

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
June 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday June 8, 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	Absent
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Motion to accept the May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Mayor Butler Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4 NAYES: 0

Commissioner Reports:

Mayor Butler stated he met with Barton and Loguidice earlier in the day in reference to the Hill Street Drainage project, Prime Construction would be doing the job and hoping to begin on July 11th. He went on to say that DOT will be collecting bid for the Central Avenue paving on June 16th and would take about 30 days to review and set up a contract so they are hoping end of July beginning of August begin time. He went on to thank Evolution Construction for the work they did on the Zim Smith Trail, they laid crusher stone (which was provided by the City) and smoothed it all out, and it was a \$5800 project in which they donated all of their services. Mayor Butler read an email submitted by Commissioner Higgins, it is attached to the minutes. He went on to say that he will be taking over the duties during Commissioner Higgins absence and that he has a resolution on the agenda to make Matt Coreno a working Supervisor. He gave the Fire Departments monthly report which is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Seber stated that he has no idea if the proposed concrete project off of Farley Road will have any impact on the City's watershed but they will be looking into how it may or may not impact the City and if it does they will be on top of it and will be paying attention to how it all goes.

Commissioner Hosley asked if it is approved can the City control the truck route.

Commissioner Seber stated he does not think they can.

Mayor Butler added they would have to follow the truck route that is already in place through the City.

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

Commissioner Hosley stated that the concert in the park originally scheduled for June 7th was cancelled and rescheduled for June 14th at 6:30 pm. He went on to say the County is providing funding to completely remodel the solarium at the Senior Center where they will be growing food and flowers. He went on to say the Duck Derby will be held on Friday night from 4:30 - 7:30 pm where there will be food, games, music and a fishing contest for all ages and they do have prizes. He went on to say the Hudson River Fishing Association will be on the City Dock on June 25th for a fishing clinic with classes at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 2:00pm. Commissioner Hosley announced Family Day will be held on July 9th they have two (2) bands scheduled, rides, 23 vendors and McDonalds will be holding breakfast. Lastly, he announced they have 178 banners sold and since Friday when they put a group of them up they sold 33.

Chief Rabbitt gave his monthly report which is attached to the minutes.

Public Hearing:

Commissioner Seber announced he would be opening the floor for a public hearing on Local Law 1 regarding videoconferencing. He went on to say when the State budget was passed there was a provision included that stated if a local municipality or government jurisdiction wanted to be able to have remote meeting they need to have this local law on the books. He added that he hopes they will never have to have remote meetings again but if it does the City will be in a position to have the meetings. He opened the floor to the public.

Marylou Cebula of Lee Street asked if the entire Council would be videoconferencing or if it was just if a member couldn't attend.

Commissioner Seber added it is not just for Council meetings it is for any Board meetings where a quorum is needed.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated there still has to be a quorum present at the meeting unless there is a State or Local Emergency declared by the Governor, City or County otherwise a quorum needs to be physically present in the room and then other members could be videoconferenced in.

Marylou Cebula asked how public comment would be handled in this type of situation.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it would be handled the same as it previously was done and can be done via zoom.

Kim Dunn recapped what was said and asked if the public could watch and ask questions.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated just because a meeting is being done by videoconference doesn't mean the public isn't allowed to attend, it could be if a board member breaks their leg and wants to videoconference in they are able to but previously if you couldn't physically attend a meeting you could not be included into the meeting.

Public Comment:

Barb McGuire of South Second Street asked who is responsible for making sure all aspects of signed contracts are carried out specifically the contract signed with GAR. She went on to say the contract signed with GAR stated they would be doing all informal reviews but that was not the case as the Assessor did them. She asked if the discussion was had and by whom that the contract be altered and asked how much extra time the Assessor was paid to do the reviews. She also asked that since the contract was changed should it have been voted on by the Council. Lastly, she asked if anyone on the Council present or past has any personal relationships or related to anyone associated with GAR.

Commissioner Seber stated he is responsible for the discussions with GAR to put the process forward and said he knows what the contract reads and a discussion was had that GAR was going to handle the commercial informals and the Assessor would do the rest. He added he does not know of anyone that has any personal relations with GAR. Commissioner Seber went on to say he did some approximate calculations as to the time the Assessor put in and that after a conversation was had with GAR they agreed to reduce their bill by \$1500 which is the approximate figure he came up with.

Barb McGuire asked if something should be in writing that the contract was amended.

Commissioner Seber stated he has an email stating they will reduce the price.

Barb McGuire asked the City Attorney if there should be something in writing.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated it is the first she is hearing of it and if they made a commitment, have an email stating that, and provided the money there is not much more that can be done.

Barb McGuire asked if the City received the money yet.

Commissioner Seber stated they have not but they will as they agreed on the price.

Marylou Cebula told Commissioner Hosley the banners look great and asked the dates Commissioner Higgins would be on leave and what the deadline was for the City to replace a Commissioner on the ballot.

Mayor Butler stated he was informed by Bill Fruci the date was August 8th.

Marylou Cebula asked what happens if he resigns after August 8th.

Commissioner Seber stated they would probably appoint someone on a more permanent basis until the next election but they are not 100% sure of what they will do.

Marylou Cebula asked if he doesn't resign by August 8th would the City Council appoint someone for an undetermined amount of time.

Commissioner Seber stated that would be an option but the Council does not have to appoint anyone and if they did it would only be until the next election not fulfilling the term.

Marylou Cebula asked if he does resign what actions will the Council take to fill the position and if they will continue with the replacement until the election or would they canvas for candidates.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated there is nothing in the Charter that requires them to canvas for candidates.

Marylou Cebula asked if the Mayor was taking over strictly the administrative tasks and the Working Supervisor does the rest.

Mayor Butler stated he is assisting him and is working 20 hours a week.

Marylou Cebula stated in the past there were several occasions where the DPW Commissioner was absent and the Mayor has filled in without compensation, she would like to know what makes this different.

Commissioner Seber stated the current Commissioner is taking unpaid leave so if the resolutions are passed the Mayor and Working Supervisor will be paid from the Commissioners budget line.

Marylou Cebula stated although she was not a big propionate of the past Mayor he did the job for no pay.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated for the past cases there were no definitive dates it was more sporadic and went on to say the Charter calls for "the Mayor shall designate himself/herself or some member of the City Council to perform the administrative duties" of a Council Member if they are unable.

Marylou Cebula asked if they had the percentages of whose assessments went up/down and asked how many people grieved their assessments.

Commissioner Seber stated they would have them sometime in the beginning of July and roughly 50 people grieved their assessments.

Marylou Cebula added that Commissioner Seber made a statement at the last meeting that anyone who opposes the re-assessment is against the taxpayers and she took offense to that.

Commissioner Seber stated he did say that he did say that and he didn't mean that they weren't coming to defend the taxpayers but he does not think they realize what they are arguing because they do not understand the process.

Kim Dunn of South Main Street stated she also took offense to the comment and asked how the City is okay with paying GAR \$48,000 for services they did not do and giving back \$1500 is definitely not enough and added she does not know how he is here for the taxpayers if he is okay with it. She went on to say she understands they need to have someone like Matt with 20 years' experience to oversee DPW but added it isn't the first time a Mayor/Commissioner had to take over for another Commissioner and they were not compensated so she does not agree with the Mayor being paid for this. She asked if there have been any Memorandum of Agreements for any employees in any departments for January 1, 2022 to the present.

Commissioner Seber stated he knows there were some but not sure if they were this year or last year and added any MOA's are done by resolution.

Kim Dunn asked if they were to do on does it have to be done by resolution.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated that was not the case and although she does not handle the labor part she does know there are some that specifically are not to come through resolution because they are personnel issues.

Kim Dunn asked if PBA contracts or CSEA contracts would.

Commissioner Seber stated it is not necessarily required but they do resolutions for them.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated she believes Commissioner Seber is saying there has not been a change to the Union Contract or the Labor Agreement.

Commissioner Seber agreed with City Attorney Lyn Murphy.

City Attorney Lyn Murphy stated if Kim is asking if there has been some sort of whatever with a specific person he is not answering that question.

Kim Dunn stated she is asking if there has been anything from January 1, 2022 to today.

Commissioner Seber stated not to his recollection if they agree that an MOA is a change to the contract.

Tom Mahoney asked if GAR only handled the commercial evaluations.

Commissioner Seber stated that was correct, they did the commercial informal reviews, but when it came to the assessments GAR did the entire City.

Tom Mahoney asked why GAR was giving money back.

Commissioner Seber stated he did an estimate of what additional costs occurred for the Assessor based on the number of hours she worked over and above normal hours to address informals.

Tom Mahoney asked if Commissioner Higgins would be informing if he was returning by the end of June or July.

Mayor Butler re-read the email it was the end of July.

Tom Mahoney stated that by August 8th they would know if he is working or not so the point is mute.

Commissioner Johnson said technically he could say he is taking two more months or whatever so the point would not be mute.

John Snyder of Park Avenue commended the Police as there a drug transaction near the Park Avenue Playground that he witnessed, he called the Police, they were there within minutes and located the individual and an arrest was made.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 57-2022 Department of Public Works Administrator

Commissioner Seber asked to amend the resolution to read effective date June 3, 2022 there was no opposition.

Moved by: Commissioner Seber

Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0

Abstain: Mayor Butler

RESOLUTION 58-2022 Working Supervisor

Commissioner Seber asked to amend the resolution to read effective date June 3, 2022 there was no opposition.

Moved by: Mayor Butler

Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 59-2022 Phone System Expansion

Moved by: Commissioner Seber
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 60-2022 Videoconferencing Local Law

Moved by: Mayor Baker
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 61-2022 Recreational Supervisor

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 62-2022 Recreational Leader

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 63-2022 Recreational Leader

Moved by: Mayor Butler
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 64-2022 Recreational Leader

Moved by: Commissioner Hosley
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 65-2022 Budget Amendment

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION 66-2022 Payroll and Vouchers

Moved by: Commissioner Johnson
Seconded by: Mayor Butler

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Close Meeting: 6:43 P.M.

Moved by: Mayor Butler
Seconded by: Commissioner Johnson

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

From: dave.higgins
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 12:03 PM
To: mike.butler
Cc: mark.seber; keith.johnson; fred.hosley
Subject: Leave of absence

Dear Mayor and City Council members:

This email is to inform you that Wednesday June 2nd will be my last working day. I will be taking a 2 month leave of absence with no comp considerations.

Thank you. I will notify you by the end of July of my intentions going forward.

David J. Higgins
City of Mechanicville
Commissioner of Public Works

Mechanicville Fire Department

36 North Main Street
Mechanicville, New York 12118
Tel: (518) 664-6121 Fax: (518) 664-6123

**Chief
Matthew Dunn**

**Deputy Chief
Alexander Dunn**

**Assistant Chief
Nickolas Dunn**

May 2022 Chief's Report

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS
111 - Building fire	2
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	43
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1
442 - Overheated motor	1
444 - Power line down	1
500 - Service Call, other	1
600 - Good intent call, other	3
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	6
Total Incidents:	61

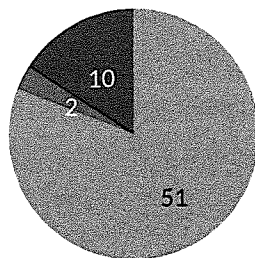
May 2022 Report

May 1, 2022 - May 31, 2022

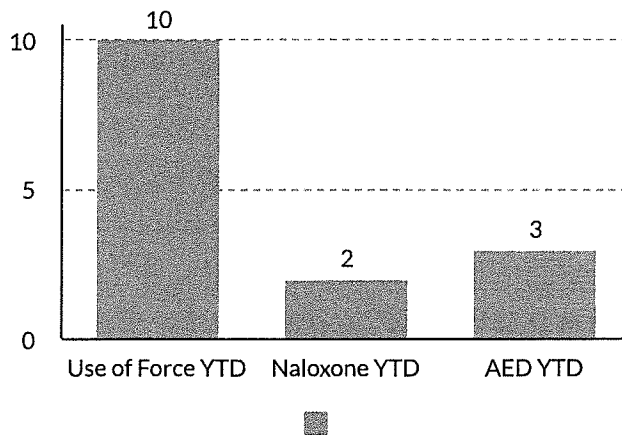


Warrants	EMS/Fire	Arrests	Total Incidents Month	Total Incidents YTD
Active Warrants 47	EMS/Fire Calls 63	Monthly 44	479	2252
Cleared Warrants YTD 31	EMS/Fire Calls YTD 325	YTD 217	Domestic Incidents Month 22	Domestic Incidents YTD 135

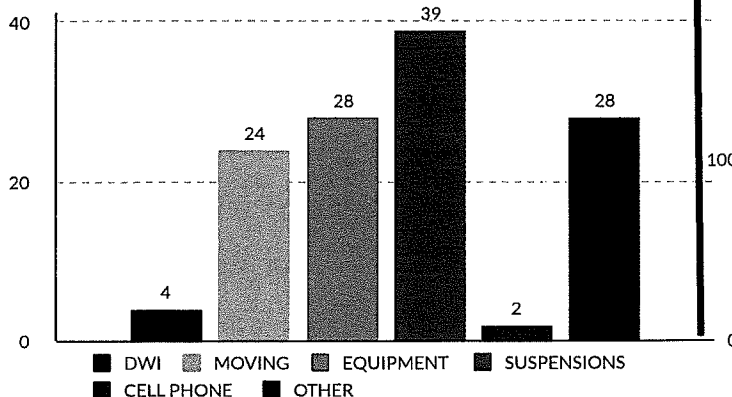
MONTHLY ARREST CHARGES 63



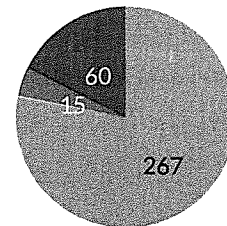
Misdemeanor (80.95%) Violation (3.17%)
Felony (15.87%)



MONTHLY TRAFFIC TICKETS 125

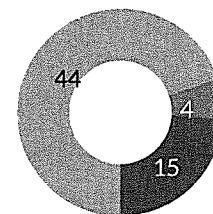


YEAR TO DATE ARREST CHARGES 342



Misdemeanor (78.07%) Violation (4.39%)
Felony (17.54%)

YTD TRAFFIC CRASHES



PROPERTY DAMAGE (69.84%)
PERSONAL INJURY (6.35%)
HIT AND RUN (23.81%)

YEAR TO DATE TRAFFIC TICKETS 691

