

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
May 13, 2020
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday May 13, 2020.

Mayor Baker: Called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.
Commissioner Gotti led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Motion to accept the March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Gotti Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

Roll Call: AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

Public Announcement: Commissioner Seber read the following public announcement:

“Please be advised that the City of Mechanicville hereby gives public notification that the City of Mechanicville Draft Annual Report, as required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Operators, is now available for public review and comment. You can find a copy of the report at the City website. www.Mechanicville.com . All questions or comments should be directed to:

Commissioner Anthony Gotti
City of Mechanicville
4 Industrial Park Road
Mechanicville, NY 12118
(518) 664-7171
anthony.gotti@mechanicvilleny.gov “

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Baker thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, Clifton Park Halfmoon ambulance, water department, DPW, and all City workers who kept things going during this issue we are having. He stated he wanted the public to please stay safe and healthy.

Commissioner Seber asked Mayor Baker if he has been in touch with the County.

Mayor Baker stated he is waiting to hear back from them and he wanted to announce at the meeting what information he had received but he hasn't heard anything yet. He went on to say he heard the City of Saratoga is extended but not sure if that is a fact.

Commissioner Seber stated the water bills were not sent on in May like they usually are for a couple of reason. One of the reason was the staffing issue and the other is although a majority of the readings are done electronically there are still some done manually and under the circumstances they did not feel it was appropriate to try and get into homes. He added if the resolution passes they will have a June 1st billing date and will give two (2) months to pay it with a due date of July 31, 2020. Commissioner Seber stated that the City has funds for small business USDA loans which are separate from the budget and there is money available in the account. He went on to say they approached all the small businesses in the City of Mechanicville and informed them that the funds were available. He went on to say it is a 0% interest loan with the first payment being due on October 1, 2020. Commissioner Seber stated four (4) businesses took advantage of the loan.

Commissioner Gotti stated in reference to the MS4 is an ongoing development that they are working with Barton and Loguidice and training every Friday via internet to put the MS4 program fully in place. He added he has Marty Garland controlling most of the MS4. He went on to say that at the present time he has not had any sickness in his department and he is thankful for that. He reiterated that in reference to the pandemic he did not want to put any of his workers being jeopardized or jeopardizing homeowners by going into homes to read meters.

Commissioner McGuire stated that The Express is the City's newspaper of record and asked if providing them with the small business loan is a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Seber stated he did not think so.

Commissioner McGuire asked if anyone else asked for loans that would be a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Seber stated there was but he would not go into details.

Commissioner McGuire stated she wanted it on record that she feels it is a conflict of interest. She went on to say there are several resolutions that don't have any money attached to them and stated she has no idea why this is being done and the public has a right to know.

Mayor Baker stated he agreed with her.

Commissioner McGuire asked if any employee of the City of Mechanicville is getting a paid furlough.

Mayor Baker stated there was one employee in the Police Department.

Commissioner McGuire asked why.

Mayor Baker stated that the Chief requested it and added the Chief was working with the person and it was a personnel issue and that is all he was going to say.

Commissioner McGuire asked if it is in the persons contact that they could get a furlough.

Mayor Baker stated since it is declared an emergency it does not need to be in the contract.

Commissioner McGuire stated she is well aware of the emergency but cannot see how the City could afford to give someone a paid furlough when others aren't getting it. She went on to say it is not right and not fair to the taxpayers. She went on to ask if the test for the Secretary to the Chief has been requested yet.

Mayor Baker stated it was requested at least a month ago and the title is Secretary to the Chief of Police.

Commissioner McGuire asked what grade it was.

Mayor Baker stated he does not know.

Commissioner McGuire said that all Civil Service tests have been cancelled and it is unknown as to when they will be offered and could be nine (9) months out so she doesn't understand why they would pay an Officer that whole time when they could just keep the person that does the job now there. She went on to say that a part-time Police Officer makes around \$20 per hour and she does not believe the person who does the job now makes that much money. She also stated that this person could possibly pay unemployment.

Mayor Baker stated that if you are offered a job somewhere else that could take that option away.

Commissioner McGuire asked at this point who would be hiring right now.

Mayor Baker stated the County has called and talked to about working there.

Commissioner McGuire stated if it was a bona fide offer and went on to say that if it was not in writing it is not an offer.

Mayor Baker stated he is not sure if it was in writing or not.

Commissioner McGuire stated she knows it was not because she asked and if they don't want to go they don't have to accept that job.

Mayor Baker stated that resolution was already passed.

Commissioner McGuire stated we are in a pandemic so rules can be broken.

Commissioner Seber stated we are losing site that the City is losing two (2) people and they are only focusing on one (1). He went on to say that "if" replacing the one person is a wash.

Commissioner McGuire stated it isn't because a Police Officer makes more money.

Commissioner Seber stated that you need to take into account the benefits and everything else full-time vs. part-time, we are gaining a paycheck. He went on to say he didn't do this for the money he believes it is the smartest and safest way to handle.

Commissioner McGuire stated you are wasting a Police Officer to do a clerks job.

Mayor Baker stated it is a part-time Officer that will be filling the job

Commissioner Gotti asked if this would be adding hours to the Officer's shift.

Commissioner McGuire stated if that Officer has to fill in for other people it could.

Mayor Baker stated it is possible but it shouldn't because they have a lot of Officers.

Commissioner Seber stated the point he is trying to make is that with benefits and everything else the one (1) position is basically a wash and then with the other position we are actually saving money. He went on to say that he has spoken to the Chief on several occasions on this matter and he has a plan in place to make this not only more efficient but more economical for the City and he is willing to listen to the Chief.

Commissioner McGuire stated she is aware that the Governor has issued an Executive Order that you get two (2) weeks, fourteen (14) calendar days that you can be out of work, getting paid, without charging your time but after that some people have to charge their time and others do not and she asked what the ruling was.

Commissioner Gotti stated the City is compiled to eighty (80) hours without losing any time and the FMLA will take care of medical and longevity for an additional (80) hours. He went on to say this would only be in effect if there was a doctor's slip.

Commissioner McGuire stated things are not being treated the same for everyone and wants to know if employees charge their time or not.

Commissioner Seber stated it is his understanding you get eighty (80) hours. He went on to say the City was told to be at 50%.

Commissioner Gotti added the 50% is City wide numbers. He added the City hall numbers should have been down to 50% and that the Commissioner's could have let their employees stay home and that would have been in compliance with the executive order. He added as far as he understands it from the labor attorney if one chooses not to come back to work, if they have an underlining issue and have a doctor's note or such to substantiate that.

Commissioner McGuire stated she needs to see that. She went on to say she is talking about two (2) sick people in particular and one (1) charged their time and the other did not. Commissioner McGuire asked what the person from Civil Service is being paid.

Commissioner Seber stated it was roughly \$760 a year.

Commissioner McGuire asked what the job duties are.

Mayor Baker stated they oversee test they are part of a Board.

Commissioner Seber stated they are a Board, there are three (3) people on the Board one (1) is the Chairperson.

Commissioner McGuire asked if there was any thought into having the Saratoga County do our Civil Service.

Mayor Baker stated when he first was elected there was talk of it but people didn't like the idea. He added if there is an interest it can be discussed.

Commissioner McGuire asked if the County Civil Service will do it for nothing why the City would pay for it.

Mayor Baker stated he is not sure if they do it for nothing.

Commissioner Seber stated there is reimbursement from the school and the housing authority.

Commissioner McGuire asked what Frank Shaeffer is being paid.

Mayor Baker stated it would be step 1 of the PBA contract, Marie would be step 2, and Matt Dunn would be receiving the Sergeant stipend he added he did not have the numbers with him.

Commissioner McGuire stated it should be in the resolution.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 25-2020: Payment to 96-100 North Main Street LLC, Val Serbalik

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 26-2020: USDA Small Business Loan

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

Abstain: 1 Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 27-2020 Frank Schaeffer Full-time Police Officer

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 28-2020 Marie Abraham Full-time Police Officer

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 29-2020 Matthew Dunn Promotion to Sergeant

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 30-2020 Donna Peluso Civil Service Commission

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

Abstain: 1 Commissioner McGuire

RESOLUTION 31-2020 Commence to Bidding CDBG Water Improvement

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 32-2020 Commence Bidding North Main Street Parking Lot & Fire Station Entrance Improvements

Commissioner Seber added the resolution allows for the project to go out to bid and he stated the paperwork is in for the grant but the City has not received a letter guaranteeing they will receive it and he would like to pass the resolution to receive the bids but move cautiously and not spend any money until that confirmation is received. He added that he has spoken with DASNY over the past few weeks and they are working from home and didn't have all the information they needed so it may be a bit before the City hears from them.

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 33-2020 Route 4 Drainage Improvements

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire
Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 34-2020 Barton and Loguidice Supplement #2

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti
Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 35-2020 Amendment for additional construction observation services

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti

Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 36-2020 Water Bill Distribution and Due Date Change

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 37-2020 Volunteer Firefighters Service Award Program

Moved by: Commissioner McGuire

Seconded by: Mayor Baker

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 38-2020 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Gotti

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

Abstain: 1 Commissioner McGuire

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner McGuire asked if the work being done in the Police Department was an insurance issue, if the work is complete, and how much it cost.

Commissioner Gotti stated the work is complete and both he and the Chief are very happy with the work. He added it is a partial insurance claim.

Commissioner Seber stated he believes the proposal was \$34,500 and the City received a net payment of \$9,000 from the insurance company. He added it was \$11,500 and there is a \$2500 deductible for that type of work. He went on to say he questioned the amount and it was explained to him that general asbestos clean-up is excluded under liability insurance but because water was introduced because the flooding created the problem they covered that portion.

Commissioner McGuire asked if the \$34,500 was inclusive of the \$11,500 and it was really \$45,000.

Commissioner Seber stated for the record he only knows the proposal and not the final number but it is \$34,500 less the insurance payment.

Commissioner Gotti stated the job never went over the \$34,500 the only additional bill was the mold testing that had to be performed by an outside source per New York State testing

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 P. M.

Moved by: Commissioner Gotti

Seconded by: Commissioner McGuire

AYES: 4

NAYS: 0