

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON
April 3, 2024

The special meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Senior Center, 178 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Wednesday April 3, 2024.

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 Blodgett	Present
	Commissioner Martin	Present
	Commissioner Sgambati	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

Commissioner Martin started off by saying this is only the second special meeting she has called, and it should have been better advertised and she will be allowing public comment. She went on to explain that in August they had agreed that they would be looking into purchasing a firetruck and once they decided on it there is a considerable amount of time in delay of ordering it and the manufacturer schedules are not always exact. She went on to say received word from Chief Dunn that the truck would be ready early and asked if the financing would be all set. She added that due to delays in her office the financing is still in progress. Commissioner Marting stated that they had a few options, the first was to obtain a BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) which is short term financing until the long term can be approved. She added the problem with the BAN is it typically has a higher interest rate than the Bond which is a considerable expense to the City and would have been tight to try and get that done by the April 1st deadline. The second option was to take the money from the general fund temporarily to pay for the truck and then the City will not have to pay any interest and can get the truck as soon as it is available. She added the City is in a good financial position so it will not impact the City in any way and once the bond is received the general fund will be replenished. She added she is proposing taking \$990,000 from the general fund for a period of up to three (3) months while the bond financing is finalized. She added that the City recently had a BAN that was paid off and it was roughly \$27,000 for two (2) months interest.

Mayor Butler added that the reason the City wanted the truck so soon is because the City can save at least \$250,000 by buying it off the assembly line. He added when the fire department came to the City, they knew there was going to be some short-term borrowing. He added at first, he was apprehensive about the number, but he reached out to the City's bonding companies and there are three (3) different options, but the City would like the USDA simply because theirs come with a potential \$50,000 grant.

Public Comment:

Kim Dunn of South Main Street stated her issues are not with getting a new firetruck, but with the process, lack of transparency, and late notice of meeting. She stated if she does not look at the website every day, she will miss a meeting and that is not acceptable. She suggested someone reach out to the Express and have him put it on the facebook page. She asked if the City does not need a plan B, and if the City is guaranteed the money. She asked if anyone had it in writing. She added everyone knew this truck was coming and should have been better prepared.

Dave Hicks of First Avenue stated he cannot understand how there is such a variation between the virtual date and the actual date of possession.

Fire Chief Nick Dunn stated that you get a relative time whether it states within three (3) months or four (4) months and then they can call you and say you need to be here within three (3) weeks to come check it out. They gave us about a two (2) week window to go inspect the truck and after that they do some updates and then it comes to the local sales rep.

Dave Hicks asked what the “all in” cost of the truck was.

Commissioner Martin stated that the total outright cost is \$990,000.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 41-2024 Fire Truck Funding

Moved by: Commissioner Blodgett
Seconded by: Commissioner Martin

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 6:23 P.M.

Moved by: Commissioner Blodgett
Seconded by: Mayor Butler