

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
March 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday March 13, 2024.

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

Commissioner Blodgett led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Motion to accept the February 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler      Seconded by: Commissioner Blodgett

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

**Commissioner Reports:**

Mayor Butler announced that Barton and Loguidice is beginning their Stormwater Engineering work, and they are looking for public comment from the citizens in reference to where they feel stormwater/rainwater poses an issue. He announced there would be a link on the webpage from March 13<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> for the residents to submit their public comment. He went on to say at the Chamber of Commerce meeting they had a historian from Saratoga County discussing the festivities they are planning for the upcoming Revolutionary War celebration and all the events will be listed on the Saratoga County website. He added that at that same meeting Tom Shimkus was invited to speak and the Chamber along with the City will be trying to do the DRI grant again.

Commissioner Blodgett gave the February report with is attached to the minutes and announced the last day to pay property taxes without penalty is Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>. She added her Deputy Commissioner has completed ENCON training so that she is able to issue hunting and fishing licenses and she has also begun training with New York State to become gold certified. Commissioner Blodgett thanked her team for a job well done.

Commissioner Martin updated the public she reached out to NYSEG to get the supporting documents so the large bill could be paid but she has not received a response from NYSEG. She

added they have the vast majority of the 2023 bills paid with a closeout date of 3/15 and added the deadline for the 2024 bills to be in is going to have to be in January. She added they are current on the 2024 bills but have a back log of the journal entries that need to be done. She went on to say the numbers on the payroll resolution encompass payroll taxes, employer contributions, voluntary withholdings for savings and retirement and the money from deductions for healthcare, union dues and other things like that. She gave a Treasurers report, and she congratulated the Accounts Department on a job well done with their first tax season. She added that if anyone is interested in serving on the City's committees to reach out to her and she will start a list.

Commissioner Sgambati stated the sweeper is undergoing routine maintenance and weather permitting will be going out next week and added they are training 2 new drivers for the sweeper so that it can go out more often so be patient and they trained a new employe on the vac truck. He added they are also training began spray painting around sewer manholes and storm drains that they need to tend to for fixing and repair. He added the two (2) new trucks on the agenda are budgeted for. Commissioner Sgambati stated he is in touch with the company doing the sewer project in the City and they will be coming back and renovating what they did but this probably wouldn't be done until April. He went on to say that NYSEG should be starting their project on the west side area and added that when NYSEG opens the road up they are in charge of tamping it down and re-paving as needed. He went on to say that he is not going to be paving any of these roads this year with the CHIPS money because he wants to let the ground settle and stuff before he paves it. Lastly, he stated he has seven (7) employees, his working Supervisor is out on personal leave, and now his water and sewer person is also going to be out on personal leave, which leaves him six (6) guys one of which has been on the job six (6) years and the rest have been on the job fourteen (14) months or less. He told the public they are doing the best they can with what they have and asked the residents to please be patient.

Commissioner Hosley announced they will be having a children's Easter celebration at the Senior Center from 1-3 pm on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> the Cloggers will be holding a dress rehearsal for a National Competition at the Senior Center from 1-3 pm. He went on to say the Mystery Market food giveaway that previously was held at the Senior Center has been moved to the Community Center. Lastly, he added he has the reports from the Animal Control Officer and the Mental Health report from the Community Center which are available after the meeting if anyone would like to see them.

Chief Rabbitt gave his monthly report which is attached to the minutes. He stated that he has talked about it before, that he will be retiring at the end of this contract which isn't for a couple more years but before he goes there are two (2) things on his list that he has not accomplished and would really like to get started. One of which is accreditation, and the other is to advocate for the construction of a new Police Station. He went on to say he has comprehensively reviewed the state of their current location and it is clear that investing in a modern purpose-built facility is not just desirable but is necessary for the well being and security of the Officers and the community. He stated they have been at the Fire station for a little over a year and while it is a marked improvement over the last facility, there is still a need to construct a new permanent station and give the fire department back the space that we moved into. He went onto say that if there needs to be confidential information or report a sensitive matter at the current location you

have to press a call box and wait outside in public until an Officer responds and the lack of privacy can hinder individuals from feeling comfortable disclosing important information which is critical for building trust between the law enforcement and the community members, and to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward, it's essential to provide confidential reporting options in a safe space for disclosure without fear of judgement or retaliation. He added that currently there are no effective ways to separate suspects from victims and providing these resources can lead to more effective crime solving and ultimately improve public safety. He went on to say the main focus is to prioritize the safety of the public and protect their space and that the current location was not meant to serve as a permanent location for the Police Department. He gave a few examples of incidents that have occurred recently where, and unruly suspect started slinging racist and sexist remarks or a physically aggressive suspect tries to provoke a volunteer fire fighter into a physical altercation and on top of all that they are sharing the same restrooms while they are inside. He informed the Council that at this time there are no designated changing areas for male and female officers and these facilities are essential for maintaining the privacy and dignity of the Officers, and this agency deals with many cases dealing with minors and currently they lack a designated area for interviewing and holding them separately. He went on to say that the Police Department has been a vital resource for our community and as they continue to expand their responsibilities, he urges the City Council to seriously consider in investing in a new station by providing our law enforcement officers with facilities, resources, and support, they can work towards a safer and more secure future for the City. Lastly, he stated on March 9<sup>th</sup> there was a call for a unconscious/unresponsive person, Sergeant McBride was in the area when the EMS call came out, he responded to the scene, it was a 53 year-old male he used the AED and did CPR and incredibly the gentleman came back to life. He stated he was transported to the hospital but is alive and walking around today. He added he will be putting an award together for him next month.

**Public Comment:**

Judy Levesque of Seventh Avenue asked the Council for help with her neighbors who have garbage all over their property, put their garbage out on her property, and change the oil in their cars on her property.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that once the City has a full-time Code Enforcement Officer more action can be taken, and citations can be issued but unfortunately there isn't a way to have everything removed immediately. She added New York State mandates a 30-day window for violations to be put into compliance.

Dave Hicks of First Avenue stated he can't understand why new trucks need to be purchased. He asked when comments on the drain can be submitted.

Mayor Butler told him from March 13<sup>th</sup>- April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Dave Hicks stated there were multiple vehicles that have been sold in the auction that still could be used.

Barb McGuire of Second Avenue stated she put in a FOIL request for the Code Enforcement Officer's compensation time and was disturbed as to what she found. She went on to discuss the amount of compensation time that was given. She stated none of his time sheets prove he worked any comp time. She went on to say it makes no sense that no one knows when he earned comp. time but is paid for it anyway.

Kim Dunn of South Main Street stated that when there are occupancies on board they need to be advertised and stated that in resolution 36-2024 the employee that is being hired needs to resign from his current title. She stated resolution 26-2024 has no amount listed and that she does not feel there is a need for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer and the salary is too high and they need to be more fiscally responsible. Lastly, she feels that when people take the time to come to the meetings and ask questions the Council should answer them.

Commissioner Blodgett stated the BAR appointment expired before she took office and with the BAR coming up so quickly, she reached out to other members on the BAR and that is how she came up with the individual that is being presented tonight. She added there is a very limited time since training needs to happen in April. She added in the future she will take her suggestions to get it out to the community to see who wants to participate.

Bill Connors of Purdy Lane questioned why the Council only meets once a month. He stated all other municipalities in the area meet twice and meeting once a month is just not enough time to get everything done. He went on to say that the City really needs to get a comprehensive plan together.

**Resolutions:**

RESOLUTION 25-2024 Nutrition Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Martin  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5    NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 26-2024 Bid Award Raw Water Pump Station Improvements Project

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5    NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 27-2024 Civil Service Amendment

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 28-2024 LOSAP

Moved by: Commissioner Martin  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 29-2024 Change in Assessment (12-14 South Central Avenue)

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Blodgett

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 30-2024 Change in Assessment (283 South Main Street)

Moved by: Commissioner Blodgett  
Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 31-2024 Code Enforcement Officer

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4 NAYS: 1

Nay: Commissioner Martin

RESOLUTION 32-2024 F550 Purchase

Moved by: Commissioner Martin  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 33-2024 Equipment/Installation F550

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati  
Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 34-2024 F350 Purchase

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 35-2024 Equipment/Installation F350

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 36-2024 Appointment Building Maintenance Mechanic

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 37-2024 Water System Improvement Project

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 38-2024 Termination

Moved by: Commissioner Sgambati  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 33-2024 Payroll

Moved by: Commissioner Martin  
Seconded by: Commissioner Blodgett

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 40-2024 BAR Appointment

Moved by: Commissioner Blodgett  
Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:14 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Martin  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati