

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
February 27, 2023

The Special meeting of the Mechanicville City Council was held at the Mechanicville City Court, 36 North Main Street, Mechanicville, New York on Monday February 27, 2023.

Mayor Butler: Called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

Mayor Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:	Mayor Butler	Present
	Commissioner Seber	Present
	Commissioner Johnson	Present
	Commissioner Sgambati	Present
	Commissioner Hosley	Present

**Public Hearing (Firefighter Exemption):**

Marylou Cebula stated she was at the meeting representing The Express and had a few questions. She asked if the Local Law is passed do the firefighters need to notify the City or does it go in effect automatically and asked if there were requirements or just being an active volunteer was enough

Commissioner Seber stated that as he understands it, the Fire Department needs to give the Assessor a list on an annual basis of the active members. He went on to say they need to be an active volunteer for at least two (2) consecutive years.

Mayor Butler stated if you are an active volunteer for twenty (20) years you are exempt for life.

Marylou Cebula asked if there were any Senior or Veteran exemptions.

Commissioner Seber stated there is a Senior exemption that the income threshold was just raised last year and the Veterans exemption is offered through the County.

Commissioner Seber stated he has a copy of the Bill and will give everyone a copy if they would like it.

Dave Hicks asked if all Mechanicville volunteers have to live in the City.

Commissioner Seber stated they need to live in the City, the house needs to be owner occupied and you can not get it if you are a renter.

Kim Dunn stated she read the Governor signed into Law three (3) different bills to reduce property tax for Volunteer Firefighters, Veteran's, and Seniors over sixty-five (65) she asked if this was something different than when they talked about raising the threshold for Seniors.

Commissioner Seber stated the Senior and Veteran exemption does not seem to be very clear and the Assessor is working to get the information on it.

Kim Dunn asked if by voting today it would go into effect in 2024.

Commissioner Seber stated it goes into effect as soon as it is filed with the Secretary of State which will be today or tomorrow. He went on to say it would go into effect for the City taxes in the year 2024.

Kim Dunn stated that if someone has over twenty (20) years, you would get the list from the Fire Department once and they would be all set.

Mayor Butler stated that was correct, but it doesn't say who in the Fire Department needs to submit it.

Commissioner Seber stated there is a \$200 tax credit on volunteers' taxes but they cannot get both.

Mayor Butler stated if someone rents, they can get the \$200 tax credit.

Kim Dunn asked if we have a volunteer here in Mechanicville but they live in Stillwater and Stillwater has passed the same law do they qualify for the exemption?

Mayor Butler stated that according to the City Attorney it was not written in the Legislation that way, but she will look into it more. He added it is not something the City can control it needs to come from the State.

### **Local Law:**

#### **Local Law 01-2023 Firefighter Exemption**

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Hosley

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

Close Meeting: 10:19 A.M.

Moved by: Mayor Butler  
Seconded by: Commissioner Sgambati

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

