

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
May 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday May 11, 2022.

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 Higgins	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Motion to accept the April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Johnson      Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5                      NAYES: 0

**Commissioner Reports:**

Mayor Butler stated he attended the Mechanicville Fire Departments banquet and wanted to mention that Joe Dugan was recognized for 75 years of service and thanked him for always looking out for the citizens of Mechanicville. He announced that there will be a Memorial Day ceremony on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Tallmadge Park and on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> the Veteran's Organization will begin to place flags on monuments beginning at 10:00 am at the Hudson View Cemetery. He went on to say the Central Avenue bid will be out on June 16<sup>th</sup> in which they are looking for a middle to end of July start date and NYSEG is continuing on the west side where they are doing gas main installation but are not beginning any house tie-ins at this time.

Commissioner Seber stated it is water collection time and bills are due on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He went on to say grievance day is May 24<sup>th</sup> and the Board of Assessment Review Committee will be at the Senior Center from 4-8 pm, it is highly recommended to make an appointment if you plan on challenging the new assessment and appointment can be made through the Assessor at 518-664-9884 Ext. 326 or by email [rachael.holbrook@mechanicvilleny.gov](mailto:rachael.holbrook@mechanicvilleny.gov). He stated they will see walk-ins but the residents with appointments will be handled first. He also stated that appointments are being scheduled in 10 min increments so if a resident owns more than one property they should make an appointment for each property they are challenging.

Commissioner Johnson gave his treasurers report which is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Higgins stated they would be hooking up the lights for the Hemstreet Park Bridge on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> and on Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> the bridge would have one lane traffic as they will be making repairs under the bridge.

Commissioner Hosley stated the Duck Derby will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm on the dock and they will be hosting a fishing clinic on June 24<sup>th</sup> and applications are available in his office. He added the Seniors went on a trip to see a presentation of the Wizard of Oz and everyone had a great day. He went on to say the banners are selling great and at this point they have about 139 sold, they are having some delays getting them hung but other than that they look really good.

**Public Comment:**

Dave Hicks of First Avenue asked why the former Mayor is at City Hall.

Mayor Butler stated he is a taxpayer and is allowed in the building, he added he does not discuss City business with the former Mayor or any other past Official that comes into the office.

Dave Hicks asked why the City's water is different, he stated the texture is different and there are pockets of bubbles.

Mayor Butler stated the hydrants are being flushed which began on Monday so that may be why.

Dave Hicks asked why the firehouse lights are on all night.

Mayor Butler stated he will reach out to one of the Chief's to find out the answer to that.

Marylou Cebula of 28 Lee Street stated that in reference to the Times Union article, the City is only five (5) months into the new term and it is important to consider the issues that were left behind by the former DPW Commissioner. She added there seems to be more to the story and stated she feels the issues aren't about the leadership itself but the fact the Department now has leadership and some of the employees don't like that. She asked what the breakeven point was for the re-assessments and if GAR has access to any of the City's computers.

Commissioner Seber stated GAR has access to the Assessors computer but all access is through the City's IT department.

Marylou Cebula stated the former Mayor is in City Hall all the time and sometimes three (3) or four (4) times a day. She added the Home Grant application on the webpage is from 2015. She also asked in reference to employees hours and working from home if there has been any instances of any City utilities being shut off or any shut off notices been received and if any employee's paycheck has ever bounced.

Tom Mahoney of The Express asked if a Supervisor can decline an employee getting a CDL license.

Commissioner Higgins state the employee wanted training and he told him when the plows were off the truck they would train him. He added he doesn't know of anyone else that has ever been trained.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated to Commissioner Higgins that he is free to answer anyway that he wants but reminded him, although she doesn't handle the labor issues, there are pending grievances regarding the issue so she cautioned him.

Tom Mahoney stated there seems to be a lack of communication and is hoping they can sit down and work it out. He asked why 10 Industrial Park road is only assessed at \$600,000.

Kim Dunn of 250 South Main Street stated the contract with GAR is not being followed and three of the Commissioner were not aware of it and that is concerning to her. She went on to say it is Commissioner Johnson's responsibility to make sure the taxpayers are not paying for services no being rendered. She asked where the updated contract was and if a resolution would need to be passed to sign a new contract. She asked if any Commissioner contested their assessments.

No one said they did.

Kim Dunn asked City Attorney Lyn Murphy if she would advise the City to pay for services that are not rendered and if there needs to be a new contract. She also asked Commissioner Seber if he felt 10 minutes was enough time for an appointment on grievance day.

Commissioner Seber stated he does because all that is being done is they are taking information from the resident, there isn't a lot of discussion at that point. He added the Board of Assessment Review Committee then takes the information provided and at a later date review the information and makes a decision.

Kim Dunn stated there was an opening on the Board of Assessment Review Committee and there is no rhyme or reason how the new members are chosen and the residents are not given the opportunity. She asked what he breakeven point was.

Darlene McGraw of 4 North Point Halfmoon stated she submitted a FOIL request which was answered in a timely manner asking how many people work for the City regardless of their position and the answer she received was thirty (30) and she stated that does not seem correct.

John Snyder of Park Avenue asked why the flag at the Park Avenue playground has been at half-staff for over 2 years, the bathroom doors are open all night, kids are playing loud music, and the rafters are coming through the roof of the building. He went on to say the lighting at the playground has been updated but they lights have not been on yet and they one gate to the playground remains open all the time. He commended Commissioner Higgins for doing a great job.

Commissioner Seber stated he wants to address the breakeven point that has been questioned. He went on to explain the City is broken into four (4) different neighborhoods when the update is being done. He added the total tentative numbers for the City's assessment went up 52 million dollars for total taxable assessment. He stated if you were to take the additional 52 million dollars and plug it into the 2021/2022 budget the tax rate would go from \$10.90 per \$1000 to \$9.10 per \$1000 which means if a property was assessed at about 20% more you are at about a breakeven point from where you are currently. He went on to give an example and stated he is using numbers where the math is easy: if a property is assessed at \$200,000 under the current assessment the City tax bill for that property would be \$2182.80. With the re-assessment if 20% is added it would bring the assessment to \$240,000 and the tax bill this year would be \$2175.96 which is actually \$7 less. He went on to say that about 72% of the properties in the City of Mechanicville will be the same or less than they are now. We added if your property is below the 20% mark the City taxes will go down. He said that those who come to the podium and say they are advocating for the taxpayers and are opposed to the re-assessment are really not helping the taxpayers. Commissioner Seber stated the people who are above the 20% mark will pay more and they should because their properties are worth more, it is a fairness issue. He ended by saying there is a \$0 increase in tax levy.

**Resolutions:**

RESOLUTION 44-2022 School Fuel Agreement

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 45-2022 Board of Assessment Review Committee Appointment

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 46-2022 CDTA Agreement

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 47-2022 Video Conferencing

Moved by: Commissioner Seber  
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

Commissioner Seber explained a Law was signed by Governor Hochul and is optional for municipalities but the City felt that is important in case something like COVID ever occurs again the City will be able to videoconference.

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 48-2022 Cleaner/Groundskeeper

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 49-2022 Workplace Violence Policy

Moved by: Commissioner Seber  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 50-2022 Amendment of Resolution 29-2021

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 51-2022 Dam Improvements

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 52-2022 Hill Street Drainage Bid Award

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Higgins

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 53-2022 Termination

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 54-2022 New Hire DPW Laborer

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 55-2022 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson  
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 56-2022 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Higgins  
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Executive Session: 6:52pm

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

Close Meeting: 7:18P.M

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Seber

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

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

	Balance 4/1/2022	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 4/30/2022
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Checking	4,286,392.29	439,710.01	1,208,034.27	3,518,068.03
Petty Cash	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<u>4,286,792.29</u>	<u>439,710.01</u>	<u>1,208,034.27</u>	<u>3,518,468.03</u>
<b>City Clerk Account</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>860.00</u>	<u>860.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Payroll</b>	<u>237.40</u>	<u>176,892.93</u>	<u>178,038.17</u>	<u>-907.84</u>
<b>Capital Fund</b>	<u>1,469,575.29</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,469,575.29</u>
<b>Escrow Account</b>	<u>10,315.92</u>	<u>1.36</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,317.28</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	68,827.04	750.00	0.00	69,577.04
<b>Total Community Development</b>	<u>68,827.04</u>	<u>750.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>69,577.04</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<u>5,842,612.80</u>	<u>618,214.30</u>	<u>1,386,932.44</u>	<u>5,073,894.66</u>



# City of Mechanicville

## Treasurer's Report for the Month of April 2022

	General Fund	City Clerk	Payroll	Capital Fund	Escrow Account	Central Ave Drain
Balance 4/1/22						
Checking	4,286,392.29	0.00	237.40	1,469,575.29	10,315.92	0.00
Petty Cash	400.00					
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,286,792.29</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>237.40</b>	<b>1,469,575.29</b>	<b>10,315.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Add Cash Receipts:						
Taxes, Penalties & Interest	113,344.43					
School Taxes & Penalties	22,073.23					
Water & Sewer Revenues	17,398.06					
Sales Tax	218,901.00					
State Aid and Grants	0.00					
Interest					1.36	
Transfers			176,892.93			
Capital Projects						
BAN/Bond Proceeds						
Other	67,993.29	860.00				
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>439,710.01</b>	<b>860.00</b>	<b>176,892.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Less Cash Disbursements:						
Payrolls	175,889.00		178,038.17			
Warrants	1,028,939.02	860.00				
Debt Service Payments	3,206.25					
Transfers	0.00					
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>1,208,034.27</b>	<b>860.00</b>	<b>178,038.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Book Balance 4/30/22	3,518,468.03	0.00	-907.84	1,469,575.29	10,317.28	0.00
Less: Deposits in Transit	6,304.59	50.00				
Add: O/S Checks	132,660.13	860.00	5,649.72			
<b>Bank Balance 4/30/22</b>	<b>3,644,823.57</b>	<b>810.00</b>	<b>4,741.88</b>	<b>1,469,575.29</b>	<b>10,317.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>

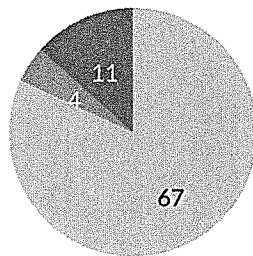
# April 2022 Report

April 1, 2022 - April 30, 2022



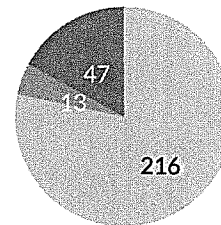
Warrants	EMS/Fire	Arrests	Total Incidents Month	Total Incidents YTD
Active Warrants <b>46</b>	EMS/Fire Calls <b>59</b>	Monthly <b>50</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1773</b>
Cleared Warrants YTD <b>24</b>	EMS/Fire Calls YTD <b>262</b>	YTD <b>173</b>	Domestic Incidents Month <b>29</b>	Domestic Incidents YTD <b>113</b>

## MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES 82

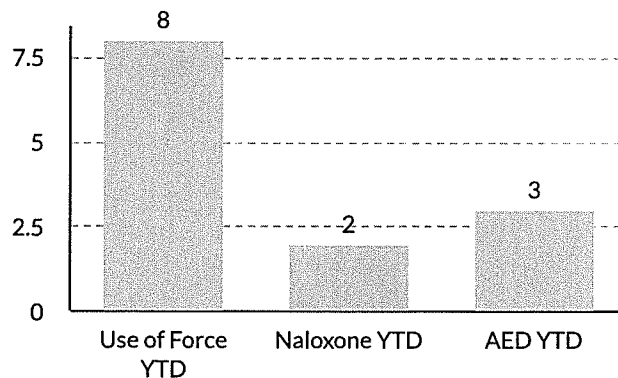


Misdemeanor (81.71%) Violation (4.88%)  
Felony (13.41%)

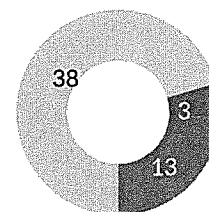
## YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES 276



Misdemeanor (78.26%) Violation (4.71%)  
Felony (17.03%)

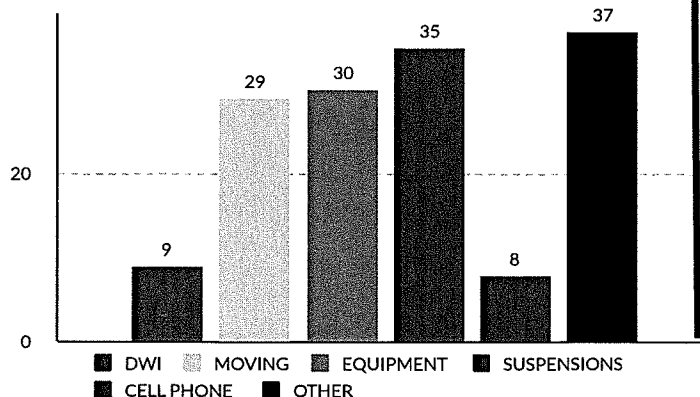


## YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES



PROPERTY DAMAGE (70.37%)  
PERSONAL INJURY (5.56%)  
HIT AND RUN (24.07%)

## MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS 148



## YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS 566

