

Minutes City of Mechanicsville
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 2023

The Mechanicsville City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 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, and Doug Weber. Jen Lester was absent. Others present included Daniel Pike, Meredith Dehmer, Lonni Koch, Jake Koch, Josh Miller, Donna Paup, Dan Paidar, Dan Baker, Alex Paidar, Caleb Galloway, Carla Barnhart, Pat Albaugh and Brian Steele.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to approve the consent agenda including the agenda, the minutes from 11/29/23; the finance reports, and claims. Roll call vote: Ayes: Bishop, Paidar, Brown, and Weber. Lester absent. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The following claims were approved:

IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	INTEREST AND BOND REGISTRATION FEES	\$35,708.77
STATE OF IOWA	WET AND SALES TAX	\$566.47
AGVANTAGE FS INC	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$1,234.65
AIRGAS NORTH CENTRAL	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$97.88
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS EXPENSE	\$6,994.04
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$402.32
BADGER METER	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$32.58
BAKER & TAYLOR	LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$307.97
BANKERS BANK	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$98.96
BOOKBROWSE	SUBSCRIPTION & ED MATERIAL	\$320.00
BRIDGE COMMUNITY BANK	INTEREST PAYMENTS	\$3,570.60
CAR QUEST AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$589.66
CASEYS GENERAL STORE	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$1,528.14
CEDAR COUNTY AUDITOR	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$687.46
CEDAR COUNTY SOLID WASTE	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$1,224.00
CHASE CARD SERVICES	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$1,619.41
CITY OF TIPTON	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$200.00
COPPESS, LINDA	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
CUSTOM HOSE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$564.16
CVIKOTA	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$263.10
DANIEL PIKE	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
DELTA DENTAL	GROUP INSURANCE	\$269.80
FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	GROUP INSURANCE	\$119.98
IOWA ONE CALL	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$22.50
JOHN DEER FINANCIAL	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$135.59
KOCHS SERVICE & SUPPLY LLC	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$409.19
LYNCH DALLAS	LEGAL EXPENSE	\$92.50
LYNCH FORD	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$633.55
MAGNOLIA JOURNAL	SUBSCRIPTION & ED MATERIAL	\$30.00
MCCORMICK, ASHLEY	TRAINING	\$191.26
MECHANICSVILLE TELEPHONE CO	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$449.51
MID IOWA SOLID WASTE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$488.64
OMNISITE	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$14.30

OVESON REFUSE & RECYCLING LLC	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$3,150.00
PATTEN EQUIPMENT	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$42.00
QUILL	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$105.78
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY LLC	ALLOWANCES - UNIFORMS	\$516.42
SCHOLASTIC	LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$316.15
SCOTT, RICKY	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$517.00
UNITY POINT HEALTH	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$43.95
US CELLULAR	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$105.91
WALLYS WELDING	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$56.25
WEBER DOUG	MEETINGS & CONFERENCES	\$220.00
WELLMARK BC BS	GROUP INSURANCE	\$14,876.78
WENDLING QUARRIES INC	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$190.21
PAYROLL	WAGES	18,542.45

Total Receipts and Disbursements for month of November by fund

Fund	Receipts	Disbursements
General	29,207.18	24,386.47
Road Use Tax	11,290.48	3,267.33
Employee Benefit	6,772.37	11,825.38
Local Opt Sales Tax	11,496.62	
Library Trust Fund	63.88	
Ambulance Trust Fund	1,920.46	4,649.02
Debt Service	1,387.71	997.69
Water Utility	7,626.01	3,945.94
Sewer Utility	27,063.41	4,056.67
Solid Waste	10,942.01	6,525.87
Storm Water Utility	1,063.73	7.14
Water Deposit	50.00	

Receive visitors/public comment: None.

REPORTS:

Library report: Meredith Dehmer provided the council with the libraries 2023 annual report reflecting 6,424 visitors, 628 current cardholders and circulation of 7,156, and digital circulation being 1,995 and physical circulation at 6,588. Meredith also provided the council with the libraries proposed budget reflecting a \$9,367 increase over last year.

Ambulance Report: Lonni Koch reported 25 calls for November, and 281 YTD and no training in December. Lonni will be representing the Cedar County EMS departments on the interview committee.

Fire Report: Fire Chief Jake Koch reported 14 calls for November and FD dance will be March 30 at Rusty Rench.

Police Report: Rick Scott police report of 65 Calls for service, 1 theft, 1 burglary, 10 traffic stops; 4 citations, 6 warnings, 3 investigations worked, 7 speak with officer; 5

public assists; 3 animal calls; 3 assist other agencies, 3 assault; 2 domestic; 1 accident; and 4 arrest.

Public Works Report: Daniel Pike reported finished leaves with the trailer being available if someone wants to bring leaves down to the shed; sweeper is winterized and cleaned; pushed snow 1 time salt and sanded 1 time; sand and salt has been mixed for the upcoming season; step feed process at WWTF is done; and walk in door replaced at shop.

Administration Report: The 2 corn hole game units arrived for the park that were purchased with the help of the Cedar County Community Foundation Grant; Hertz Farm Management will be preparing an assignment of the contract for the city to purchase the 20 acres north of the school following the budget hearing and amendment in January; there are many changes to the budget cycle this year including a mailing that needs to be sent out by the auditor showing what the proposed property tax rate will be for FY25 prior to the first public hearing having to be held sometime after March 20th and then another notice of public hearing and publication to be made showing the proposed budget and the adopting the budget. The timing of the publications and deadlines will require a special meeting or 2 to be held in order to complete. Another change is that cities will be limited to a 2-3% growth in valuation, that even though the rate is limited at \$8.10 per \$1000, if the grown is more than the 2-3 percent, the rate will be ratcheted back in order to limit any growth. Valuations won't be available until January to know where we are at. The IRS is now requiring 1099's to be filed electronically and need to get a TCC code in order to do so.

Discussion and possible action on:

Approval of Ambulance Incentive payments and Medical Director payment and approval of Patti Lightener (Tipton) to join as AEMT: Lonni presented the ambulance incentive payments for the year totaling \$39,471. Amy Bishop motioned, Randy Brown seconded to approve the incentive payments, the medical director payment to Tony Carter MD, and approved Patti Lightener as a member of the department. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Approval of Fire Chief and new officers without any probationary personnel voting: Discussion clarified that per the ordinance the council only needed to approve the Fire Chief. A redo of the voting was done and Adam was considered duly elected by the members. Council expressed concern about lack of certified training and experience with equipment. Amy Bishop proposed approving Adam as Fire Chief on the contingency that he obtain state certification for the FF1, as well as NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800 classes by August 1, 2024. If not obtained the 1st Assistant will take over as chief. The council will work on making the changes to the by laws stating the training requirements for the other officers as well. The expectation should be realistic criteria in order to protect the city equipment as well as the safety and lives of all involved. It was also clarified that the city can have higher expectations than what the state code requires. The motion was seconded by Randy with the request that the council be kept informed of the progress of obtaining training. Ayes: Doug, Amy, Randy. Nays: None. Abstain: Adam Absent: Jennifer. Motion carried.

Approval of waiving 1 year probation for Michael Pearson: It was noted that if you look at the by-laws they do not allow for you to do what you are asking to do. Adam Paidar motioned,

Randy Brown seconded to waive the remaining 3 months of Michaels probation due to his past experience of being on Clarence Fire and his truck driving experience. Ayes all.

Set date for Public Hearing on FY24 Budget Amendment for January 8: Amy Bishop motioned, Doug Weber seconded to set the date for January 8, 2024. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Resolution 2023-17 to complete the FY24 budget transfers: Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to approve the resolution to transfer the funds as budgeted. Ayes: Bishop, Paidar, Weber, and Brown. Nays: None. Absent: Lester. Resolution 2023-17 passed.

Outline of FY25 Budget process: Timeline changes was reviewed in clerks report. Council was requested to establish a percent to use in calculating salary changes for next year with the consumer price index increasing 3.7% from September 22 to September 2023. Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to use 5% increase and can be re-evaluated as council moves through the budget process. Ayes all. Motion carried. The cemetery mowing was another topic of discussion which the council reviewed pros and cons of renewing contract or terminating it and post the position as a part time job at 15 to 20 hours per week to do mowing and weed whipping at a wage of \$15-\$17 per hour. Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to not renew the contract and the clerk to post the job for a part time position for help wanted. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Library Board resignation and approval of replacement: Christa St. John submitted letter of resignation from the library board and Kayla Schroeder has volunteer to complete the term. Amy Bishop motioned, Randy Brown seconded to accept the resignation and appoint Kayla. Ayes all. Motion carried.

The Abstract of Votes certified by the County Board of Canvassers for the November 2023 election were as follows: Brian H. Steele 106 votes; Randy Brown 149 votes; and Tracy Miller 127 Votes with 13 scattering. All declared duly elected for the office of City Council for the term of 4 years.

Request for amendment to Zoning Ordinance to add AirBNB aka short term rental as an approved use of rectory: The request was reviewed and Adam Paidar motioned, Amy Bishop seconded to refer to the planning and zoning commission for a recommendation. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received from the Iowa Economic Development Authority indicating it has completed its review of the file materials relating to the Contract Compliance for the Waste Water Project 20-WS-033 including program compliance, draw down of fund reports, beneficiary reports, audit report, and other reports as applicable to the contract. They have concluded that the project has been administered in substantial compliance with financial and program requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Set next meeting date: 1/8/2024 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor thanked Adam and Jen for serving on the council and Jake for his years of service as Fire Chief.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, council member Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Linda K. Coppess, MMC

Andrew Oberbreckling, Mayor