner for the toilet. She added she spends a lot of extra money and needs something done with the tree. Michelle stated Commissioner Gotti called her several months after she reached out to him and he stated he would be over to look at it but he never went over. She went on to say that she had

called him several more times and approached him at the last meeting, where he asked her several question about power lines, she feels he needs to go to the property and look at the issue.

Mayor Baker agreed that he needs to go there and he will speak to him about it.

David Hicks of 241 First Avenue stated that snow control in the City for the last two (2) storms has been atrocious, things aren't being done and the things that are being done are not being done properly. He went on to say underpasses are impassible to pedestrians, pedestrian signal controls are snowed in, Cumberland Farms has not been cleaned, the lot across from the library is not clear, the Catholic church sidewalks are not clear, Bramski's property across from Stewarts has not been cleaned, the old Central Dairy has not been cleaned. He went on to say that it is very dangerous for pedestrians to walk into the road due to the fact that the sidewalks are not clear. David asked if a price has been established for the property being purchased in resolution 13-19.

Mayor Baker stated it was \$50,000.

David Hicks asked what the projected cost of having it blacktopped was.

Mayor Baker stated they needed to get three (3) bids and Commissioner Gotti has them. He added everything would be included in the \$125,000 grant money and the City would not be using any other money.

David Hicks mentioned that guardrails will have to be put because of the creek. He went on to ask if there is any update on the energy audit.

Mayor Baker stated he knows it has been spoken about.

David Hicks stated that the Senior Citizen parking lot was snowed in most of the day and Commissioner McGuire stated it was Commissioner Gotti's responsibility for all City buildings and the sidewalks haven't been cleaned.

Commissioner McGuire stated Paco wasn't in today but someone else should have taking care of it.

Tom Mahoney from the Express asked if there was a policy as to when a snow emergency goes into effect. He went on to say there have been two (2) snowstorms and there hasn't been a snow emergency declared.

Mayor Baker stated a snow emergency can be declared by either himself or Commissioner Gotti. He went on to say that there is no point in him declaring a snow emergency if Commissioner Gotti isn't going to be out doing what the snow emergency is supposed to do.

Commissioner Dunn stated it is two hours after three (3) inches of snow have fallen but needs to be declared by Commissioner Gotti who has to notify the Police Department and the media.

Mayor Baker stated in his defense he watched on the news tonight that there were many municipalities that did not because sometimes it causes more problems.

Tom Mahoney asked if they have determined if the 2019 South Central Drainage project would be going through Kearney's property.

Mayor Baker stated that the right away next to Kearney's is the direction of travel.

Tom Mahoney asked if Kearney's is aware of this.

Mayor Baker stated he is aware of it.

Tom Mahoney asked if there was any thought given to putting a crosswalk at the Post Office considering it is the largest in the area and it doesn't have any parking.

Mayor Baker stated that what bothered him was the Postal Service bought the big building behind the Post Office, tore it down, and made parking spots that only allow it for their Postal Service vehicles. He went on to say he understands they don't want people parking overnight but if you are going into the Post Office you should be able to park there. He went on to say he will take with Commissioner Gotti because they are going to be working on the Empire State trail that will be coming up South Main Street and they will be doing markings for that so at that time it would be a good time to do the crosswalk.

Commissioner Gilheany stated there is a crosswalk in front of City Hall that no one stops at.

Mayor Baker added he got brushed by a car one day.

Tom Mahoney asked if a final bill was ever submitted from the lawyer for the issue last year.

Commissioner Gilheany stated there has not been a final bill submitted.

Tom Mahoney asked if that meant there was not a final report issued yet.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they have not received a final report yet.

Tom Mahoney stated the Clifton Park Halfmoon presentation was very informative but it was never mentioned how much money they wanted.

Mayor Baker stated they had a request in that we didn't consider because we didn't budget for it therefore when they come to the City again they will let everyone know.

Tom Mahoney asked if the money from Mechanicville is on top of the revenue they receive from the insurance companies.

Commissioner Gilheany informed him that currently they are receiving \$170,000 which was from a contract to the end of December and they are requesting \$300,000 a year.

Tom Mahoney asked that a few meetings ago it was brought up about the very narrow streets in the City and he was wondering if any thought was given in reference to restricted parking to one side of the street.

Mayor Baker stated when the streets were developed there were very few cars on the streets and now that is not the case and there are not a lot of places to park the vehicles. He went on to say that the Zoning Board of Commission try to make sure there is parking with everything that goes through them.

Chris White of 14 Tallmadge Place stated he was here about Sasha's run and unfortunately his wife was unable to attend as they have a six (6) month old daughter at home.

The Council congratulated him on the new addition.

Chris White stated he was at the meeting hoping the Sasha's run resolution is passed and he added that this is the 3rd year for the run and they have raised \$23,000 for the Ronald McDonald house. He added that would not be possible without the City Council and the community as it is a team effort.

Mayor Baker added that the Sasha's run committee needs to be credited for it as they work very hard.

Chris White added that is true but stated that without the support of the community there would not be Sasha's run. He added they can all share in the good news and hopefully will have another successful run this year. Chris stated they wanted to thank the Council and the men and women who support them during the race including the rescue squad and police department.

Nick Rinaldi of 113 Viall Avenue stated he doesn't understand why the City of Mechanicville is getting a grant to fix the old train station as opposed to trying to get a grant towards the rescue squad. He went on to say a grant to fix up the train station or put in a walking trail will not be as much of a benefit to the community as a grant to help the rescue squad. He went on to say he thinks the grants the City gets are all directed in the wrong direction.

Mayor Baker stated that unfortunately that when the grants are put out there they marked for specific things. He added they can't take a grant that is made for the railroad station and use it for the rescue squad.

Nick Rinaldi added a grant was used to fix the XO Tower and it isn't even handicap accessible but he rescue squad who needs the money to transport people to the hospital can't get the funding.

Mayor Baker stated he understands completely what he is saying but just like the Fulton rescue squad that had close up there is no funding out there available.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 10-19: Approval of the Volunteer Firefighters Service Award Program list

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 11-19 Gary Sweeney resignation from Board of Assessment Review

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 12-19: Appointment of Ray Martin to the Board of Assessment Review

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 13-19 Grant for Parking lot at 55-58 North Main Street

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 14-19 Sasha's Run

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 15-19: Extended contract time for the Mechanicville Train
Station Preservation Project

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 16-19: Execution of Master Contract

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN 2: Commissioner Gilheany & Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 17-19: City of Mechanicville as lead agency South Central
Drainage Improvement Project

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 18-19: Grant Agreement with the NYS Environmental Facilities
Corporation

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 19-19: EPG II Local Match

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 20-19: EPG II SEQR Type II

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 21 -19: EPG II Engineer Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 22-19: Michael Burgess Temporary Full Time Police Officer

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 23-19: Kimberly Cooney Temporary Full Time Police Officer

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 24-19: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner McGuire stated she was talking with James Welch who is from Hemstreet Park who is involved with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. She added Sleep in Heavenly Peace makes beds for children who do not have beds and they supply mattresses and bedding to the children. She went on to say he is looking for help with either making beds, or help setting up beds. Commissioner McGuire stated she informed him she would mention it at a City Council meeting to see if anyone would be willing to help out. She added James Welch is the president of the local chapter.

Lillian Hamel asked if she had reached out to the schools to see if there are students that would volunteer their time.

Commissioner McGuire stated she just recently spoke with him so she is just beginning to reach out. She added she will be posting it on Facebook. Commissioner McGuire stated there is a knitting club at the Senior Center and the Library so she was going to reach out to see if they would be willing to knit afghans for the beds.

Mayor Baker asked if someone is interested in helping who should they contact.

Commissioner McGuire stated they should contact her office. She added she will be putting it on Facebook and hoping the Express will be putting something in as well.

Lillian Hamel suggested she call the school.

Commissioner McGuire stated she is not sure if there is a liability with the kids building the beds. She added he does need volunteers to go and set up the beds.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 8:02 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Executive Session began: 8:09 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Executive Session End: 8:55 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56 p.m.

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

