

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
February 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday February 9, 2022.

Mayor Butler: Called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Mayor Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Butler	Present
	Commissioner Seber	Present
	Commissioner Johnson	Present
	Commissioner Higgins	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Motion to accept the January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Johnson Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Butler stated the State will be ending the mask mandate tomorrow so masks will be required in most public places. He stated the City will be following this but masks will still be required when riding the City bus because public transportation is still requiring masks. He added if people are more comfortable wearing a mask they should do so but it is not required. Mayor Butler commended the DPW workers for their hard work with the recent water main breaks and a great job with the recent snow/ice storm in which he added was not an easy storm to handle because of all of the ice. He went on to say they are working to remove the ice/snow from the business district and asked for the public to be patient.

Commissioner Seber stated the tax bills went out on Monday which is about 3 weeks earlier than normal and the deadline remains to be on March 15th. He added the good news is the bills went out early but the bad news is one of the reasons they went out early is because the City is not allowed to re-levy the unpaid water/sewer bills with the COVID mandates. He went on to say the City closed and completed all paperwork on the 96 Saratoga Avenue property and it is now back on the tax roll. Commissioner Seber announced the Charter Committee meeting will still be held on Wednesday February 16th but the time is changed to 6:00 pm. He added City Hall would be closed on Monday February 21st for President's Day and the Account Office will be open 2 Saturday's for tax collection those days will be March 5th and March 15th from 9-12pm.

Commissioner Johnson stated that his office is beginning to gather information for the audit.

Commissioner Higgins stated the water breaks were two (2) service lines and a four (4) inch line to a fire hydrant. He asked residents to please move cars during storms; if one side of the road has been cleaned it is helpful if the cars are moved to the other side so they can get the streets cleaned up more quickly.

Commissioner Hosley stated they would be having an Easter egg in Tallmadge Park on April 2nd at 1:00 pm with a rain date of April 9th. He went on to say the park will be divided into four (4) sections each designated to a different age group and each area will have a couple thousand eggs. He added they will be allowing any special needs children to go a few minutes earlier than everyone else to gather as many eggs as they can. Commissioner Hosley stated the Senior lunches are still happening and they are going well, they are served at 12:00 pm every day. He added on Friday February 11th Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner would be joining the Seniors for lunch. He went on to say that he has a check for the Fire Department and thanked Kim Noonan, Barb McGuire, and the Mechanicville City residents for volunteering to help with the memory trees. He added that they had problems with a few wind storms and some electrical issues but he is confident they will be fixing all the issues before next year. His goal is to have 100 trees next year and he guaranteed there would be no problems.

Commissioner Seber asked the amount of the check for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Hosley responded it was for \$769.28.

Police Chief Rabbitt gave his report and it is attached to the minutes.

Assistant Fire Chief Nick Dunn gave his report and it is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Hosley introduced Jim Fitzgerald who will be heading the military banner program for the City of Mechanicville. He added the banners are not limited to military a banner can be purchased for anyone you consider a home town hero.

Jim Fitzgerald thanked the Council for having him present the banners. He brought two (2) banners and displayed them for everyone to see. He added he began this program in 2016 and has 20 communities he works with. He gave an overview of the program stating it will not cost the City any money but will ask the City to put the banners up and will need a couple volunteers to keep up with all the paperwork and the banking where it works better on a separate line as opposed to the general fund. He stated the applications are available and it is important to fill out all information accurately. Jim went on to say that the sponsor of the banner needs to be listed because that is who they will send a proof to and will not print the banner until a confirmation is received that everything is correct and stated they do not suggest sending a picture of a picture because there will be a glare on the picture. He stated the price of the banner is \$225 which includes set up and printing of the custom banner, email sent out for approval, and installation of the banner. Jim stated this is the first community where they are including first responders.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she thinks this is a phenomenal idea but she needs to make sure the City is protected and asked if there was a contract that she could see and asked Jim for his contact information so that she may reach out to him.

Jim Fitzgerald stated he will get together with her to discuss it all. He went on to say that the cost of the banners is \$225 his company will receive \$200 and the other \$25 is to offset the costs of the hanging of them.

Commissioner Johnson asked what the turnaround time is once the proof is accepted.

Jim Fitzgerald stated once they are approved it is about one week they try to do them in some bulk to save on shipping costs.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the \$225 covers the hardware for installation.

Jim Fitzgerald stated it is included and so is shipping, everything is included.

Lydia Tironi stated they originally purchases a banner when the program started and recently had to replace it she asked how long they last.

Jim Fitzgerald stated it really depends on location of the banner and weather he has some that lasted eight (8) years, he is comfortable stating that they last 36 months then you might start seeing some bleeding in heavy weather areas. He added it is \$135 to replace it if the hardware remains.

Someone asked if you could put more than one (1) on a pole.

Jim Fitzgerald stated they have had up to four (4) or five (5) on a pole but he does not recommend it. He also stated he does not suggest putting them on the road side of the pole they should be on the sidewalk side and not on pole on intersections as trucks easily take them down.

Kim Dunn asked if the City is limiting as to what poles they will be going on.

Commissioner Higgins stated he would have to get in contact with NYSEG.

Commissioner Hosley stated Jim did the banners for Stillwater and they are extremely happy with the whole process and the results.

Kim Dunn asked once they are purchased and put up will they remain there indefinitely.

Commissioner Hosley stated probably until it needs to be replaced.

Jim Fitzgerald stated he does suggest the City have a good kick off campaign to get things going.

Commissioner Hosley stated there will not be any sponsors or dates on the banners the focus will be on the pictures and names. He added the banners have a special paint on them so there will

be no reflection off of them. Commissioner Hosley asked the public to please be very accurate with the names when filling out the application and added he is very excited about this project.

Public Comment:

Lydia Tironi of William Street stated that William Street is one way and there are always people going the wrong way. She stated she would like to have additional clearer signage put up that might help this problem. She stated she realizes this past storm was a tough one but added there are still several sidewalks are still treacherous. She asked if the City could allow organizations to have tag days.

Commissioner Hosley stated that is the Mayor's call.

Mayor Butler stated he has only been Mayor for 5 weeks and he will look into it but it may be too dangerous in the roads.

Commissioner Johnson stated it was a City issue.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated there are some liability concerns.

Lydia Tironi suggested the City should have a Halloween parade prior to or during the annual trunk or treat. She went on to say the City could also have a Christmas parade and thought maybe people could bring donations for a toys for tots toy drive and collect food for the Community Center.

Dave Hicks of First Avenue asked if the cause of the Round Lake Avenue fire has been determined.

Police Chief Bill Rabbitt state no information has been released.

Dave Hicks asked why there was a \$13 difference between the two (2) trucks in the resolutions.

Commissioner Higgins stated one of the trucks is a dump truck.

Dave Hicks asked if the water problem has been straightened out.

Commissioner Higgins stated he believes it has been.

Dave Hicks asked what the issue is with the garbage pickup. He stated he put his garbage out a few days before Thursday because they pick it up on Friday and it was there almost a week.

Commissioner Seber told him the pickup day has changed and he should have received a notice on the pail when it was delivered.

Dave Hicks stated that by looking at the lighting resolution if the City did it when he told them to, they would have saved about \$300,000. He went on to say the conditions of the eldercare agreement with Stillwater are vague and stated he tried to use it in the past and was denied and never received enough notice that they would not be transporting him. He added the perimeters of what they will do and won't do need to be set.

John Mitchell of Halfmoon introduced himself and his services. He went on to say he is a volunteer bicycle pedestrian trails advocate. He thanked the Police Officers for their bike patrols and added he is looking to get a bicycle rack at the Community Center.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street brought attention to resolution 9-2022 and stated the City refuses to have a process where interested residents can apply to be on any of the City boards. She asked if resolution 13-2022 required to go out to bid and if not why.

Commissioner Johnson stated NYSEG put this through to the City.

Kim Dunn asked where the contract was for resolution 14-2022 and stated legally it is supposed to be attached to the resolution 24 hours prior to the meeting. She went on to say she FOILED some information and she received the exact same response for two (2) of the FOIL's. Kim went on to say she is concerned there was only one (1) budget workshop and there was no mention of any raises during the workshop. She added she finds it hard to believe there were no responses to the email and she asked for all responses. She asked how the Council was notified about the 7.25% and 9.25% raises. Kim Dunn read the duties of the Commissioner of Finance from the City Charter and asked when written reports were going to be given.

Commissioner Johnson stated the raises were included in the numbers at the budget workshop.

Kim Dunn said it may have been in the numbers but it was never discussed.

Barb McGuire of South Second Street posed her concern about basketball courts at the Tenendaho Playground stating cops can't monitor it and people who live there didn't sign up to hear basketballs bouncing.

She went on to say that Supervisor Richardson never conversed with her about putting in the basketball courts. She added he had the fence around the basketball court painted and she didn't know anything about it. She said in the last two (2) years Supervisor Richardson received \$60,000 from the County and spent \$23,000 on basketball. She added having the basketball courts in Tenendaho is going to encourage kids to cross over Saratoga Avenue and someone is going to get killed. She stated Supervisor Richardson should have to talk to someone about what he wants to do before he is allowed to do it. She stated she did respond to the email that was previously discussed and there were other emails too.

Commissioner Seber said he sent the emails the next day which was on Monday. He added there was one email from Barb that was highlighted and the reason he not originally send it was because it was a conversation that took place in executive session and he did not think executive session material could be Foil's but was later informed that it needed to be sent. He added he

sent one on Friday and the other on Monday. Commissioner Seber stated that in the future Supervisor Richardson will be going to the City Council to discuss what he plans on spending the monies he receives on.

Marylou Cebula of Newman Avenue stated she watched the Charter Committee meeting and the presentation by Mr. Franck. She stated the meeting raised a few questions for her and asked if Mike Rubino or someone would be streaming the meetings.

Commissioner Seber stated he would be talking to the committee and see what they thought. He added he is hoping at the next meeting it would be decided what direction the committee would like to move in.

Marylou Cebula stated it was mentioned that an attorney would be used and was wondering if City Attorney Lyn Murphy would be in the running for that position or would it be an outside attorney. She asked if the City Attorney was an employee or a contractor.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she is a Public Officer.

Commissioner Seber stated she is paid through payroll and not by voucher.

Marylou Cebula asked if public comment was going to be allowed at the next city charter meeting.

Commissioner Seber stated it would be.

Marylou Cebula asked Commissioner Seber if he spoke with the Council members individually to see if they are in favor of the change in government and asked what information was provided to them.

Commissioner Seber stated it is his understanding that all he would be asking the Council is if they agree to allow the change to go to the voters.

Marylou Cebula stated that if the Council is not in favor of bringing it to a vote then it would be a waste of time and money for planning for it.

Commissioner Seber told the committee he would speak to the individual members of the Council and he has spoken to a majority but doesn't want to share the results until he talks to his Committee first. He added he is not asking the Council to support or not support it he is only asking if they want to bring it to the voters.

Marylou Cebula stated the original purpose of the Charter Committee was to examine the City Charter and upgrade it to resolve things that are lacking. She added a stronger City Charter will be more efficient than changing the entire form of government. She stated the Charter covers duties of City Officials but doesn't mention how much time off is allowed and no designated hours that a part time official needs to be in the office. The charter needs to dictate more strongly.

Commissioner Seber stated this will make it more difficult to get people to run for office which already is a difficult task.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 08-2022 LOSAP

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 09-2022 Board of Assessment Review Re-appointments

Moved by: Mayor Butler
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 10-2022 Purchase 2022 Ford F550 - DPW

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 11-2022 Purchase 2022 Chevy 3500HD Silverado - DPW

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 12-2022 Senior Exemption

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

Commissioner Seber stated the City currently has a senior exemption now of \$8000 in which we currently have 2 properties that qualify for this reduction in property taxes. He went on to say the City is permitted to set the income limit between \$3000 and \$29,000. Commissioner Seber stated the County has a limit of \$20,000 set and he feels that \$20,000 would help approximately 20 residents and felt it was fair to bring it up to that figure.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 13-2022 Light Fixture Contract TABLED

Commissioner Johnson requested this resolution be tabled to confirm it does not have to go out to bid.

Commissioner Seber asked for a motion to table resolution 13-22

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 14-2022 Eldercare Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

Mayor Mike Butler asked if there is a limitation as to where they are able to bring people.

Commissioner Hosley stated there was not.

Commissioner Higgins asked if there flex van could be used for this.

Mayor Mike Butler stated the flex van is limited to specific areas.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 15-2022 Phase II EPG II Authorized Representative

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 16-2022 Phase II EPG SEQRA Type II

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 17-2022 Phase II EPG II Local Match

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 18-2022 Phase II EPG II Engineer Agreement

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 19-2022 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 20-2022 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 7:29 P.M. to go to Executive Session

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

Mechanicville Fire Department

36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118
Tel: (518) 664-6121 Fax: (518) 664-6123

Chief
Matthew Dunn

Deputy Chief
Alexander Dunn

Assistant Chief
Nickolas Dunn

January 2022 Chief's Report

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
111 - Building fire	2
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	50
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1
442 - Overheated motor	1
444 - Power line down	1
500 - Service Call, other	2
600 - Good intent call, other	1
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4
Total Incidents:	70

January 2022 Report

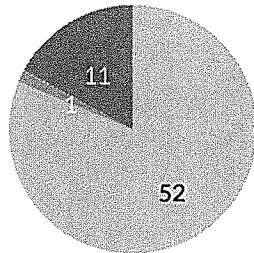
January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022



Warrants		EMS/Fire	Arrests		Total Incidents Month	Total Incidents YTD
Active Warrants	46	EMS/Fire Calls	Monthly	47	449	449
Cleared Warrants YTD	71	EMS/Fire Calls YTD	YTD	47	Domestic Incidents Month	Domestic Incidents YTD
					24	24

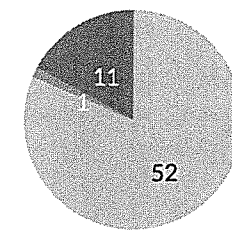
MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES

64

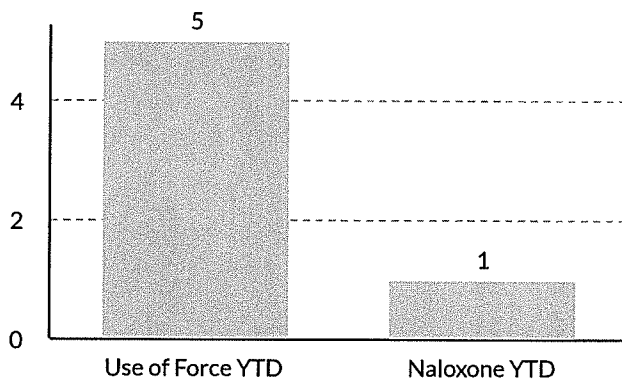


Misdemeanor (81.25%) Violation (1.56%)
Felony (17.19%)

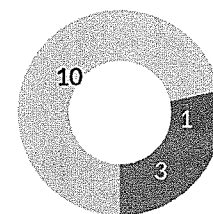
YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES



Misdemeanor (81.25%) Violation (1.56%)
Felony (17.19%)



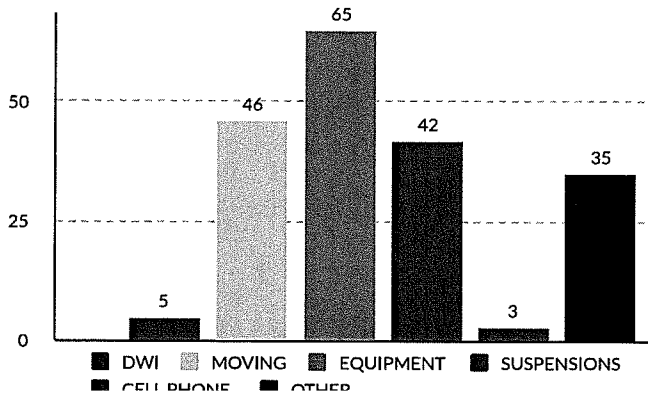
YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES



PROPERTY DAMAGE (71.43%)
PERSONAL INJURY (7.14%)
HIT AND RUN (21.43%)

MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS

196



YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS

196

