MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lou Annance, Chair

Cathy Fifield, Vice Chair

Stephen Bolduc

Nicholas Konstantoulakis

Kieth Bennett

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Miranda Hinkley – Town Clerk

Jeffrey Goss – Chief of Police

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stephanie and Kyle Bates

Rick and Cathy Dionne

Catherine Pressey

Esther Hanscom

Paula Stotts

Sid Bowie

Sandra Ballard

Bill and Cindy Cormier

Jessica Smith

Rocky Crowley

David Beliveau

Councilor Lou Annance called the hearing to order at 6:58pm.

We stood and saluted the flag.

Councilor Annance reminded the residents that a decision will not be made today, and that the Council Members are here to listen to concerns of all present residents regarding the current Fireworks Ordinance only (Adopted November 2012).

A majority of those present were unhappy with the current situation and a few had filed a complaint with the Council which prompted the hearing.

There were members of the community representing both those for keeping the Fireworks Ordinance as written, with amendment only to who would be held responsible if the ordinance is violated, and those who would like to see the Ordinance Amended to limit use and possibly even ban consumer use of Fireworks in Mechanic Falls.

Chief Goss explained why the current ordinance did not allow the Police Officers to enforce effectively. He stated that any new Ordinance should include a statement holding the “Responsible Party” (Landowner/Renter) at fault if the ordinance is violated at their residence.

Those who represented the ban of Fireworks stated they would be willing to compromise and allow Consumer Fireworks use on certain holidays such as 4th of July and New Years Eve. Townspeople also discussed the requirement to obtain a permit for Fireworks use similar to the current Open Burn Permit system.

Councilor Annance thanked the Townspeople for attending and providing input regarding the Fireworks Ordinance and advised that The Council will further discuss at the next Council Meeting on September 5, 2017. He also advised that once amended, the Ordinance would need to be reviewed by the Town Lawyer and MMA for legality. The next step would be another Public Hearing and the issue would finally go to vote in June.

Councilor Bolduc motions to adjourn this hearing of Mechanic Falls Residents, Seconded by Councilor Fifield and unanimously accepted.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58pm