

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
April 13, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday April 13, 2022.

Mayor Butler: Called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Johnson Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Butler stated they are hoping to have the Central Avenue project underway right after the 4th of July and added that is a tentative schedule that was given by the State so that may change. He went on to say the sewer re-lining work that they thought would happen this year on First Avenue is not going to happen. Mayor Butler state the gas line upgrades are being done and will continue on Park Avenue and west of it, he added they are concentrating on installing all the main lines and the laterals will begin in 4 to 6 weeks.

Commissioner Seber stated they are beginning to do water readings and the bills will go out on May 1st and due on May 31st. He added Sam Carabis has resigned from the Board of Assessment Review where he was a member for as long as he can remember. Commissioner Seber thanked Sam for his many years of service.

Commissioner Johnson gave an update on the lighting update stating the firehouse is complete and had begun work on both playgrounds, he added they stated they usually complete everything within 30 days of the contract signing. Commissioner Johnson gave his treasurers report which is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Higgins stated they began the filters at the Waterplant which is a very detailed project, it took 1 ½ weeks to complete one (1) and they have two (2) more to do. He added they will begin the second one on Monday.

Commissioner Hosley stated the Senior Center has hosted a few events, the St. Patrick's Day event was a huge success as was the Easter Egg hunt and he thanked Kim Dunn and Kim Noonan. He went on to say they had an Easter bonnet parade at the Senior Center and thanked his wife Rita and the Junior Dante Club for donating bonnets. He also thanked Brut Sgambati for singing Sinatra at the parade. Commissioner Hosley added the new lighting is being installed at the playground and stated the Duck Derby and fishing contest will be held on June 10th at the dock. He added the County will begin providing meals at the Park Avenue Playground on July 5th. Lastly, he stated there is a production of the Wizard of Oz on May 6th and he promised any senior that would like to go he would provide them transportation there.

Police Chief Rabbitt stated they will be holding the Paul Luther run/5k the morning of Family Day this year and more information would be coming out. He went on to say the Police Department would be participating in a drug take back on April 30th @ CVS on South Central Avenue from 10-2 pm where any unwanted medication could be turned in with the exception of liquids or needles which will not be accepted. He stated the new Dodge charger is on the road and in service. He went on to say he is a CPR instructor and is looking to have a session for teenagers between the ages of 13 to 18 and teach them how to do CPR and they will have the opportunity to earn their CPR certification. He informed everyone there would be more information on the City's webpage and the Police Department's facebook page.

Public Comment:

Dave Hicks of First Avenue asked what the schedule was for the dredging and who was doing the ground work.

Mayor Butler stated that according to Barton and Loguidice they are going to do the dam work first and then it will go out to bid either this week or next week.

Dave Hicks asked what the procedures were with drug testing for employees.

Commissioner Seber stated anyone that has a CDL license is tested by the State.

Police Chief Rabbitt stated the City has a new policy stating all new hires are tested but after that it is a labor/contract negotiations issue.

Commissioner Higgins stated DPW is randomly tested.

Dave Hicks mentioned he has seen the street sweeper more in the last two (2) weeks than he has in the past four (4) years. He asked what was going on with the bids for the garbage.

Commissioner Seber stated the bids were supposed to be opened on Wednesday it has been very difficult to find bid specifications and that he is not in communication with another local

municipality and is hoping to work in conjunction with theirs. He reassured him that it is being worked on.

Dave Hicks asked why a job is being created for streets and sewers.

Commissioner Seber stated the person was appointed to the position at the December Council Meeting as Supervisor of Streets and Sewers which is the wording in the union contract but since then there has been discussion at the Civil Service Commission and the title is Superintendent of Streets and Sewers so no one is being appointed the title is changing to be in compliance with Civil Service.

Dave Hicks asked if the job is necessary.

Commissioner Seber stated he believes it is as there are a lot of things pertaining to MS4 and the City needs to be able to comply with it all.

Dave Hicks asked why the former Mayor was spending time at City Hall.

Mayor Butler stated is was talked about at a previous meeting that outgoing officials should leave information for the new incoming officials and the former Mayor did not do this so he is graciously stopping in to see if there is anything information he needs to provide.

John Snyder of Park Avenue thanked Mayor Butler and said he is doing a great job. He added the Police Officers in the city are underpaid and they should be starting at a higher rate. He went on to say he reached out to the Code Enforcement Officer about an issue last year and then spoke with him on Monday about the same issue and he admitted he has seen the issue but did not address it. He added he email Code Enforcement and it is supposed to be addressed. John asked Commissioner Seber why the trash contract was not looked at by the City Attorney.

Commissioner Seber stated it was.

John Snyder asked why this issue wasn't caught.

Commissioner Seber stated for years the City has dumped with County Waste at \$49 a ton and a conversation was had with the current contractor and he was comfortable it would be the same.

John Snyder commended Commissioner Higgins for an amazing turnaround and a fantastic job well done. He asked what the charges were for a road cutting permit.

Commissioner Seber stated it was \$100 per permit.

John Snyder stated that is not enough. He went on to compliment Commissioner Hosley for doing an amazing job. He also stated he posted on facebook about an incident and it was misunderstood and wanted to let Chief Rabbitt the Police do an awesome job.

Darlene McGraw of 4 North Point Halfmoon asked how many employees the City had.

Commissioner Seber stated there were roughly fifty (50).

Darlene McGraw asked that people be reminded that sandwich board need to be out of the right away so that pedestrians have access to sidewalks. She stated New York State building code and the ADA require any municipality with fifty (50) or more employees have all modifications, alterations, and renovations be brought into compliance with accessibility requirements and have adopted an ADA transition plan and an ADA coordinator. She went on to say she is a member of A D A P T whose mission is to end institutional bias in government policies. She added Title 2 of the American Disabilities Act requires all State and local governments to be accessible and usable to all people with disabilities equal to that of non-disabled people. She presented the City with balloons congratulating them for not being compliant with the ADA.

Tom Mahoney of The Express stated that Twin Bridges has been in business for a while and has obviously been dumping trash somewhere so he is curious why this dumping issue is the City's problem.

Commissioner Seber stated it does not matter to the City where they dump but the concern is that it is dumped at a price they are committed to.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated there was a contract in 2012 for where the garbage was dumped and now they are trying to fix the issue of where they are dumping it at a rate that is acceptable to the City.

Commissioner Hosley asked if when the bids were collected was a dumping fee included in the County Waste bid.

Commissioner Seber stated they did not the bid was for hauling only.

Commissioner Hosley asked if County Waste had won the bid would the City be negotiating with them now.

Commissioner Seber stated it would probably be more seamless because they own the landfill but there still would be two (2) different charges, one for hauling and the other for dumping. He added there was nothing wrong with County Waste as a hauler they lost the contract because of money although it was close they were not the lowest bidder.

Tom Mahoney asked how the turnout for the Hometown Banners was going.

Commissioner Hosley stated it was going great, they originally thought they would get 50 or 60 the 1st year and there will be 100 by the end of the week. He went on to say they have 22 complete and will start putting them up next week.

Barb McGuire of 101 South Second Avenue apologized to the taxpayers stating she was not paying attention when the resolution went through for the garbage. She asked if an invoice was received for tonnage.

Commissioner Higgins stated he received the invoices for them but was unsure of the price for tonnage off hand.

Barb McGuire stated there was a letter from County Waste stating that if they had the opportunity to meet they would have made good on the numbers. She added she later found out there was a meeting with Twin Bridges that she did not know about and stated that was an unfair advantage.

Commissioner Seber stated he sat down with the lowest bidder to discuss the transition only.

Barb McGuire stated that one would think that County Waste would give a bundle for hauling and dumping.

Commissioner Seber stated that is not what the specifications called for and he was confident at the time it was the same price they were already paying.

Barb McGuire stated that they have been doing business with County Waster for a long time so he should of though they would give the City some sort of break.

Commissioner Seber stated they didn't give the City a break for ten (10) years when they were the only game in town.

Barb McGuire asked why the substitute being hired is being paid the same amount as the people who have been working for years. She went on to say no one cared about the employees pay before but now that they are hiring the County Supervisors sister it is a concern and she does not think it is fair for a sub to get paid the same as the other office workers.

Commissioner Hosley stated he thinks it is fine.

Barb McGuire asked what the responsibilities of the substitute are.

Commissioner Hosley stated each office has different responsibilities.

Barb McGuire stated she thinks it is unfair.

Commissioner Seber added the raises came to light because one of the current Senior Center office workers is making less than minimum wage.

Marylou Cebula of 28 Lee Street asked what Commissioner oversees the waterplant including the supervisor and all its workers.

Commissioner Higgins stated he does.

Marylou Cebula asked who oversees Civil Service.

Mayor Butler stated he does.

Marylou Cebula stated she FOIL'd records for hydrant flushing for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 and received a two (2) page document that listed addresses of hydrants but no record of if or when they were flushed. She asked if anyone knew if they were flushed during that time.

Commissioner Seber stated it is his understanding the document that was sent were for the hydrants that were flushed.

Marylou Cebula stated there were no dates.

Commissioner Seber stated he sent what he received.

Marylou Cebula asked if the lack of the regular flushing of hydrants had anything to do with the contamination that was reported.

Commissioner Higgins stated he was told the hydrants were never flushed all the way and that caused the contamination.

Marylou Cebula asked if the Superintendent of Streets and Sewers was a competitive position.

Commissioner Higgins stated it was.

Marylou Cebula stated it was a provisional position at this time and a test needs to be given.

Commissioner Higgins agreed with her.

Marylou Cebula asked if any State Aid has been associated with the current re-assessment.

Commissioner Seber stated it has not yet but he plans on it.

Marylou Cebula stated if the City has not received any State Aid they are not obligated to act upon the re-assessment that was done. She went on to say all City employees are given the same raise in the budget every year and asked if there was ever another time when a singular City Hall employee was given an arbitrary raise outside the yearly raise provided.

Commissioner Seber said he did not recall.

Marylou Cebula stated when the first two (2) raises were given no one else was told about them.

Commissioner Seber stated those were given at the same time everyone else was given a raise.

Marylou Cebula stated she has worked for the City for a while and it is the first time she recalls people being selected and given a raise more than everyone else.

Commissioner Seber stated they are not under a union contract so they can.

Marylou Cebula stated there is a precedent that has always been that all employees have been treated the same and received the same amount in the City contract.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated there is nothing that legally requires that.

Marylou Cebula stated it is being noticed because it has always been done the same way and now it has changed. She asked if there were Civil Service test for the Deputy's or if they were required to hold any degrees, certifications, or college credits.

Commissioner Seber stated none were required.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street stated raises were given in December that were not disclosed in the budget at the budget workshop particularly the two (2) larger ones and now tonight there are more raises and she objects to it. She asked how it got by that someone wasn't making minimum wage. She went on to say that GAR is being paid to perform certain services on of which states they will handle all residential reviews and she called them and they informed her the Assessor is doing that so she asked if they are given the City a price break for the services they are not performing.

Commissioner Seber stated they were not.

Kim Dunn went on to say the City is paying GAR for a service they are not performing and paying the Assessor additional money for putting in more hours to do the job they are supposed to be doing. She went on to say 4 out of 5 of the Commissioners were not aware the contract was changed. She went on to say that it was not disclosed to the residents that they could ask what properties were used to compare their property to come up with the new assessed value and that puts the homeowners at a disadvantage. She asked who would be handling and challenges the City Council has to their assessments.

Commissioner Seber stated the Board of Assessment Review would handle that.

Kim Dunn stated the Assessor cannot have anything to do with the Council's challenges and said she finds it hard to believe no one could have helped the City with specs for the garbage bids.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 27-2022 New Hire (Laborer)

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins

Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 28-2022 IDA Appointment

Moved by: Mayor Butler
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 29-2022 Mike Rubino Broadcasting

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4 NAYS: 1

NAYS: Commissioner Hosley

RESOLUTION 30-2022 Superintendent of Streets and Sewers

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 31-2022 Resignation

Moved by: Mayor Butler
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 32-2022 Substitute Clerk

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 33-2022 Salary Increase to Minimum Wage

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 34-2022 Salary Increase (Senior Center)

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 35-2022 Salary Increase (Senior Center)

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 36-2022 Sewer Municipal

Commissioner Seber explained that resolutions 36-2022 and 37-2022 both have to do with the DOT paving project on Central Avenue.

Mayor Butler stated they will be bringing sewer manholes up to grade and this also includes storm sewer upgrades.

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 37-2022 Salary Increase to Minimum Wage

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 38-2022 Fuel Management System

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 39-2022 Budget Transfer

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 40-2022 Budget Transfer

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 41-2022 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 42-2022 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 43-2022 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 7:04 P.M

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

City of Mechanicville
Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2022

	Balance 3/1/2022	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 3/31/2022
General Fund:				
Checking	2,220,043.20	3,329,901.66	1,263,552.57	4,286,392.29
Petty Cash	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Total General Fund	<u>2,220,443.20</u>	<u>3,329,901.66</u>	<u>1,263,552.57</u>	<u>4,286,792.29</u>
City Clerk Account	<u>0.00</u>	<u>876.00</u>	<u>876.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Payroll	<u>1,073.79</u>	<u>250,859.79</u>	<u>251,696.18</u>	<u>237.40</u>
Capital Fund	<u>1,469,874.54</u>		<u>299.25</u>	<u>1,469,575.29</u>
Escrow Account	<u>12,410.46</u>	<u>0.46</u>	<u>2,095.00</u>	<u>10,315.92</u>
Central Ave Drainage Project	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Community Development				
Home Grant Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
USDA Revolving Loan Funds	68,327.04	500.00	0.00	68,827.04
Total Community Development	<u>68,327.04</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>68,827.04</u>
Total Cash	<u>3,778,993.89</u>	<u>3,582,137.91</u>	<u>1,518,519.00</u>	<u>5,842,612.80</u>

**City of Mechanicville
Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2022**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>City Clerk</u>	<u>Payroll</u>	<u>Capital Fund</u>	<u>Escrow Account</u>	<u>Central Ave Drain</u>
Balance 3/1/22						
Checking	2,220,043.20	0.00	1,073.79	1,469,874.54	12,410.46	0.00
Petty Cash	400.00					
Total	<u>2,220,443.20</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,073.79</u>	<u>1,469,874.54</u>	<u>12,410.46</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Add Cash Receipts:						
Taxes, Penalties & Interest	2,749,872.81					
School Taxes & Penalties	19,130.03					
Water & Sewer Revenues	2,533.39					
Sales Tax	57,831.00					
State Aid and Grants	129,040.57					
Interest					0.46	
Transfers	241,450.80		250,859.79			
Capital Projects						
BAN/Bond Proceeds						
Other	130,043.06	876.00				
Total Cash Receipts	<u>3,329,901.66</u>	<u>876.00</u>	<u>250,859.79</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.46</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Less Cash Disbursements:						
Payrolls	250,859.79		251,696.18			
Warrants	945,628.23	876.00		299.25		
Debt Service Payments	67,014.55				2,095.00	
Transfers	50.00				2,095.00	
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>1,263,552.57</u>	<u>876.00</u>	<u>251,696.18</u>	<u>299.25</u>	<u>2,095.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Book Balance 3/31/22	<u>4,286,792.29</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>237.40</u>	<u>1,469,575.29</u>	<u>10,315.92</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Less: Deposits in Transit	10,140.18	60.00				
Add: O/S Checks	152,065.00	876.00	5,404.06			
Bank Balance 3/31/22	<u>4,428,717.11</u>	<u>816.00</u>	<u>5,641.46</u>	<u>1,469,575.29</u>	<u>10,315.92</u>	<u>0.00</u>

March 2022 Report

March 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022



Warrants

Active Warrants

46

Cleared Warrants YTD

21

EMS/Fire

EMS/Fire Calls

68

EMS/Fire Calls YTD

203

Arrests

Monthly

45

YTD

123

Total Incidents Month

455

Domestic Incidents Month

30

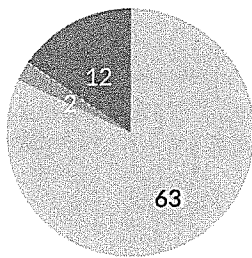
Total Incidents YTD

1347

Domestic Incidents YTD

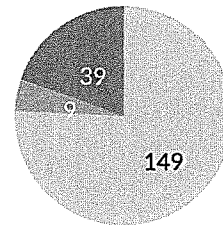
84

MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES 77

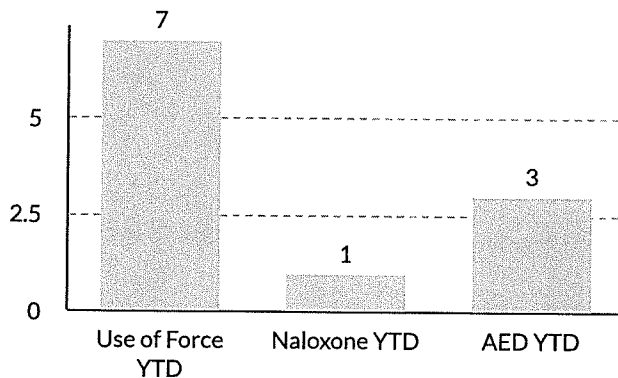


Misdemeanor (81.82%) Violation (2.6%)
Felony (15.58%)

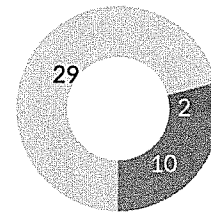
YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES 197



Misdemeanor (75.63%) Violation (4.57%)
Felony (19.8%)

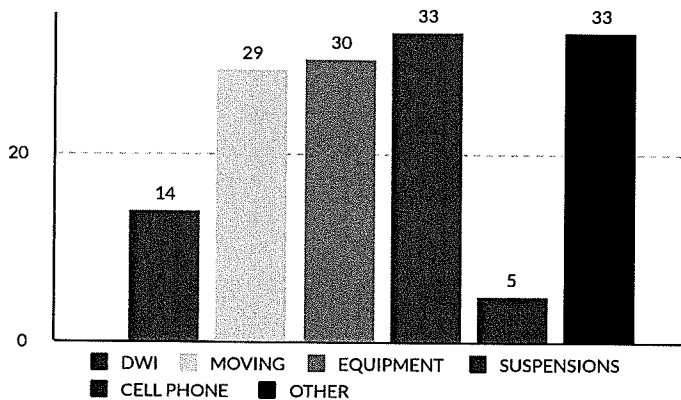


YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES



PROPERTY DAMAGE (70.73%)
PERSONAL INJURY (4.88%)
HIT AND RUN (24.39%)

MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS 144



YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS 418

