

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
February 8, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday February 8, 2023.

Mayor Butler: Called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Mayor Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Motion to accept the January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler      Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5      NAYES: 0

**Commissioner Reports:**

Mayor Butler announced the White Water Derby would be held on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Mechanicville Area Community Center would be hosting the Anything That Floats competition and the Duck Derby on that day. He went on to say that he received a call from Twin Bridges stating that residents are putting garbage outside the cans and they will not be picking that up he stated that includes recycling. He added the garbage cans need to be brought in so they are not blocking sidewalks or ending up in the road on a windy day. The City Charter reads “empty containers must be removed from the curb within twelve (12) hours after collection”.

Commissioner Seber announced City Hall would be closed on February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President’s Day and the Accounts Office will be open on two (2) Saturday’s March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for tax collection. Commissioner Seber announced the Charter Review Committee will be hosting three (3) Public Hearings, they will be held on: March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, they are all scheduled for 6:00 pm and will be held at the Mechanicville Senior Center. He added it will be live streamed and if someone can’t make a meeting but have questions, they could email him and the questions would be addressed.

Commissioner Johnson gave the monthly Treasurer’s report which is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Sgambati stated he is looking to purchase a used bucket truck which they desperately need, and went on to say that while salting on Tuesday night the 2004 dump truck (Truck 9) had the box and salter break from the chassis, he stated the driver is fine but wanted to thank John Pickett for assisting them with his loader and fork lift to help them get the box back on the chassis allowing them to get the truck back to the garage, the truck will be going out to be fixed this week. He added he is looking into replacing the other 2001 freightliner (Truck 10) which is in worse shape than truck 9. He went on to say the trucks are 20 years old and have a lot of wear and tear on them so he will be looking to see what can be done. Commissioner Sgambati stated he is looking to hire a laborer and has received six (6) applications. He mentioned that when one of his employees was hired 22 ½ years ago he was one (1) or seventeen (17) employees and another employee who was hired 15 years ago was one (1) of fifteen (15) when he joined the team and as of today he has seven (7) guys and one (1) mechanic at the garage, one (1) guy is on leave which leaves him six (6) so if a guy or two (2) calls out he is hurting for employees. He asked if someone could find out why the DPW department lost so many employees over the years and did not backfill the position and added he is looking forward to working with the Council in the future to get more help at DPW.

Commissioner Hosley stated the Splash Pad is moving along and they are still selling banners. He went on to say there is a Valentine's Day party at the Senior Center next week and they will be having a big St. Patrick's Day party on March 16<sup>th</sup> and they will be having the cloggers back to perform at the St. Patrick's Day party.

Chief Rabbit gave his monthly report that is attached to the minutes and stated they are 97% moved into the Central Firehouse, they are awaiting some cosmetic changes but other than that it is going well so far.

#### **Public Comment:**

Ray Martin asked if more garbage containers could be obtained from Twin Bridges for the residents who need more room in the containers.

Mayor Butler stated they found out today there was a couch out on the sidewalk and there is no way Twin Bridges would pick that up but it could be brought to DPW for a fee.

Ray Martin asked what could be done in reference to the large cardboard boxes that won't fit in the cans.

Mayor Butler stated that Twin Bridges suggested they be cut down and put in the cans.

Ray Martin stated the cans are smaller than what the residents previously had.

Mayor Butler stated when they switched over to Twin Bridge's he was under the impression they were the same size.

Commissioner Hosley stated he was told he could request another can but could not request a bigger one.

Commissioner Seber stated people have received additional cans if it is a necessity.

Ray Martin asked if anyone is monitoring if anyone outside the City is putting their garbage here.

Commissioner Sgambati stated they have cameras.

Ray Martin asked how many people read the code changes.

Commissioner Sgambati stated he did not read it.

Mayor Butler stated he has read it and does not remember every word and may not be able to answer questions but stated he requested the Kyle firm up the Charter because people in the City have been complaining about things being left unkept and things can not be enforced the way it is written now.

Dave Hicks of First Avenue stated County Waste always picked up everything that was left out, and is wondering why we are paying Twin Bridges more money and they won't pick everything up.

Commissioner Seber stated we are not paying Twin Bridges more and that last year the City paid \$70,000 less even with the difference of dumping fees and budgeted for the \$70,000 less this year.

Dave Hicks stated there is debris left when people move out from a property and the City should monitor this when they see a U-Haul truck out front. He went on to say the City vehicles needs cleaning from the salt.

Commissioner Sgambati stated he has been a volunteer fire fighter for twenty-five (25) years and they always clean the trucks after use and he is now having the DPW trucks cleaned after they are used but reminded him that the trucks are over twenty (20) years old and take a beating.

Kim Dunn of South Main Street stated she is sure the Council is all aware of the law that was passed for exemptions for volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers, Rensselaer County passed it and so did Clifton Park, giving their volunteers a 10% exemption on their property taxes. She added it needs to be passed by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Butler stated he would look into it.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for assessment roll, she added they would need to have a public hearing and a meeting to adopt that.

Mayor Butler stated he was not aware of it and is surprised the volunteers didn't bring it to the Councils attention.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated the County is proceeding but there is an issue with regards to the fifty (50) hour requirement.

Kim Dunn asked if they could request an extension on the March 1<sup>st</sup> date.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated you could not get an extension on the March 1<sup>st</sup> date. She went on to say there are two (2) different options for emergency services, adding the option that is available now is actually better than this option.

Commissioner Seber asked if there was a tax credit.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated there was but you could only do the exemption or the tax credit but could not do both, and 99% of the time the tax credit is the better of the two.

Kim Dunn asked for the status of the study for the splash pad and how soon after the study would the donor decide if there were donating the money.

Commissioner Hosley stated the donation of the money is not in question. He added 36% of the Engineering is done.

Kim Dunn asked what the plan was to fill the Animal Control Officer position.

Commissioner Hosley stated he is not sure yet but Terry Cook is filling in at this time.

Commissioner Seber added the study for the splash pad is something they need to determine the specifications for the bids, it has nothing to do with the donor.

Mayor Butler added they did the study because they wanted to see what the water usage would be, they will be doing a contained system. He added they money for the donor will not change and they added \$50,000 to the budget so they have \$300,000 budget to work with on this project.

There was no other public comment so Commissioner Seber opened the Public Hearing for the changes to the City code.

**Public Hearing (Code Changes):**

Commissioner Seber stated there are several changes to the City Code particularly with the Code Enforcement Officer, he introduced the Code Enforcement Officer, Kyle Woodard.

Kyle Woodard the Building/Code Enforcement Officer went through the changes within the Code to which he is looking to change.

Commissioner Seber stated they would be having the Public Hearing at this meeting but would not be voting on it at this meeting as they are still working on the fee structures. He went on to say that the fees are separate from the Code and could be voted on by resolution and would not

need a public hearing. He stated the plan at this time is to vote on the changes at the next council meeting and to vote on a resolution with the

Dave Hicks asked what occurred to prompt the change in the code, what modifications were done to warrant the changes, to date how many violations occurred that warranted attention and when was the last time that City was inspected for their own State violations.

Commissioner Hosley stated he has been listening to complaints for a year about things going on in the City so now Kyle is looking to change a lot of those things.

Dave Hicks stated he can not understand why there is such a massive turn over in the Code.

Kyle Woodard stated there really isn't, he went on to say that Codes consist of ten (10) different books with at least twenty thousand (20,000) pages so this is nothing compared to that.

Mayor Butler stated there have been several instances that needed attention and when he asked Kyle and the previous Building/Code Enforcement Officer what could be done they told him they really don't have anything in the Code allowing them to enforce it.

Barb McGuire asked what was considered materials in the outdoor storage section.

Kyle Woodard stated it could pretty much be anything, you can't have your lawn cluttered with materials.

Barb McGuire went through several of the codes listed and asked questions.

Kyle Woodard answered several of the questions with the help of City Attorney Lyn Murphy. They stated they would need to look into some of the changes and better define them.

Bill Claydon stated he has a complaint about garbage cans, dumpster being left too long in the street, unregistered cars parked, registered cars that don't move for days, and he has a neighbor that has about fifteen (15) on the property behind a motorhome.

Kim Dunn stated she was disappointed on how the changes were presented. She went on to ask where the codes came from because they were obviously copied from somewhere since there is something about parking garages in the code and there are none in Mechanicville.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it is a model code from New York State because they are trying to get every community in the State to have consistent model codes.

Kim Dunn asked why it needs to be in there if we don't have them for example the parking garage.

Kyle Woodard stated it just would not apply to the City but if at some point there is a parking garage it is in the Code.

Kim Dunn asked several questions from both herself and a resident that could not attend. She went on to say this is very unclear and should have been done better.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that is why they have public hearings to get the public's input and stated that some of the items need to be clarified and they will be working on it.

Kim Dunn stated she hopes that they take the time to go over this and make the appropriate changes to make it more clear before they go ahead and rush to adopt it at the next meeting. She asked when it will go into effect after it is adopted and how will people be notified of the changes.

Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it will go into effect when it is filed with the Secretary of State.

Commissioner Johnson stated he believes that if someone is in violation they will receive a letter; it won't be an automatic fine.

Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it is actually in the Code that the State requires a thirty (30) day notice.

Kyle Woodard stated the intent is compliance, not a fine.

Ray Martin stated the changes in the Charter are long overdue but unfortunately some of the ways things are worded they are not going to be easy to enforce. He went on to say the current code is very loose and was probably good for 1954 but not now. He went on to ask if Kyle has gone to the City Assessor to see about the problems she has had and if there are changes she needs in the Code.

Kyle stated he did not.

Ray Martin went on to ask if he went to the Board of Assessment Review Committee, or the Zoning Board of Appeals or Planning Commission.

Kyle stated he talks with Frank Scirocco on a regular basis, but not particularly on this issue.

Ray Martin asked if he checked the Comprehensive Plan and asked if he was aware that most of the planning activity that goes on has to refer back to the Comprehensive Plan.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated he was correct but this is Code Enforcement and not Planning so none of this would go before the Planning Board.

Ray Martin asked how many Council Members have read the Comprehensive Plan and if they knew how long ago it was written.

Commissioner Seber stated he has read it and it was written in 2000.

Ray Martin stated it is supposed to be reviewed every five (5) years. He asked where he could find the Energy Code.

Kyle stated it could be obtained on the Department of State website.

Ray Martin asked Kyle if he gives the Assessor monthly report of what building permits he issues.

Kyle stated he does.

Commissioner Seber closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

**Resolutions:**

RESOLUTION 08-2023 Civil Service Chairperson Re-appointment

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 09-2023 Patrol Sergeant Promotion

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 10-2023 Part-time Police Officer

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 11-2023 Resignation

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 12-2023 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 13-2023 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS:    None

OLD BUSINESS:    None

Close Meeting: 7:20 P.M.

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0



**City of Mechanicville**  
**Treasurer's Report for the Month of January 2023**

	Balance 1/1/2023	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 1/31/2023
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Checking	2,545,954.34	392,293.72	930,943.67	2,007,304.39
Petty Cash	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<u>2,546,354.34</u>	<u>392,293.72</u>	<u>930,943.67</u>	<u>2,007,704.39</u>
<b>City Clerk Account</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,301.46</u>	<u>1,301.46</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Payroll</b>	<u>1,342.06</u>	<u>263,027.26</u>	<u>172,424.93</u>	<u>91,944.39</u>
<b>Capital Fund</b>	<u>971,582.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>63,739.34</u>	<u>907,842.71</u>
<b>Escrow Account</b>	<u>10,399.28</u>	<u>1,274.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11,674.13</u>
<b>Central Ave Drainage Project</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Community Development</b>				
Home Grant Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
USDA Revolving Loan Funds	74,827.07	666.67	0.00	75,493.74
<b>Total Community Development</b>	<u>74,827.07</u>	<u>666.67</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>75,493.74</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<u>3,611,369.66</u>	<u>658,563.96</u>	<u>1,168,409.40</u>	<u>3,101,524.22</u>

**City of Mechanicville**  
**Treasurer's Report for the Month of January 2023**

	General Fund	City Clerk	Payroll	Capital Fund	Escrow Account	Central Ave Drain	2015 Home Grant	USDA
Balance 1/1/23								
Checking	2,545,954.34	0.00	1,342.06	971,582.05	10,399.28	0.00	0.00	74,827.07
Petty Cash	400.00							
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,546,354.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,342.06</b>	<b>971,582.05</b>	<b>10,399.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>74,827.07</b>
Add Cash Receipts:								
Taxes, Penalties & Interest	18,358.09							
School Taxes & Penalties	53,854.53							
Water & Sewer Revenues	41,800.69							
Sales Tax	216,178.00							
State Aid and Grants	9,486.76							
Interest					22.62			
Transfers	0.00		263,027.26					
Capital Projects	0.00							
BAN/Bond Proceeds								
Other	52,615.65	1,301.46			1,252.23			666.67
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>392,293.72</b>	<b>1,301.46</b>	<b>263,027.26</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,274.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>666.67</b>
Less Cash Disbursements:								
Payrolls	263,027.26		172,424.93					
Checks	667,916.41	1,301.46		63,739.34				
Debt Service Payments								
Transfers								
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>930,943.67</b>	<b>1,301.46</b>	<b>172,424.93</b>	<b>63,739.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Book Balance 1/31/23	2,007,704.39	0.00	91,944.39	907,842.71	11,674.13	0.00	0.00	75,493.74
Less: Deposits in Transit	27,695.57	131.00						
Add: O/S Checks	166,450.54	1,301.46	1,891.30	37,910.92				
Bank Balance 1/31/23	2,146,459.36	1,170.46	93,835.69	945,753.63	11,674.13	0.00	0.00	75,493.74

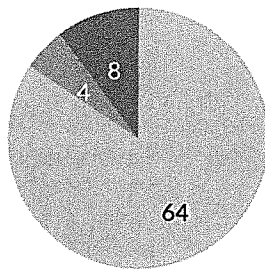
# January 2023 Report

January 1, 2022 - January 31, 2022



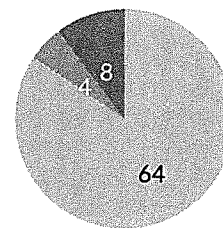
Warrants	EMS/Fire	Arrests	Total Incidents Month	Total Incidents YTD
Active Warrants	EMS/Fire Calls	Monthly		
51	65	50	431	431
Cleared Warrants YTD	EMS/Fire Calls YTD	YTD	Domestic Incidents Month	Domestic Incidents YTD
5	65	50	29	29

## MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES

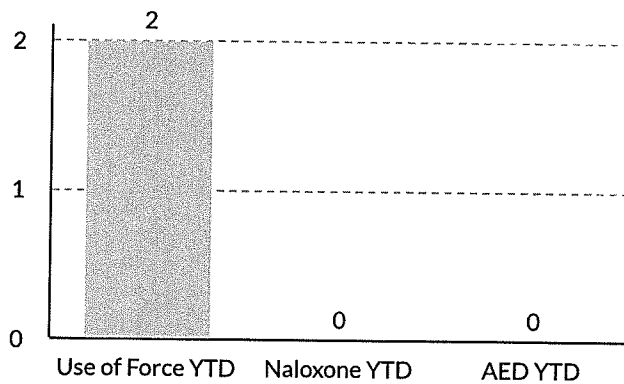


Misdemeanor (84.21%) Violation (5.26%)  
Felony (10.53%)

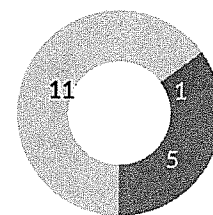
## YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES



Misdemeanor (84.21%) Violation (5.26%)  
Felony (10.53%)

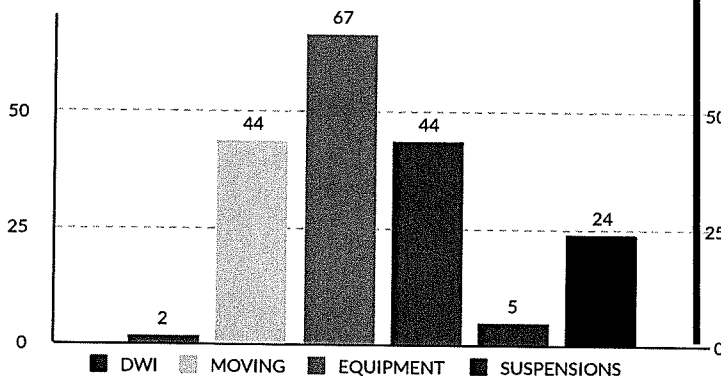


## YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES



PROPERTY DAMAGE (64.71%)  
PERSONAL INJURY (5.88%)  
HIT AND RUN (29.41%)

## MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS 186



## YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS 186

