

Minutes City of Mechanicsville  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
November 13, 2023

The Mechanicsville City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 102 N John Street, Mechanicsville. Mayor Andrew Oberbreckling called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present for roll call were Amy Bishop, Adam Paidar, Randy Brown, Doug Weber, and Jen Lester. Others present included Daniel Pike, Meredith Dehmer, Lonni Koch, Jake Koch, Josh Miller, Donna Paup, Dan Paidar, Dan Baker, Deb Himes, Lori Johnson, Margaret Glover, Lena, Carol Lamont, Nancy Kainz, Angie Brown, Jean Miller, Tracy Miller, Alex Paidar, Ryan Steinberg, Caleb Galloway, Matt Shields, and Bob Steen.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Amy Bishop motioned, Randy Brown seconded to approve the consent agenda including the agenda, the minutes from 10/10/23; the finance reports, and claims. Roll call vote: Ayes: Bishop, Paidar, Brown, Weber and Lester. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The following claims were approved:

STATE OF IOWA	SALES AND WET TAX	\$692.30
ACE HARDWARE	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$67.97
AIRGAS NORTH CENTRAL	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$831.95
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS EXPENSE	\$6,216.17
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$271.11
BADGER METER	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$17.52
BAKER & TAYLOR	LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$479.86
BANKERS BANK	POSTAGE/SHIPPING	\$94.71
CAR QUEST AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$360.32
CASEYS GENERAL STORE	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$1,870.23
CEDAR COUNTY SHERIFFS RESERVES	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$480.00
CEDAR COUNTY SOLID WASTE	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$2,395.00
CEDAR VALLEY MOBILITY	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$930.00
CHALLIS ENTERPRISES	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$2,100.00
CHASE CARD SERVICES	POSTAGE/SHIPPING	\$217.49
CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES INC	MEDICAL/WELLNESS EXPENSE	\$270.00
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT	COURT & RECORDING FEES	\$380.00
COPPESS, LINDA	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
CROCK, JO ANN	TRAINING	\$606.56
CVIKOTA	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$888.22
DANIEL PIKE	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$307.48
DELTA DENTAL	GROUP INSURANCE	\$354.18
DEMCO	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$52.07
DINGES FIRE COMPANY	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$1,040.00
ENTWISLE, ANGIE	JANITORIAL EXPENSE	\$330.00
ERIC STORJOHANN	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$250.00
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	GROUP INSURANCE	\$120.02
HAWKINS INC	CHEMICALS	\$342.00
IOWA ECONOMIC DEVEL AUTH	ASSOCIATION DUES	\$300.00
IOWA RURAL WATER	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$355.00
JOHN DEER FINANCIAL	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$55.46

JOHNS LOCK & KEY	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$231.00
KOCH, LONNI	ASSOCIATION DUES	\$474.54
KOCHS SERVICE & SUPPLY LLC	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$248.85
LYNCH DALLAS	LEGAL EXPENSE	\$709.50
MATT PARROTT & SONS CO	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,008.33
MECHANICSVILLE TELEPHONE CO	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$452.33
MEYER, MEGAN	TRAINING	\$702.58
OVESON REFUSE & RECYCLING LLC	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$3,150.00
POSITIVE PROMOTIONS	SAFETY SUPPLIES	\$242.53
QUILL	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$524.56
SCHEER, STEVE	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$1,800.00
SCOTT, RICKY	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$622.00
SUMMIT COMPANIES	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$30.00
TIPTON CONSERVATIVE & ADVERTIS	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$228.39
TNT TUCKPOINTING	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$1,860.00
UNITY POINT HEALTH	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$13.86
US CELLULAR	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$105.91
VEENSTRA & KIMM	ENGINEERING EXPENSE	\$159.00
WELLMARK BC BS	GROUP INSURANCE	\$13,343.33
WELTER STORAGE EQUIPMENT CO	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$475.00
WENDLING QUARRIES INC	STREET MAINT EXP	\$182.91
WRIGHT WAY TRAILERS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$376.64
PAYROLL	WAGES	18,470.71

**Total Receipts and Disbursements for month of October by fund**

Fund	Receipts	Disbursements
General	146,337.17	23,478.29
Road Use Tax	11,451.61	6,040.90
Employee Benefit	58,520.37	10,376.30
Local Opt Sales Tax	9,830.58	
Library Trust Fund	101.298	
Ambulance Trust Fund	9,717.86	3,395.86
Debt Service	11,897.72	
Water Utility	9,039.77	2,749.14
Sewer Utility	34,547.40	26,547.17
Solid Waste	11,708.83	5,981.48
Storm Water Utility	1,222.88	6.60
Water Deposit	100.00	

**Receive visitors/public comment:** Bob Steen, as a member of the Economic Development Commission, shared with the council that 20 years ago they purchased ½ of 40 Acres which now contains the new school, ballfields, and the FFA plot; they have an opportunity to purchase the remaining 20 acres north of the school. Bob suggests that this is an opportunity for the city to invest in themselves. He does have 45 days to make a decision on whether to complete the purchase and would like to see the city or school as partners, as more housing means more students, and more revenue for the city. There are 6 lots left in the Sandberg addition and 3 houses have went up in the last 3 years.

## **REPORTS:**

**Ambulance Report:** Lonni Koch reported 19 calls for October, and 266 YTD with training to be held on November 27 on Code Management. Dr. Tony Carter has agreed to be our Medical Director and is requesting \$1000 per year for his services starting January 2024. Lonni also plans to attend Board of Supervisor meeting Tuesday to ask if services can be included in the planning and preparation for the Cedar County Ambulance Service. Patti Lightner AEMT is willing to volunteer for our service. She does not live or work in town but is willing to come here to volunteer (be on standby at the station when scheduled).

**Fire Report:** Fire Chief Jake Koch reported 6 calls for October, 107 calls ytd, training will be on the SOP/SOGs on Special Rescue Equipment; a list of the elected officers was provided to council, working on SCBA's for renewal, Radio System is Up and Running, Programmed with Linn Co and Jones Co, Jake has been asked to be in charge of paging app for Cedar County. Nov 19 the Fire, Ambulance, and Legion will be distributing the fruit baskets; November 26<sup>th</sup> putting up Christmas Lights, and Dec 3 will be the annual Fire Department Banquet at the station.

**Police Report:** Rick Scott police report consisted of 55 Calls for service, 2 theft, 1 burglary, 14 traffic stops; 3 citations, 11 warnings, 3 investigations worked, 5 speak with officer; 6 public assists; 3 animal calls; 4 assist other agencies, 2 assault; 2 domestic; 1 accident; and 3 arrest.

**Public Works Report:** Daniel Pike reported been busy sweeping up leaves and have been taking them to Dohmen Tree farm for use as mulch around the trees, which eliminates having to spread them on the field by the lagoon.

**Administration Report:** Reported a sign permit approved for AgVantage and a request for a change in the zoning ordinance was received from St. Mary's after the deadline to include on this meeting's agenda and will be on the next one. 1 Building permit for a new home was also approved on Country View Drive.

## **Discussion and possible action on:**

**Park Pavilion-Margaret Glover:** Margaret addressed the council with concerns she has about the park door not staying closed, states new windows are needed because the screens are gone (public works removed them in order to make repairs) ceiling fans are old and hang too low; new lighting is needed because of the dark paneling making it is so dark in there. Senior Citizen group is willing to contribute \$4000-\$5000. Also, thinks the \$25 rental fee should be increased.

**Summary of IEDA visit:** The written follow up report arrived and was emailed to council so that the hyperlinks in the report could be followed. Council requested that the report be posted on the website.

**Approve renewing employee Wellmark Health Insurance plan:** Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to approve renewing the grandfathered plan. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Quote for removing 7 arborvitaes from cemetery in spring:** Amy Bishop motioned, Doug Weber seconded to approve the quote from Walnut Creek Construction including the stump removal for a cost of \$2600. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Alliant Tree Grant recap:** Dorothy Russell provided a written report of the activities completed by the Mechanicsville Trees Forever Group with 22 trees being planted in 2023 with the \$1000 grant from Alliant and it was matched locally. No grant application was filled out this November for next year.

**Wreaths Across America project:** Regina McCall is spear heading a Wreaths Across America Project to take place in Rose Hill Cemetery in 2024. She was seeking city permission for the Wreaths to be placed at Veterans Graves and is also meeting with the Veterans for their assistance in finding volunteers to help carry out the project and to spread the word to family members that wreaths can be purchased for \$17.00. November 26, 2024 will be the cut off to order wreaths, with the National Wreaths across America day 2024 being set for December 21, 2024. The wreaths will then be retired the third week of January 2025. Randy Brown motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to grant permission for the Wreaths Across American project to take place in Rose Hill Cemetery in 2024. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Potential request to go into closed session:** To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Jake Koch requested to go into closed session. Amy Bishop motioned, Doug Weber seconded to go into closed session. Ayes all. Motion carried. Council went into closed session, Amy Bishop motioned, Jen Lester motioned to go out of closed session. The doors were opened and opportunity for public to reenter meeting. No action taken by council.

**Approval of Fire Chief election and new officers:** The list of names and the officer positions were presented to council during the Fire department report. Council members requested clarification on the by-law requirements of must live or work in the district to be a member, the training acquired by various persons, with concerns expressed over just taking the class and not passing the test vs taking the class and receiving the certificate for completing it with a 70% or higher passing grade. Concerns over what liability the city has if council approves appointing someone who is not certified and less experience vs someone who has passed the test and has more experience. Concerns that by-laws state probation period of 1 year and after the completion of 1 year, the voting rights are established. Why were certain persons allowed to vote and yet not complete a full year of probation? Amy Bishop stated that in the best interest of the community and the safety of the volunteers, she could not vote to approve the elected officers as presented at this time due to the vote being 12-11 and the inconsistencies of allowing certain ones to vote and not others. Jen Lester made a motion to approve, Doug seconded to approve officers as submitted. Ayes: Jen and Doug. Nays: Randy and Amy. Abstain due to conflict of interest: Adam. Motion to approve did not pass, therefore the list of elected Officers

was not approved. Council requested City Clerk to follow up with the city attorney for additional guidance.

**Set next meeting date:** 12/11/2023 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building.

**Mayor's Comments:** None.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, council member Adam Paidar motioned, Amy Bishop seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Linda K. Coppess, MMC

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Andrew Oberbreckling, Mayor