

Minutes City of Mechanicsville  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
December 13, 2021

The Mechanicsville City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. 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, Denice Dochterman, and Jennifer Lester. Laura Yost and Adam Paidar were absent. Others present included Rick Scott, Josh Miller, Will Wagner, Lonni Koch, Jake Koch, Pat Albaugh, Donna Paup, Doug Weber, Meredith Dehmer, and Alyssa Walker.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Jen Lester motioned, Amy Bishop seconded to approve the consent agenda including the agenda, the minutes from 11/30/21; finance reports, and claims including pay application #6. Roll call vote: Ayes: Bishop, Dochterman, and Lester. Nays: None. Absent: Paidar and Yost. Motion carried.

The claims approved were as follows:

IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	INTEREST PAYMENTS	\$2,753.58
ACCO	CHEMICALS	\$604.80
ACE HARDWARE	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$321.96
AGVANTAGE FS INC	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$2,014.63
AIRGAS NORTH CENTRAL	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$54.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS EXPENSE	\$7,592.28
ALTORFER INC.	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$421.75
AMAZON.COM	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$659.25
BADGER METER	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$2.48
BANKERS BANK	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$499.06
BETTER HOMES & GARDENS	SUBSCRIPTION & ED MATERIAL	\$30.00
BILL BRUCE BUILDERS INC	OTHER CAPITAL EQUIP	\$505,039.00
BRIDGE COMMUNITY BANK	INTEREST PAYMENTS	\$5,574.59
CAR QUEST AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$53.55
CEDAR COUNTY AUDITOR	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$925.56
CEDAR COUNTY SOLID WASTE	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$1,530.00
CENTRAL AUTOMOTIVE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$371.46
CASEYS GENERAL STORE	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$1,345.52
CHASE CARD SERVICES	POSTAGE/SHIPPING	\$487.05
CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES INC	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$85.00
COPPESS, LINDA	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
CRAIG JACKSON	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$1,200.00
CROCK, JO ANN	TRAINING	\$300.00
DANS TIRES & MORE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$3,136.28
DUTCH BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$4,850.00
ECIA	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$547.91
ELLIOTT EQUIPMENT	OTHER CAPITAL EQUIP	\$1,148.00
ENTWISLE, ANGIE	JANITORIAL EXPENSE	\$1,350.00
FAT GUYS MOTOR SPORTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$75.00
FOX APPARATUS REPAIR & MNT LLC	OPERATIONAL EQUIP REPAIR	\$827.50
FREDERICK, SAMANTHA	WATER DEPOSIT REFUND	\$50.00
FUTURE LINE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$937.55
HI LINE INC	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$211.34

IA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	SUBSCRIPTION & ED MATERIAL	\$300.00
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	ASSOCIATION DUES	\$30.00
JOHN DEER FINANCIAL	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$85.86
KLOG INC	FURNITURE/FIXTURES	\$107.32
KOCHS SERVICE & SUPPLY LLC	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$2,431.14
LISBON-MT VERNON AMBULANCE	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$400.00
LYNCH FORD	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$57.45
MARSARS	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$3,914.94
MECHANICSVILLE TELEPHONE CO	TECHNOLOGY SERVICES EXP	\$443.36
MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$769.93
MID IOWA SOLID WASTE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$2,460.03
ODD JOBS INC	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$1,600.00
OVESON REFUSE & RECYCLING LLC	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$3,150.00
POSITIVE PROMOTIONS	SAFETY SUPPLIES	\$229.45
QUILL	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$323.94
RACOM CORPORATION	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$5,038.61
SCHIMBERG CO	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$416.86
SCOTT, RICKY	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$78.44
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$587.00
TERRACON	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$1,136.50
TIPTON CONSERVATIVE & ADVERTIS	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$717.78
UNITY POINT HEALTH	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$1,006.31
US CELLULAR	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$65.48
USA BLUEBOOK	OTHER CAPITAL EQUIP	\$4,268.79
VEENSTRA & KIMM	ENGINEERING EXPENSE	\$11,497.48
WELLMARK BC BS	GROUP INSURANCE	\$7,393.57
WENDLING QUARRIES INC	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$550.90
ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$1,400.00
PAYROLL	WAGES	\$14,579.15

#### Total Receipts and Disbursements for month of November by fund

Fund	Receipts	Disbursements
General	42,722.92	20,742.98
Road Use Tax	8,952.69	6,600.89
Employee Benefit	4,301.86	3,733.10
Local Option Sales Tax	31,465.61	
Library Trust Fund	1.99	
Ballpark Fund		1,637.20
Ambulance Trust	1,153.94	1,214.11
Debt Service	3,242.67	
Perpetual Care		
Water Utility	8,291.16	5,052.46
Sewer Utility	823,256.56	518,217.48
Solid Waste	10,346.77	6,200.59
Storm Water Utility	946.01	286.68
Water Deposits	150.00	

**Receive visitors/public comment:** Donna Paup addressed the council on 2 topics on the agenda stating that she's ok with police moving into the medical center portion of

the Memorial Building but not with a \$10 increase in the police chief wage as 40% increase is a lot.

**Public Hearing on Budget Amendment:** The Mayor opened the public hearing asking if there were any comments for or against the proposed budget. These are the same numbers as what was previously presented to the council, however, the publication was not printed in the newspaper, so the process had to be repeated. No comments received. The public hearing was then closed.

#### **REPORTS:**

**Ambulance Report:** Ambulance had 16 calls for the month. The ambulance incentive pay schedule was also approved with a motion by Amy Bishop, second by Denice Dochterman. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Fire Report:** Fire had 10 calls for the month. Gear washer has been installed, delivered 95 fruit baskets, Santa scheduled to arrive around 1 p.m. on December 18. Racom radios pushed back till fall of 2023. Ice Rescue suits are in.

**Police Report:** Police reported 8 agency assists, 2 animal, 32 business checks; 4 extra patrol; 1 fire assist, 6 follow up, 1 medical assist, 2 motorist assist; 2 parking; 1 pursuit, 1 school bus violation; 1 sex crime, 2 speak with officer; 2 suspicious activity; 3 traffic complaint; 36 traffic stops, 34 warnings; 4 citation, 1 trespass; 1 school dismissals, and 8 call outs.

**Public Works Report:** Rick Scott reported that they continue to install water meters, snow plows are ready; chlorine monitoring system repaired, the water tower is not automatically pumping; completed 6 months of employment so he is now eligible to do testing with the DNR; leaves can still be taken to the shop at the fenced in area.

**Administration Report:** Coppess reported the additional play equipment has been installed at the park; the damaged roof at the open pavilion from the Derecho has been replaced, found a potential grant source for the walking path at the ballpark waiting to get confirmation prior to completing the entire application.

#### **Old Business discussion and possible action on:**

**Resolution 2021-21 to adopt budget amendment:** Amy Bishop motioned, Jennifer Lester seconded to adopt the resolution for the budget amendment. Roll call vote: Ayes: Amy Bishop, Jen Lester, and Denice Dochterman. Nays: None. Absent: Adam Paidar and Laura Yost. Resolution adopted.

**Replacing damaged veteran grave markers (59.95+ 18.59 shipping = \$78.54):** Discussion included no contact made with mowing company regarding the 1 marker, insurance would most likely cover the damages, could potentially be 10 markers. Contact was made with Veteran's Affairs office and the website information was provided and the cost for one is \$78.54 with the shipping. No action taken until verify how many are actually damaged and when, and potential insurance coverage.

**New business discussion and possible action on:**

**Credit card policy 2021-22:** Amy Bishop motioned, Denice Dochterman seconded to approve the policy. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Quote for purchasing snow blower for skid loader:** Amy Bishop motioned, Jen Lester seconded to approve purchase of snow blower with the trade in. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Covid Policy for city employees:** Amy Bishop presented a draft of a policy to minimize exposing other people, discussion also included that there is not a mask policy in place and no mandatory vaccination policy. No action taken.

**Changing the clothing allowance:** Discussion on clothing allowance of \$500 per year being added to the annual salary resolution. Amy Bishop motioned, Denice Dochterman seconded to modify the salary resolution form by adding a column for the clothing allowance for July 2022 to be determined and paid annually as part of the employee taxable compensation. Ayes all. Motion carried.

**Modifying the Employee Handbook 7.1 General Safety and Health:** Discussion on whether or not to add steel-toed shoes/boots. No action taken, no changes will be made to the handbook.

**Creating a Parks & Recs Trust:** Council reviewed resolution 2000-7 and took no further action, if donations become available for a specific project the finance officer may establish accounting line items as may be needed.

**Agreement for 30% of the concession stand proceeds:** The history on the concession stand activity was reviewed and the concession stand proceeds that are received from the Kid League will continue to be accounted for in the ball park fund.

**Update from engineering regarding flooding on E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street 2021-23:** Council reviewed the concept drawing as prepared by V&K of how some of the ponding/flooding might be addressed in this area. When the area was surveyed, found that the driveway is lower than the road, so when water begins to pond because the intakes in the area can't keep up, the water backs up onto the driveway and eventually spills over. The least expensive way to address would be to create a spot lower than the driveway elevations and provide a relief for the ponded water. It would require the curb to be cut and lower the sidewalk to allow water to flow. The property owners would need to be consulted prior to developing as there may be some concerns. At the time of the survey (April), the cleaning of the obstructed intakes had just been done, and the idea was to wait through a few of the rain events to see if that alleviated the ponding issue. This year did not have many significant rain events, so difficult to determine the impact of the cleaning, other than 12/10 rain event, there was no ponding at that time.

**Ceiling in Legion Room of the Memorial Building:** Council was made aware of some water damage on the ceiling of the Legion Room, the city does not have a key to access this room. Requested the public works contact a Legion member to access and to look at the ceiling.

**Abstract of Votes from Cedar County Board of Canvassers/Oath of Office:** Mayor: Andrew Oberbreckling 88 votes, scattering 3 votes; Andrew Oberbreckling declared duly elected. City Council At-Large: Douglas Weber 65 votes; Amy Bishop, 71 votes; Denice Dochterman 26 votes, 3 scattering: Douglas Weber and Amy Bishop declared duly elected to 4 year term; City Council At-Large to fill a vacancy: Denice Dochterman write in 7 votes; scattering 25 votes; Denice Dochterman declared duly elected to the two year term. The duly elected officers have all taken the Oath of Office.

**Police chief resolution on pay increase to \$33/hour effective January 1:** After discussion indicating that the newly hired Clarence police officer is making \$25.48 while attending the academy and will be at \$32.21 after becoming certified the Mechanicsville officer requested that his wage be increased to \$33. Further statements on no overtime, no holiday pay, and no comp time is available for Clarence position requiring a higher pay rate. Concerns on setting a precedent of increasing ones wage by nearly \$10 in the middle of a budget year; consideration to using more than one town for a comparison of similar population and valuation. The League of Cities recently did a salary survey and is anticipated to be done in the next couple months. Denice Dochterman motioned, Jen Lester seconded to wait for the survey to be available for more comparisons. Ayes all. The city wants employees to be appreciated by employer and offer competitive wages along with a benefit package.

**Relocating the police department to the former doctor's office and terminating lease agreement effective June 30, 2022:** Amy Bishop motioned, Jen Lester seconded to cancel the lease and to relocate. Ayes all.

**Ambulance billing proposal:** Proposal was reviewed with some additional information on how to cancel if city wanted out of the agreement.

**Policy for responding to emergency calls 2021-24:** Whereas there are occasions that the employees needs to leave work to respond to a 911 call, and where as the city council hereby establishes the policy that in these situations the employee is permitted to remain on the clock during their regular working hours. Jen Lester motioned, Denice Dochterman seconded to adopt the policy. Roll call vote: Ayes: Jen Lester, Denice Dochterman, and Amy Bishop. Nays: None. Absent: Paidar and Yost.

**Correspondence:** City received a letter of resignation from the park board from Meredith Dehmer. Letter of thanks to Veteran Donald Griffith Jr. which was read and original will be mailed to Stacy Griffith.

**Set next meeting date:** Monday, 1/10/2022 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building

**Mayors Comments:** Appreciated Laura Yost filling the vacancy and extended thanks to Nancy and all the people who participated in the Christmas tree lighting event that there was 75+ in attendance.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, council member Jen Lester motioned, Amy Bishop seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Linda K. Coppess, MMC

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Andrew Oberbreckling, Mayor