

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
September 12, 2018
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 12, 2018.

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

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

Motion to accept the August 8, 2018 Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Dunn Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

Roll Call: AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Motion to accept the September 5, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Dunn Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
 1 Abstain: Commissioner Gilheany

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker stated that the Stewarts project is moving along and at this point all three (3) buildings have been demolished and the foundations and retaining walls will begin next week.

Commissioner Dunn stated the Accounts office is very busy preparing to get the water bills out at the end of this month and with the new system they are running into a few obstacles. She also pointed out that in an effort to save money the City is working together to put informative inserts in with the water bills. She added the inserts are from DPW, the Fire Inspector, and the Building. Code Enforcement Officer. Commissioner Dunn stated she discovered a duplicate policy with the insurance company and has received a credit of \$1510 from them. She added

that the City has a contract with Comptel consultants who go through the utility billing and look for discrepancies and a check was received for \$3000 in which Comptel get 40% which means they receive \$1200 which results in us receiving \$1800 in funds which we would not otherwise have. Lastly, Commissioner Dunn stated that a proposal was presented at the last meeting for a new copier agreement and there were some questions in reference to it so she asked National Business Technologies to come and give a brief presentation to the Council.

Jason from Business Technologies stated that they are the current vendor for the City of Mechanicville and in 2015 they provided a solution to the City to save money and a few weeks back they did an account review with Commissioner Dunn and uncovered some opportunities for a cost savings. Jason added that currently there is a lease for eight (8) machines which are tied into one contract which is approximately \$830 per month just for equipment and there is a machine in finance which was included in last year's budget to be upgraded which is \$219 per month. Jason added that in addition to the \$830 per month there is a quarterly bill that covers 15,000 black/white copies per quarter and 100 color copies per quarter. Jason added after doing the account review they found the volume to be much higher therefore the comprehensive solution that they came up with will reduce the City's cost by \$161 per month, put in all new equipment, the old contract will go away. Jason went on to say at the last meeting there was some misconception that with the new contract the service contract would continue and that it will not he stated the service contract will go away. Jason stated the proposed solution replaces eight (8) pieces of equipment, includes 17,000 black/white mono copies per month, and 700 color copies per month in which there should not be any overages whatsoever moving forward. Jason added it includes service, parts, toner, and labor and the new payment would be \$938.43 which provides \$161 savings per month and Finance will go on that service portion of the contract which means everything will be invoice on one (1) bill per month which will be itemized.

Commissioner Gotti asked how long the term was for the contract.

Jason stated it was a five (5) year lease which is standard for their company and municipalities. He went on to say the City is currently 3 ½ years into the five (5) year lease that was signed in 2015 and there will be no roll over they will be eliminating that and anything associated with that lease goes away and is paid off.

Commissioner Gotti asked that if three (3) years into the next the products are updated and there is a better program is the City able to research that and get better deals.

Jason stated they always offer incentive and if three (3) years down the road they do an account review and there is the opportunity to reduce cost and provide better technology they will do that because they like to build partnerships for the life of the company and the organization they partner with. Jason added they do quarterly reviews with the customers. He also added that installation will be different this time with proper training being provided to each location, and

that training is provided upon installation and then there will be a follow-up two (2) weeks later and then again a month later and then three (3) months later with continuous follow-ups.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the finance office is starting to work on the 2019 budget and everyone should get budget reports by the end of the month and she will be providing a year to date report at the next council meeting.

Commissioner Gotti stated he had nothing to report.

Commissioner McGuire stated that with reference to the handling of any allegation against an employee she wants to know what is protected by State Law and what is protected by the collective bargaining agreement. She also asked that if members of the council are told that the substance of an allegation cannot leave the mouths of the Council members who else is legally able to review such an allegation.

Mayor Baker stated he didn't understand what she was asking but Honeywell (the labor Attorney) would be the one that could answer that.

Commissioner McGuire stated he was the one that made that statement.

Mayor Baker stated he was aware of that.

Commissioner McGuire asked what the answer to it was.

Mayor Baker stated she needs to ask Honeywell. He went on to say that his statement was that they do not talk about personnel issues in public.

Commissioner McGuire stated she is not talking about a personnel issue and she is talking about if there is an employee allegation what is protected by State Law and what is protected by the collective bargaining agreement.

Mayor Baker stated that at that point in time if there is an accusation against an employee he would call Jeff Honeywell who is the labor attorney and he would tell them what is able to be released or not released.

Commissioner McGuire stated they were told nothing could leave the Council.

Mayor Baker stated they were told personnel issues don't leave the Council.

Commissioner McGuire added that if a Council member didn't agree with an issue of an employee allegation you are supposed to just sit back.

Mayor Baker stated that she could Jeff Honeywell just like anyone else on the Council could.

Commissioner McGuire asked if the Acting Chief of Police will have set hours that he is at the station.

Mayor Baker stated he does have set hours and know when he is working. He added that if he goes to Alive at 25 that is part of his job and part of his hours.

Commissioner McGuire added that is once a month for two (2) hours.

Mayor Baker stated that is one of many things they do.

Commissioner McGuire stated she is just asking if he is going to have set hours and what the set hours are.

Acting Chief Bill Rabbitt stated he is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Commissioner McGuire asked if they were the same set hours as former Chief Joe Waldron had.

Acting Chief Rabbitt stated he is under the collective bargaining agreement as acting Chief and has not had a permanent appointment and the Chief of Police has his own contract which is independent of the collective bargaining agreement.

Commissioner McGuire asked if Joe had set hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mayor Baker stated that they have had the discussion previously, he had different hours. He added if he went to Alive at 25 that was part of his hours, he did not have to work the full day the following day.

Commissioner McGuire asked why he didn't have to work the next day and if he had to work a minimum of forty (40) hours.

Mayor Baker stated he didn't say he didn't work the next day he stated he wouldn't work all the hours the next day.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated he had nothing to report.

Acting Chief Rabbitt stated it is his first City Council Meeting as Acting Chief and he wanted to publicly thank the Mayor for appointing him as Acting Chief and that it means a lot to him that the Mayor trusts him in the position and he also thanked the City Council for affirming the appointment. He went on to give the monthly police report which is attached to the minutes. Acting Chief Rabbitt stated that since he took over the job he has been working on updating the policy and procedures, and taking inventory of departmental assets. He added that there are a few projects being undertaken which includes the implementation of tasers, and implementation

of patrol rifles. Acting Chief Rabbit stated he is working to bring the staff levels to where they should be, especially on the desk which will help to reduce overtime and save the City money. He added the Officers training has been in flux and he is working to get the training back up.

Supervisor Richardson stated

Public Comment:

David Hicks of 241 First Avenue stated he did not realize the expense was there for the copy machines and thought it was straightened out prior. He added he went to staples and acquired information on a copy machine which is able to produce 20,000 copies per month for \$300. He passed out an informational paper with the copy machine he is referencing to the Council to look at. Mr. Hicks stated at that price three (3) copiers can be purchased per month and if they break you can throw them away and get a new one. He added he is confused as to why the maintenance contract is so high. He stated he could not see the balance of the contract and he thinks it could be put out for bid and obtained for even cheaper.

Commissioner Dunn stated it is an existing lease that was here prior to her and they just can't cancel it and after going over the lease they found a way to save the city money.

David Hicks stated it is too expensive as far as he is concerned. He went on to discuss the amendment to the building / fire inspection fees and stated he thinks it sounds like a scam. Mr. Hicks feels it is a way to police the residents out of money for the City.

Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Hicks if he wanted to discuss that at the public hearing which would be next on the agenda.

Tara Morelli of Greenwood Avenue stated she was there on behalf of the Girl Scout Troop. She stated she was aware that they were still waiting on New York State and she was wondering that since they have been waiting over nine (9) months if it was possible for the Council to look into alternate sites that might be useable.

Mayor Baker stated they could look into it but that they did that previously and that was the only useable location they were able to come up with besides the location behind Tenendaho which had a lot of people opposed to having it there.

Tara Morelli stated there were two (2) people opposed and they are willing to go back to look at that location if the City was willing and she went on to ask about a plot of land to the left of Country Living and she wasn't sure if that was private property.

Anthony Gotti stated that was Shepp's car lot which is privately owned.

Mayor Baker stated the other location was behind the playground on South Main Street but because of flooding issues that wouldn't work. He added that other places have been looked at.

Tara Morelli asked if that could be revisited and she added that if there was anything they could do to move the State along they would be willing to help.

Mayor Baker stated that they do call them and it is not just left alone.

Tom Mahoney of the Express asked about the cost for the special investigator that was hired. He stated a few months ago it was stated the fee was \$5200.

Commissioner Gilheany stated the \$5200 was what was paid to date.

Tom Mahoney asked if that was the final bill.

Commissioner Gilheany stated they have not paid anything since.

Tom Mahoney asked that if nothing else was submitted is it possible that is the end of it. Commissioner Gilheany stated she did not think that was the case. She added she believes that bill was only through March and at this time he is finalizing his report and they are waiting.

Commissioner Dunn stated that it should be done fairly soon.

Tom Mahoney stated he was hoping that was the end of it.

James Ecker of 128 Viall Avenue stated he has been trying to reach the Building/Code Inspector for a month and hasn't been able to reach him about an issue with a fence.

Mayor Baker stated he will let the Building /Code Inspector know and he informed Mr. Ecker that they are in the process of trying to hire a new inspector. He added John Holland retired and at this point is only working part-time to help out. Mayor Baker stated he was in contact with Malta because they recently hired a new inspector and they had the same problem hiring, they only received one (1) application but has received a few more since and will be sharing them with the city. Mayor Baker stated Building/Code Inspectors are hard to find.

Tim Hipwell of 307 North Fourth Street stated he was representing the committee for Veteran's monument in the park and wanted to inform everyone that new benches have been put up, bushes have been planted and at this point 420 brick applications have been turned in. Mr. Hipwell stated that on Saturday August 4, 2018 after the 4:00 mass he noticed the City of Mechanicville's bus driver in her car. He added that he went to talk to her and asked why she wasn't driving bus; she stated she didn't feel like driving the bus because she only had two (2) passengers. Mr. Hipwell stated he thinks this is wrong and if she is being paid by the City and gets in an accident he thinks the City will be liable and he asked the Public Safety Commissioner to look into it.

Commissioner McGuire responded by saying that Commissioner Gotti drives his vehicle during the course of business and there seems to be no problem with that.

Tim Hipwell stated this is different he is a Commissioner.

Commissioner McGuire stated that a Commissioner could be liable if he gets in an accident on City time with his own vehicle.

Tim Hipwell stated he did not bring up Commissioner Gotti driving his own vehicle he is talking about the bus driver.

Attorney Val Serbalik stated private vehicles should not be used for livery services in the City for a number of different reasons including liability, as well as licensing the vehicles, and sufficient insurance.

Commissioner Dunn added that applications for the bricks states that after September 1, 2018 the fee would go up and she spoke with Mr. Maiello and he stated that fee would be staying the same. She went on to say that Mr. Maiello stated that the bricks for the applications that have already been handed in will be in place by Veteran's Day and since the program has been such a success they are looking at keeping the price at \$50 and the new application will be revised to show that. She added that he stated they will be ordering more bricks to have in place before Memorial Day.

Commissioner Gilheany asked what the total number of bricks that they will lie down.

Nick Rinaldi stated there is no limit; no Veteran will be turned away. He added that he is a member of the I.T.A.M. and they have two hundred and forty (240) members in the charter and the I.T.A.M. is paying for a brick for each member it will cost the members nothing out of pocket. Nick Rinaldi stated that three (3) years down the road if someone wants a brick it will still be in place no one will be shut out.

Helen Rose of Mabbett Street stated she came to the meeting to talk to the Council about the appearance of the City but then she read the article in The Express by Commissioner Gotti and didn't realize how his department has shrunk. She stated she feels it is the responsibility of the entire Council to make sure his department is increased and she went on to say that his department is the foundation of the City. Mrs. Rose stated one of her biggest concerns were the weeds going up the hill to the school which have since been weed whacked but she stated that they really need to be pulled. She went on to say that some of the properties in the City are just terrible and she thinks most of it is because of absentee landlords and she thinks they need to be given a certain amount of time to clean up their properties and if they don't add a fee to their taxes. Helen added there are several houses for sale in the City that are in deplorable conditions,

and she feels just because people don't live there that is not excuse to leave them in these conditions.

Mayor Baker stated that most of those properties are in foreclosure and trying to get the banks to come and clean that up is a very difficult task but he informed her that the City is trying to get them cleaned up.

Helen Rose stated that the sidewalks on Burke Street are awful. She stated she was wondering why the Code Enforcement Officer was only part-time.

Mayor Baker informed her that John Holland the Building/Code Enforcement Officer retired and is working part-time right now but that he is in the process of looking for a full-time replacement at this time. Mayor Baker stated that Commissioner Gilheany has stated they are starting the 2019 budget and he has informed Commissioner Gotti to put in for more help when he submits his budget.

Helen Rose stated that at the school their janitorial staff is shrinking and aging and she suggests they hire some younger people in to work it would be a great idea.

Commissioner Gotti stated he agrees with her and is trying to bring in qualified workers and if he can get up to eight (8) or ten (10) people then he will have enough qualified people to take younger people on and put them with the trained people then they can learn from them without depleting his workforce.

Mayor Baker added he recently added a new young hire and is looking into another one now.

Helen Rose pointed out that if he wants to complete that department he will need to stay on more than one (1) term. She asked if he on a limit on how many terms he could serve.

Mayor Baker stated the entire Council can only serve two (2) terms and Supervisor Richardson is the only one that does not have term limits.

Helen Rose stated that by the time all the infrastructure is learned throughout the City the term will be over. She asked if everyone on the Council lived in the City.

Mayor Baker informed her they do.

Marylou Anatriello of 19 Gilbert Street asked about the signs on the poles in the City. She added that she and her husband used to take them down and give them to John Holland and she asked who job it was to remove the signs.

Mayor Baker stated he does not think it is anyone's job in particular he would think it would be a combination of the Building Department and DPW.

Commissioner Gotti added just a few days ago his guys removed all the signs that they came across.

Marylou Anatriello suggested that the addresses are on some of the signs and maybe the signs should be brought to the addresses and inform them there is a code in which they are in violation of. She added she is a firm believer of enforcing the code. Mrs. Anatriello added that she has spoken with some realtors because of her concerns that people put their properties up for sale and no one maintains the properties during the time of the sale. She added the owners abandon the property and claim they are no longer responsible, and the realtors state they are not responsible for upkeep and the properties look atrocious. Mrs. Anatriello asked if a new Building/Code Enforcement Officer would be on deck within a month.

Mayor Baker stated it would not be that quickly but he informed her that he is trying to obtain one. He added John is still working part-time.

Marylou Anatriello stated that having one is so important, she added she is aware of a property that had total window replacements in the last month and there was no building permit.

Mayor Baker stated that property was checked and a building permit was obtained for the work completed.

Marylou Anatriello stated she was happy to hear that but asked why it wasn't displayed in the window. Another question she had was in regards to hours, she asked what the hours of the Council were. She stated she was aware that some were part-time while others were full-time and she looked in the charter which states all Council should be working seven (7) hours every day and she knows that is incorrect.

Commissioner Gilheany stated those hours are for retirement.

Marylou Anatriello stated she heard a comment being made that the part-time Council members only need to be in the office one (1) day per month and as a resident she would like to know what the schedules are since there are several times she has tried to find one (1) of the Commissioners and no one knows what days they work, and what hours they are going to be in, and she said if she has a question she would like to be able to go to City Hall and discuss whatever issues she needs discussed. Mrs. Anatriello stated she has not seen any hours posted but the Acting Police Chief is being questioned.

Mayor Baker stated he does not believe there has to be a set schedule for the part-time but he added Commissioner Gotti and Commissioner Dunn have set hours since they are full-time. Mayor Baker added they both work their hours and the rest of the Council is there a lot.

Marylou Anatriello stated she knows that but stated her point is that she has been to the City Hall asking for Commissioners and they are not there and no one knows where they are, she went on to say there should be a secretary or someone in house that you can go to and ask when they will be in. She stated she shouldn't have to find what day, hour Commissioners are there since they are employed by the City of Mechanicville whether it be full-time or part-time and should be accessible.

Commissioner Dunn commented that her hours per the Charter are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and she is paid for six (6) hours per day but is there well over six (6) hours a day. She added she worked until 10:30 p.m. the previous night and works some weekends and she added she puts in more hours since there is so much work in her office and she feels she needs to do this.

Marylou Anatriello stated there may be times that business related work is being done at home like teachers.

Commissioner Dunn added she always has her cellphone on and with her therefore if she steps out of her office even to go next door or upstairs she takes her cellphone with her.

Marylou Anatriello asked if she informs someone in her office as to where she is going.

Commissioner Dunn stated 99.99% of the time she does unless she is running across the hall quickly.

Marylou Anatriello stated that is all she asks and added she has never had to look for Commissioner Dunn.

Commissioner Dunn stated she gets an hour for lunch in which she does not take which is her choice and she tries to make herself as accessible as possible.

Marylou Anatriello states that it is difficult to work this part-time job when you have another full-time job.

Commissioner McGuire stated that if she is not in the office her Deputy knows where she is and can act on her behalf and she is in constant communication with her. She added that if you call her office and stated you were there in the afternoon she would meet her that night.

Commissioner McGuire added she met with someone who owns a daycare so she told her she would meet with her at night.

Marylou Anatriello stated she feels it should be a business

Commissioner Gotti stated he is aware that he is not good with his phone since he is usually out working with his guys but he tries to return the calls and he added he could be reached through his secretary June.

Marylou Anatriello added that she has never had a problem reaching Commissioner Gotti, Mayor Baker is always right there with a response, with little communication they have had she has been there and answered the questions, she can't begin to tell Commissioner Gilheany what her expertise in accounting and finance has helped put the City in the different light with regards to having financial records that make sense and the audit that preceded her speaks for itself (it was one of the poorest one's ever), and Gina is quite the hustler and she doesn't know what she would do without her since she is always there to return calls.

Nick Rinaldi of 113 Viall stated he understands what everyone is saying about the slighted areas but it is everywhere even in Saratoga with all the millionaires and he feels everyone is doing the best to fix these issues and he added there is nowhere better to live than in Mechanicville.

Supervisor Tom Richardson apologized for being late to the meeting and he wanted to make everyone aware that the bids for the Zim Smith Trail were opened last Friday at the County and the bid was awarded for \$4,880,000 and the budget was \$5,100,000. He added the engineering team will get there work complete in the fall and everything else will be started next year with the project being completed by this time next year. Mr. Richardson stated that hopefully the weather cooperates and if so there will be a trail from Mechanicville to Ballston Spa. He added not all the money is coming from the County some of it is from grants which are specifically to be used for the Zim Smith Trail therefore he stated the Federal, State, and County governments are all involved in this. Mr. Richardson stated we need to have three (3) or four (4) more people working in the DPW department, he knows it costs money but if we want the work done and the City looking good that is what it takes. He added money needs to be spent to keep the City going.

Commissioner Gotti asked if there was an update on the banner.

Supervisor Richardson stated the owner of Empire Design was able to get three (3) people to give a quote and the banner is going to be about \$2700 and he added he has local merchants who are ready, willing, and able to donate the money therefore he will go down hopefully with Bob Murphy from Barton and Loguidice and make sure it is the correct material he added if it is not correct it may need to be ordered from North Carolina like previously. Mr. Richardson stated several merchants have asked him in the last several weeks about getting the banner up again. He added he is hoping to look at it early next week then he will get back to the merchants. Mr. Richardson also stated that once they get it Commissioner Gotti stated he would be able to install it.

Mayor Baker stated he knows there has been talk back and forth and he wants the Council to think about it and let them know for sure if they want to replace it.

Supervisor Richardson stated the idea behind the sign is that you want to go somewhere that looks good and added it makes the entrance to the City look good and that is why the merchants want to pay for it.

Mayor Baker stated that one of the questions he has been asked is why the railroad doesn't paint the bridge.

Supervisor Richardson stated the reason the banner was put up years ago is because the railroad will not paint the bridge. He went on to say that they reached out to the railroads and the responded by saying they own hundreds of bridges and they all look like the bridge in Mechanicville so if they were to paint one they would have to paint all of them. He also stated that to paint the bridge it would have to be sand blasted and then a cover would have to be place over the whole bridge to catch all the dust and particles off the bridge then the material has to be sent to a special location to be deposited because it is contaminated he added ten (10) years ago it was going to cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000. Mr. Richardson stated that is why they went to Senator Bruno who at the time gave the City \$40,000 or \$50,000 to help with the project.

Commissioner Gotti asked if just the abatement cost was \$200,000 without the painting.

Supervisor Richardson stated that was the approximate figure they were telling us.

Don Fletcher from Barton Loguidice stated it would cost \$500,000 to do all the work and repaint the bridge.

Helen Rose asked about the signs entering the City.

Supervisor Richardson asked Commissioner Gotti if he could clean them up and stated there is a special wax to help clean them up. Mr. Richardson stated in reference to the sign he has the ability to get the \$2700 and that is not a problem and Commissioner Gotti says he can put it up without a problem. He added if the merchants are paying for it he can't see why it would be a problem. Mr. Richardson ended by stating his phone number is in the phonebook and stated his is available anytime to help anyone out.

Mayor Baker stated they would be going into the public hearing regarding the building/fire inspections.

David Hicks stated he feels like the fee schedule is a scam. He went on to say the City's infrastructure is in poor condition, roads are in disrepair, storm drains are inadequate, vegetation is out of control on City walks, no efforts have been made to upgrade lighting to reduce costs, there is no effort to control spending, and the playgrounds are not being taken care of. Mr. Hicks stated the City needs to get its own house in order before it starts worrying about everyone else's house.

Helen Rose asked if the fire inspections would be on every house.

Mayor Baker stated it is not every house and the Fire Inspector will explain that information.

Scott Davenport of 18 Davenport Estates thanked Commissioner Gotti and his staff for going above and beyond and thanked the Police Department and the Fire Department for doing an excellent job. He added he feels everyone points out the things that are wrong within the City but there is a lot of great work being done and it is not recognized enough.

Fire Inspector Jeff Alonzo thanked the Council and stated that he takes exception to Mr. Hicks comment about why fire inspections are being done in the City. He went on to say that over a ten (10) year period of time he was the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Chief and during that time there were more and more structure fires which continually put the volunteers at risk. Jeff stated that he has been a career firefighter for twenty (20) years in Saratoga Springs and has all the code and firefighter training required and added he has been a volunteer fire fighter in the City of Mechanicville for thirty-two (32) years. He went on to say that he grew up his entire life in Mechanicville and due to his career commitment he does not live in the City but wishes he could. Jeff stated that when John Holland came into his position years ago Jeff was the Assistant Fire Chief and John came up with a referral for the Police Department and Fire Department to help when violations were spotted. He went on to say that since March when he started Gina has showed him a huge stack of violations that were sent out. He informed everyone that it is not an easy task getting people to comply. Jeff stated that during his last month as Fire Chief in December he emailed the Mayor and strongly suggested he should also have a Fire Inspector within the City and in February he offered him part-time hours. Jeff stated there is a difference between building inspections and fire inspections. Jeff stated that the State Code reads if you own property with 3 apartments or more it is a multi-family dwelling and requires a fire inspection every three (3) years he added that if it is a business it is required once every two (2) and if it is an assembly occupancy it is an annual inspection. Jeff went on to say that the Mayor suggested he start with apartment buildings and at this time Jeff stated he has done about forty-four (44) inspections. He added that if you live in a one (1) or two (2) family home you will not have an inspection from him or John Holland unless they receive a complaint. He went on to say that once a complaint is received they can go into any building after the building owner is notified. Jeff stated he is here for the property owners and he will go on to say that of the forty-four (44) properties have been really good and he appreciates the fact that they take care of the properties. Jeff went on to say he believes the City needs a full-time building inspector and he feels a part-time fire inspector is sufficient especially since once a schedule is established it will be easier. He added that they are cross-trained so the building inspector could assist in doing some of the fire inspections. Jeff stated the codes are always changing and keeping property up to code protects the tenants and the owners. Jeff stated the City website has information on fire safety concerns and there have been articles in The Express. Jeff stated he wants to work with the owners to resolve issues since taking them to court will cost money. He went on to say that we just wants everyone to meet compliance and at this time out of the forty-four (44) he only has

to go back to four (4) or five (5) properties in which he gives them thirty (30) days to comply unless of course it is a life threatening issue. Jeff did price comparisons around the area and the fee schedule that he is looking to be approved is very modest and in order to keep the program going fees do need to be charged. Jeff compared it to the fact that years ago ambulance rides were free but today you have to pay for it and if your building qualifies for an inspection the owner is paying for it not the taxpayers. Jeff stated he looking to protect everyone and he realizes he can't eliminate all fires but if he can eliminate extension cords or make sure smoke detectors are operational it will prevent fires. He added he has been a fire fighter for a long time and doesn't care if he ever goes to another fire again. Jeff stated he feels strongly that fire prevention starts in City Hall and the Fire Department is just a branch of that. He went on to say he is very please as to how well it is going so far and he is using an web-based software that is shared with the fire department and it is a pre-planning tool for the fire department which will be shared with the police department and contact information can be shared throughout. Jeff went on to say the Code Enforcement office is working hard to get all the properties in compliance and sometimes it takes a few notifications before work is complete and he added it is not an easy task working with the banks on foreclosed properties. Jeff added that if you are eligible for a fire inspection there is a fire inspection checklist that is sent out so the owner can be prepared before the inspection.

David Hicks stated that four (4) major structure fires in the City were all cooking related.

Fire Inspector Jeff Alonzo stated that was not correct.

Mayor Baker added they have had more major structure fires like the one on Saratoga Avenue and Viall Avenue that was a major building that needed to be inspected.

David Hicks stated having it broken down by annually and bi-annually is a money maker.

Mayor Baker stated it is not a money maker it is State Law.

David Hicks stated that Saratoga was mentioned and he said you can't base Mechanicville with Saratoga.

Fire Inspector Jeff Alonzo stated that is why he compared prices from other municipalities.

David Hicks stated those are still bigger places.

Mayor Baker asked Mr. Hicks is a person that gets killed in Saratoga worth any more than a person that is killed in Mechanicville because the building is not up to code.

Commissioner Dunn asked if when he goes into the property and finds something wrong are they being fined instantly or do they get time to comply.

Fire Inspector stated the State Law requires him to allow thirty (30) days to comply unless it is a life safety concern. He added he wants a cooperative relationship with the property owners and he stated so far it has gone well and most people have been thankful.

Commissioner Gotti mentioned that three (3) or four (4) family homes are being inspected and not one (1) family homes.

Fire Inspector Alonzo stated that what people do with their single family home is their business but when it is involving multiple residents then you can't do what you want to do.

Commissioner Gotti stated that is what he wanted him to clarify.

Fire Inspector Alonzo stated that if someone wants a curtesy inspection he would be more than happy to do it but at this time it is not a priority. He added if you go on the City website or contact Gina and she will send a pre-inspection checklist.

Dave Hicks asked if his inspections included public housing.

Fire Inspector Alonzo stated it does but after speaking with Mr. Enzien he found they are inspected.

Commissioner Gotti asked if the documentation that property owners receive after the inspection could be used to lower their homeowners insurance.

Fire Inspector Alonzo stated he was not sure about that but they could contact their insurance company and find out.

Nick Rinaldi stated we just heard that \$5,000,000 is going towards a trail and he feels these building inspections are money well spent if one life is saved and the safety and the welfare of our residents are a priority.

Commissioner McGuire stated another thing to think about is in the City all of the houses are close together so if her neighbor's house burns down it will catch her carport on fire and/or the neighbor on the opposite sides house on fire. She added where she resides the houses are a driveway apart from one another so it will affect many people if there is a fire which would be sad if it was caused by negligence.

Scott Davenport stated both J.S. Moore and Davenport have inspections and if they are not in compliance they re-do an inspection a month later and are flagged. Mr. Davenport applauded the Fire Safety Inspector, the Fire Department, and the Clifton Park Halfmoon Ambulance services.

Dave Hicks asked if someone get insurance on their house does the insurance company send and Fire Inspector through.

Fire Inspector Alonzo stated they don't always send them in they should but they don't always. Commissioner Dunn stated that the Accounts Office does a lot of licensing in her department in which are dictated by New York State and the fees cannot be changed but a few of them can be changed such as dog licensing. She added she had her clerk look at other local municipality websites to see what they charged and the new fee schedule is included with the minutes. Commissioner Dunn stated the fees have not been increased in a very long time and there are costs associated with the dog licensing such as renewal mailings. She went on to say that some municipalities have late fees and fines if they haven't licensed their dogs but the City will not be doing that.

Fire Inspector Jeff Alonzo added then when he has to go do a follow up inspection for compliance there is no charge it is just to verify they have complied.

Ordinance 2018-2 Amendment to Building/Fire Inspection Fees

Moved by: Mayor Baker

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 85-18: National Business Technologies copier agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Dunn

Seconded by: Commissioner Gilheany

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 87-18: Frank J. Schaeffer part-time dispatcher

Moved by: Mayor Baker

Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

2 Abstain: Commissioner Gilheany and Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 88-18: John Cioccke part-time officer

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 89-18: Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 90-18: Budget Transfer

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 91-18: Christopher Alonzo part-time dispatcher

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Dunn

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0
1 Abstain: Commissioner Gilheany

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:29

Moved by: Commissioner Gilheany
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0