

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
October 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday October 11, 2023.

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 Sgambati	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Motion to accept the September 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler      Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4      NAYES: 0

Motion to accept the September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler      Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4      NAYES: 0

**Commissioner Reports:**

Mayor Butler had nothing to report.

Commissioner Seber stated they would be adding to resolutions to the agenda one of which is to allowing the City to put an RFQ for a water system improvement project and the other is to renew a contract with Honeywell Law Firm. He went on to say water bills were out and payment is due by October 31<sup>st</sup> without any penalty. Lastly, he announced there would be a budget workshop on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Senior Center.

Commissioner Sgambati gave condolences to his mechanic John on the loss of his wife. He stated there have been 2 additional water breaks one on Greenwood Avenue and one on Central Avenue. He added the DPW crews have been busy, they are starting to re-pave some of the water breaks, filling in potholes, keeping the grounds mowed and weed whacked, sporadically changing out street signs and poles and the street sweeper has been out. He added that on the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup> they are set to pave William Street, Saratoga Avenue, Frances Street, and Arnold Avenue.

Commissioner Hosley stated the sale for the Christmas Trees in the Park will run from 10/16-11/16 the price is \$60 and they are hoping to have them up the week of Thanksgiving. He added they had a very successful trip to the Casino. He stated they were supposed to have a resolution on the agenda for a new bus but they could not because the bus was sold, and the Flex bus alone does not fulfill the needs of our Seniors and the City having their own bus would offer going out to dinner once a week and this is sometimes it is the only time all week that people get out to be with others. He added it provides transportation to many events including school plays, concerts, Christmas tree lighting, events at the docks, and Family Day. He went on to say this is because of the bus driver Debbie who goes above and beyond for all of her riders, her thoughtfulness and caring for every passenger she is responsible has made her a friend to anyone who enters her bus. He added the bus is not just for Seniors but for everyone in the City and it never leaves the City so it is readily available for everyone. He read a letter from a Senior requesting the need for a bus and he recognized Patti Brown and Ethel Baisley for their tireless commitment to the Senior Center and stated they will be missed.

#### **Public Comment:**

Ray Martin of Tallmadge Place stated there is not enough discussions between the Council Members and went on to say he has been asking since 2016 that the City review the Code and Charter and the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested they all read the code of ethics and re-distribute them to their employees and board members. He stated he assumes the Council, their spouses, key employees, and committee members submitted the annual financial accounting statements to the State and the Commissioner of Accounts which was due for the year 2022.

Tamar Martin of Tallmadge Place protested adding another Code Enforcement Officer stating that this money could be used more efficiently elsewhere in the City and stated the City should have a part-time Code Enforcement Officer not a full-time, then she pointed out safety concerns within the City that need to be addressed. She asked again for the Council to table the resolution or to vote no.

Barb McGuire asked if the bus resolution could have been added to the special meeting agenda on September 26<sup>th</sup> would the City have a bus today.

Mayor Butler and Commissioner Seber stated they would have voted no then also.

Barb McGuire stated the care that Debbie gives is what the Seniors in the City desire. She went on to say that Debbie saved one of the Seniors lives by being so attentive of our Seniors. She asked if there has been an increase in the number of homes to be inspected.

Mayor Butler stated they now do two (2) family homes.

Barb McGuire stated there are not 1000 rental units in the City and the numbers don't add up. Barb asked what is going on as the part-time Code enforcement Officer is someone that worked with Kyle previously.

Mayor Butler stated there were two (2) applications received and the one that was not presented to be hired did not have the qualifications and the City would have had to pay him to be trained the one being presented has all the qualifications.

Barb McGuire asked where the job was advertised.

Commissioner Seber stated they were advertised in the Gazette and the Express.

Barb McGuire stated the City is focusing on Code Enforcement and should be focused on DPW and the Seniors.

Susan from 180 North Main Street stated there is a need for the bus and went on to say that going out to eat once a week is important to the Seniors but there is not enough room for everyone to go each week. She stated how wonderful Debbie and her husband are with the Seniors.

Doreen Kramer from 180 North Main Street spoke in favor of the bus and stated how much Debbie has helped her in so many ways.

Dave Hicks of First Avenue stated they shouldn't be worried about spending money on a bus since they replace equipment at DPW that doesn't need to be replaced. Dave complained about the number of times trucks go by with brush and leaves and stated they should be more worried about the water valves. He asked if the Code Enforcement Officers would be taking a civil service test.

Mayor Butler stated they would be and thinks it is coming up in January and added that it just came out they haven't offered one in the last four (4) years.

Dave Hicks stated they were patching today and it is raining which is useless. He asked why there can't be one day designated for building permits.

Mayor Butler stated every permit is different and you can submit them any day but you won't receive them immediately.

Dave Hicks asked about the reverse 911 system.

Commissioner Sgambati stated it was on the City website.

Dave Hicks asked if there was a schedule out to check the valves.

Josie from 180 North Main Street spoke about how important it is for the Seniors to have a bus. She mentioned they can't get to the Center for free food, they need it to go to the drug store, doctors and grocery shopping.

Marylou Kling from Lee Street asked how the City is preparing for the incoming administrations.

Mayor Butler stated he spoke with the two (2) people that are running for office and asked them to make contact with the current people in office and there has been no contact yet from anyone.

Marylou Kling stated she is more wondering if there will be calendars with deadlines on them, listings of ongoing projects for when someone new comes in. She added continuity within the departments has been a big issue. She asked if there were written policies.

Commissioner Seber stated he did not have one.

Marylou Kling stated there is a lot of common-sense stuff that should be done but is not.

Commissioner Seber stated she has no idea as to what is or is not being done in his office.

Marylou Kling stated the Finance Department has an unexpired Commissioner's term and asked if the incoming Commissioner would be sworn in immediately.

Commissioner Seber stated historically they are sworn in once the election is certified which takes about a week or ten (10) days.

Marylou Kling stated she sent emails to the entire Council back in September in reference to the General Code and has not received a response from anyone.

Michael Connors of Purdy Lane asked what the problems were with 911.

City Attorney Lyn Muphy stated she knows they were down for at least two (2) hours; she added it is the County's system.

Michael Connors asked for the status of the General Code project.

Commissioner Seber stated they are in the early stages of gathering their information.

Joann from the Midrise asked why they can't have a bus and stressed they need a bus, she added she went to the Plaza and she could not get the flex bus to come back and get here.

Mayor Butler stated that the CDTA flex bus transports about one hundred and five (105) people from Mechanicville to Clifton Park a day and they run from 7:00am- 8:00pm and the weekends

they run from 10:00am to 6:00pm and average about fifty-nine (59) people per day. He added this information was provided to him from CDTA. He added the City bus only runs from 9:30am to 1:00pm five (5) days a week and is off holidays.

Commissioner Hosley stated that if they get a new bus they have someone willing to work in the afternoon so it will run until 4:00pm.

Mayor Butler stated he is curious as to what the ridership is daily for the City transportation. He stated he is not sure why we have the van.

Barb McGuire stated the City bought the van for an overflow so that if the bus driver could not drive her or her Deputy could drive people, also if they had too many people on the bus they could bring both.

Debbie Urkevich status the ridership for the bus varies each today and added today she had thirteen (13) between the hours of 9:40am to 1:00pm. She added last week she was very busy but on rainy, cold, and snowy days she could have four (4). She added at the end of the month it is usually slow and she may only have three (3) or four (4) per day. She added the Seniors do need a bus.

Commissioner Hosley stated he heard someone comment that members of the Council do not like Seniors and he said that is absurd and they may have a difference of opinion than him as he feels strongly that a bus is needed but he respects their point of view.

Commissioner Seber stated one of the reasons is they are trying to expand the means of transportation to the Seniors and basically the Flex Bus has more availability to the Seniors.

Ethel Baisley of Eight Street stated she has been working in the Senior Center for about a year and she sees and hears a lot and the Seniors need help and they are not getting it from the City. She added the Flex bus will not help anyone on or off the bus and she saw someone almost fall getting on but the driver would not help. She believes the City should help the Seniors and feels they are not being treated right and she is disgusted.

Kim Dunn of South Main Street stated she is confused as to why a resolution was added in October for the Law Firm contract which was signed in June and why they are not putting out RFP's for them. She asked if the budget workshop would be livestreamed and if public comment would be allowed.

Commissioner Seber stated it would be livestreamed and he has not decided on public comment yet.

Kim Dunn stated they should be allowing public comment. She added it is alarming to her that they are not allowing the bus resolution to get onto an agenda and she added it is something that is needed. She added you can't put a price tag on the service that is provided by Debbie. She asked why they put the resolution on for bids if they were not going to approve having the bus.

Mayor Butler stated they did not know what the bus was going to cost.

Kim Dunn added they Council has been spending money that has not been budgeted for all year long so there is no excuse not to buy a bus. She went on to say they used to have a reverse 911 through Civic Ready that the City could use themselves but they stopped doing that and now they are dependent on someone else which isn't smart. She went on to say that they are adding things that are not needed but then are taking things away that are important. She added the City is being fiscally irresponsible and they need to do better.

**Resolutions:**

RESOLUTION 94-2023 USI Broker of Record Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4    NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 95-2023 Retirement

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 3    NAYS: 1

NAY: Commissioner Hosley

RESOLUTION 96-2023 Part-time Code Enforcement Officer

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 4    NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 97-2023 Resignation

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4    NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 98-2023 Mileage- Animal Control Officer

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 99-2023 Part-time Clerk

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 100-2023 Part-time Cleaner

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 3      NAYS: 1

NAY: Commissioner Seber

RESOLUTION 101-2023 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 102-2023 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 103-2023 Honeywell Contract

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 104-2023 RFQ for Water System Improvement Project

Moved by: Commissioner Seber  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 P.M

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 4      NAYS: 0