

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
April 10, 2024

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday April 10, 2024.

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Mayor Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Butler and Chief Rabbitt honored Sergeant Jordan McBride who was the first responder to a call on March 9th on Greenwood Avenue and was able to save a person's life. Sergeant MacBride demonstrated exceptional proficiency in his training by swiftly administering CPR and effectively utilizing an AED, his decisive actions played a pivotal role in saving this person's life. Through a selfish commitment to duty and professionalism, Sergeant McBride has upheld the highest standards of law enforcement and standards of law enforcement and made an independent indelible community of Mechanicville. Mayor Butler pointed out that Jordan seems to go above and beyond in his endeavors in the Mechanicville Police Department and stated he previously went to Florida to become a drug recognition officer. Jordan was presented with a plaque in recognition of his heroism.

Roll Call:	Mayor Butler	Present
	Commissioner Blodgett	Present
	Commissioner Martin	Present
	Commissioner Sgambati	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Motion to accept the March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler Seconded by: Commissioner Blodgett

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Motion to accept the April 3, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler Seconded by: Commissioner Blodgett

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Butler thanked the Tenendaho committee group and the Mechanicville Community Center for a job well done at the white-water derby which was very well attended. He added Chief Rabbitt stated there were very few incidences that day and with the weather cooperating it was a wonderful day.

Commissioner Blodgett gave the clerks report that is attached to the minutes and added she reviewed the City's insurance with Gallagher, and they needed to make some adjustments by added/eliminating people and that was addressed and being updated. She added they are in the process of preparing water billing which seems to be going along well and they are continuing to collect taxes.

Commissioner Martin stated she is making huge progress of bringing the finance department up to practicing standards for good accounting and added she was really pleased that it was voted to move the money from the general fund to pay for the firetruck and the application should be in by the middle of next week at the latest. She added there has been better communication between the offices and is pleased with the amount of cooperation that she has been getting and she appreciates the other Commissioners taking the time to explain their operations to her so she can better streamline what she is doing to work with them better and effectively for the City.

Commissioner Sgambati stated that a few weeks ago there was a heavy snowstorm and when he was plowing, he thought about calling a snow emergency but, he is glad he did not because it was a very heavy snowstorm and if it was being pushed to one side they may still be shoveling out. He thanked his five (5) DPW crew for over 22 hours straight. He reminded the residents that only toilet paper should be flushed down the toilets as they had a couple sewer jet calls, they could see flushable wipes (which are not flushable) and paper towels that don't disintegrate. He added the sweeper will be going out next week and asked everyone to be patient as he needs to train 2 more people on the sweeper. He went on to say the new guys are out reading the water meters that did not pick up on the remote scanning. Commissioner Sgambati stated the apron on the railroad crossing near the XO tower is bad and he is continuing to pursue the railroad to fix the apron. He stated the blacktop plants will be opening next week so they can start fixing the raised or sunken manhole drains and repair the storm drains. Lastly, he thanked his DPW members that honored the two (2) fallen soldiers, he thought as a Commissioner it was a honor to stand out on Central Avenue and show their support with American flags and although it was on City time the show of Patriotism in Mechanicville was really good.

Commissioner Hosley announced they held their annual Easter party for the kids which was very successful and that on April 25th they are having a game night with bingo and other assorted games that the kids from the high school are donating their time to come and work the game night. He added the splash pad is coming along and the shuffleboard cork is down and will be ready to go in a few days. May 17th is the County party celebrating the roaring 20's for all Seniors in the City and the cost is \$4.

Chief Rabbitt's monthly report is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Martin made a motion to go into executive session to obtain legal advice about a personnel issue and a policy issue. Mayor Butler seconded the motion.

Executive Session: 6:15 pm

Motioned by: Commissioner Martin

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

Mayor Butler announced that they are out of executive session at 6:34 pm and no action was taken in executive session.

Mayor Butler stated they would be moving on to the public hearing on the local law change.

Kim Dunn stated she had to reach out to Gina to get a copy of the public hearing notification because it was not on the webpage and after speaking with other residents no one had any idea what the public hearing was in reference to, and it needs to be made clearer in the near future. She went on to say she has an issue changing the date to accommodate the new Assessor and thinks it is the wrong path to take.

Dave Hicks asked if the change is being made just for the convenience of the new Assessor.

Commissioner Blodgett stated the new Assessor works for three (3) other municipalities and the State law states the meeting date will be the fourth Tuesday but, she can not be in three (3) different locations on the same day so the Council will listen to the public input and vote on changing the meeting date to the fourth Friday.

Dave Hicks asked if the City was appealing to change the State mandate.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that currently the local law in the City says it is going to be on that Tuesday and in order to change a local law you have to have a public hearing and the board has to vote so they are looking to change the local law. She added the State law says it is that Tuesday but allows you to move it up to May 1st.

Marylou Cling stated it says the Mechanicville City Charter mandates this so she asked the City Attorney to outline how we can change the charter by resolution here versus..

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it needs to be by of the local law after a public hearing.

Marylou Cling asked if that is the case for the whole charter or just portions of the local law.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it would be different for the City's form of government.

Mayor Butler closed the public hearing and opened the meeting for public comment.

Public Comment:

Dave Hicks stated there was some confusion with the dates for the splashpad spec bid openings.

Mayor Butler stated one of the lines was to contact the Engineer and they actually had a couple of visitors call and make special appointments to go to the playground.

Dave Hicks stated we spent \$1 million dollars on a new firetruck and only got \$45,000 for the old one which is supposedly out of date, and he asked why the paperwork was not published as to why the truck had to go out of service.

Mayor Butler stated that according to Chief Dunn it was at its twenty-five years.

Dave Hicks stated he is still waiting for the costs of the water breaks for 2023.

Commissioner Sgambati stated he will try and get to it.

Tom Mahoney of the Express asked if there was going to be an audit since there has been a change in Commissioners.

Mayor Butler stated the City received a letter in December stating they would be doing an audit, but they have not heard back from them as of yet.

Tom Mahoney asked if the City has their own auditor that should be doing it.

Commissioner Martin stated the City has an annual audit from Cusack & Cusack and she has met with representatives, and they are gathering all the materials to be able to be audited. She added there was a backlog of things to be entered and properly coded into journal entries that they were unable to close out the books and they are still in the process of getting the final entries in to close out 2023 and get the stuff ready for an audit.

Barb McGuire stated that at the February meeting she asked who used the City credit card at the Ugly Rooster and Commissioner Hosley was the only one that responded that he did not, and at the March meeting she asked again about the bill and Commissioner Hosley responded it has been addressed and reconciled. She asked Commissioner Hosley to explain how it was addressed and reconciled since she submitted a FOIL the addressed and reconciled records and received a response that no records existed.

Commissioner Hosley stated he does not know who signed the credit card receipt, he is assuming that it was for the Christmas party a year and a half ago.

Barb McGuire questioned that he spent \$487 for a Christmas party on the City's Christmas party.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she has a copy of the paper that states all are welcome to the holiday party.

Barb McGuire states the minutes of the November 2022 meeting..

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated the article in the Express states all are welcome.

Barb McGuire asked if anybody could take the City credit card and go spend it and say come everyone from Mechanicville.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she was not involved at the time, but she is piecing together Barb's complaint and what Commissioner Hosley, and Commissioner Martin are telling her, the Commissioner of Finance at the time approved it.

Barb McGuire stated that all the people that go to the Christmas party are not all from Mechanicville, so City taxpayers can pay for people who don't live in Mechanicville to eat.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it was previously commented about the White-Water Derby, the City does events regularly that are open City wide, and people can go and use City finances to pay for it.

Barb McGuire asked if taxpayer money can be gifted.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it was not gifted they were putting on an event to promote the City as a whole.

Barb McGuire stated the November minutes stated that Commissioner Hosley announced he would be having a Christmas party for all seniors on December 13th.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that is not what was put in the paper.

Barb McGuire stated you cannot gift taxpayer money. She gave an example that you cannot buy a banner for someone out of a budget line.

Kim Dunn asked if the Midstate Cooling and Heating agreement was the same company we used in the past and if it would be beneficial to do a multi-year contract.

Commissioner Sgambati stated hopefully the new building mechanic can go along and learn the mechanics of the old boilers in the fire department and city hall.

Kim Dunn asked if it still would be beneficial to have a multi-year contract.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated her legal opinion is not to have a 5-year contract because members of the board could change and it is not fair to confine new members to the board to a contract they did not agree to and added she prefers to do an annual one just so someone is looking at the numbers.

Kim Dunn asked for an update on the NYSEG status.

Commissioner Martin stated we have not yet paid that and the agreement was that when they had substantial documentation of what exactly was owed then they would pay it. She added she reached out to NYSEG to let them know that is what the City has decided, and she has not received any response from them supplying any evidence of what the City actually owes.

Kim Dunn asked if there was anything NYSEG could do to the City since a resolution was passed to pay it but we are waiting on them to prove we actually owe that money.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated the bills that were received said the city owe \$0, but now they are saying we owe whatever the figure is so she was asking for documentation to show how they got from \$0 to the number they gave and she has not received anything.

Kim Dunn asked Commissioner Hosley if when he referred to finance losing the paperwork he does not mean the current finance department but the past one.

Commissioner Hosley stated he does not know who lost it, once it leaves his office, he is not responsible for it.

Kim Dunn asked if he would have retained a copy of anything that left his office and it is surprising to her there is no other documentation, since things can get lost.

Commissioner Hosley stated the person that was in his office prior may have had a copy, but he is not sure.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it is the official opinion of the City that there is no existing paperwork, it has been requested and nothing produced.

Commissioner Martin stated this has prompted some big changes in the finance department and how credit card bills are addressed and the processing and handling of it all, where they keep copies, and the accountability of each transaction on the credit card bills. She added they have become demanding on reconciling the bills and modifying the filing system to a certain extent to accommodate the Amazon bills and it has resulted in complete changes in policies and procedures to add clarity to the whole process.

Kim Dunn stated it is alarming this happened, and no one can produce any paperwork.

Bill Connors asked Mayor Butler if he has talked to the Council about meeting twice a month.

Mayor Butler stated he has not but stated he spoke with Waterford, and they stated their second meeting is strictly to plan the second meeting.

Bill Connors asked if they have talked about a comprehensive plan.

Mayor Butler stated he told them there were past comprehensive studies downstairs in the Accounts office.

Bill Connors stated there needs to be an active committee in place. He added things get brought up at the meetings and it goes nowhere. He went on to say that it is a waste of time to come to the meetings. He added the last meeting where they paid for the firetruck is the most incompetent legislation he has ever since and stated buying a million-dollar firetruck last August and figured out how to pay for it last week. He stated the City might get a grant, but he stated they will never get a good grant for a piece of equipment, and he feels the City is in economic peril. He went on to say he is tired of riding down Central Avenue and is tired of seeing burned up businesses, boarded up buildings, ripped banners hanging from a bridge for months, and broken water pipes every other week and there is no planning. He stated he will not be coming to any more meetings because he will not waste his time while other communities are applying for tens of millions of dollars in grant money, having farmers markets, having community garden, bringing in businesses, working on economic development, Mechanicville does nothing.

Ethel Baisley stated the City still needs a bus. She added the City is more helpful to the residents than the flex bus. She went on to say her husband was a supervisor on the railroad for years and it is the railroad's responsibility to fix the area around the tracks.

Josie ... stated that during the Christmas party the seniors paid \$15, and the politicians received a free meal with the taxpayer's credit card.

Commissioner Martin stated she was invited as a guest to the 2023 party, but she paid for hers because she did not feel right taking from the seniors.

Josie thanks Tom Richardson for getting the bus so the seniors can attend the County's picnic on May 17th.

Commissioner Hosley stated the City got the bus, Tom Richardson gives the City money from the County once he gives it, it becomes the City's money. He added it is great that Tom does it and he does things well.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 42-2024 Midstate Heating and Cooling Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati

Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 43-2024 Change of Board of Assessment Review Meeting Date

Moved by: Commissioner Blodgett
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 44-2024 Firetruck Sale

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

Commissioner Martin asked if there was any information as to how they arrived at the figure of \$45,000.

Mayor Butler said the Chiefs arrive at that figure.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 45-2024 Part-time Police Officer

Moved by: Mayor Butler
Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

Mayor Butler stated that Chief Rabbitt asked him to announce this is the first time in a long time that we have been a full contingency of at least part-time police officers and that as was seen earlier in the meeting the work of people like Jordan McBride makes Mechanicville a place people are willing to come and work as a police officer as they feel they are wanted and know they know they are needed.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 46-2024 Public Hearing Request for Stormwater Study

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

Mayor Butler stated the survey is on the Mechanicville webpage, the Police Departments website and on the Express's website.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 47-2024 Payroll

Moved by: Commissioner Martin

Seconded by: Commissioner Blodgett

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:1 P.M.

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

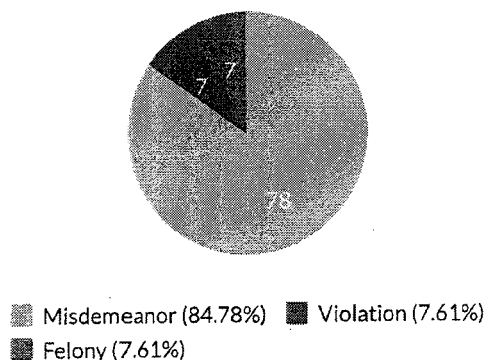
March 2024 Report

March 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

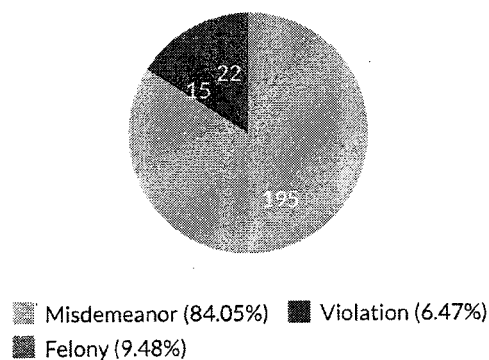


Warrants	EMS/Fire	Arrests	Total Incidents Month	Total Incidents YTD
Active Warrants 55	EMS/Fire Calls 70	Monthly 73	479	1442
Cleared Warrants 25	EMS/Fire Calls YTD 202	YTD 169	Domestic Incidents Month 27	Domestic Incidents YTD 86

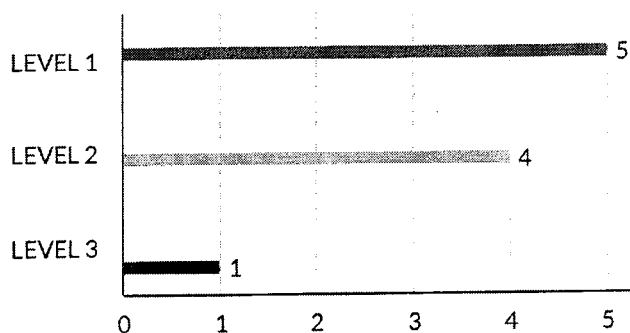
MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES



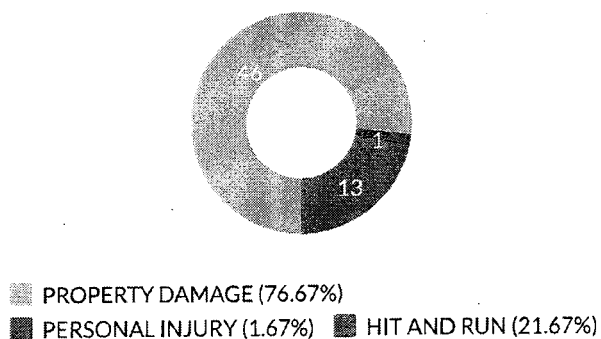
YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES



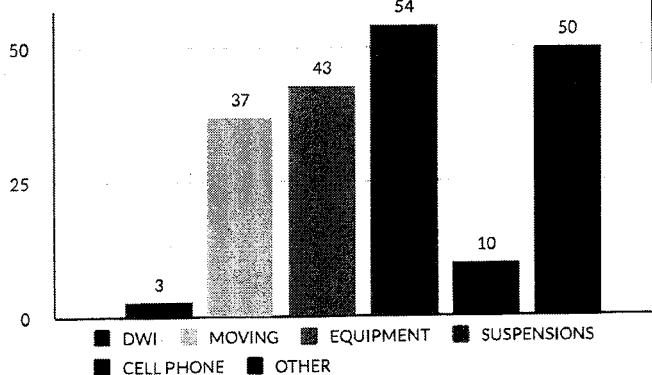
SEX OFFENDERS



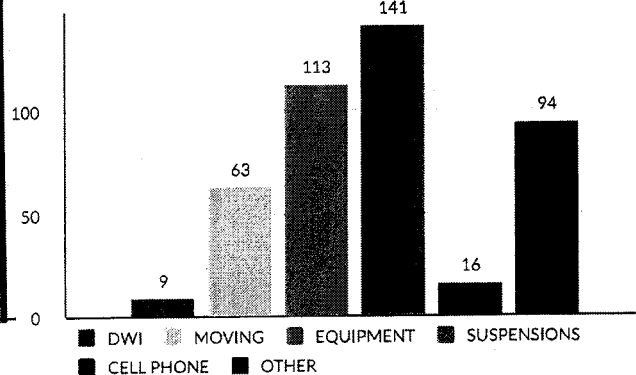
YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES



MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS 197



YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS 436



	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total	Total Amount Collected
Hunting & Fishing	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	\$ 4.72
Marriage Licenses	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	\$ 120.00
Dog Licenses	16	11	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	\$ 208.00
Marriage Certificates	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	\$ 10.00
Birth Certificates	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	\$ 10.00
Death Certificates	10	16	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	\$ 100.00
Bingo Licenses	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	\$ 52.50
Bell Jar Licenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$ -
Games of Chance Licenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$ -
Tax Searches	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	\$ 400.00
Genealogy Searches	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	\$ 22.00
Bingo Proceeds	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	\$ 45.93
One Day Officiant License	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		\$ 50.00
Grand Total														\$ 1,023.15
Certificates of Residency: 0 College: HVCC, SCCC or Adirondack														

Certificates of Residency: 0

College: HVCC, SCCC or Adirondack