

Minutes City of Mechanicsville
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
February 1, 2020

The Mechanicsville City Council met in special session on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at City Hall. Mayor David Furry called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Council members present for roll call were Jennifer Lester, Dee Taylor, Andrew Oberbreckling, Amy Bishop, and Adam Paidar. Others present included Dirk Wieneke, Tyler Bauer, Becky Wheeler, Donna Paup, Sherri Paup, Stacy Griffith, Kenny Beck, Sandra Warren, Shannon Paup, Scott Bishop, Dave & Carla Barnhart, and Glen Weber.

CONSENT AGENDA: Andrew Oberbreckling motioned, Dee Taylor seconded to approve the consent agenda including the agenda and claims. Roll call vote: Ayes: Lester, Taylor, Oberbreckling, Paidar and Bishop. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The claims approved were as follows:

WELLMARK BC BS	GROUP INSURANCE	\$6,182.39
IOWA INSURANCE DIVISION	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$151.00
CASEYS GENERAL STORE	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$808.90
AIRGAS NORTH CENTRAL	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$31.55
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS EXPENSE	\$6,767.90
BANYON DATA SYSTEMS INC	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$795.00
CAR QUEST AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$35.63
CEDAR COUNTY SHERIFFS RESERVES	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$950.00
CEDAR COUNTY SOLID WASTE	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$1,597.50
CHASE	POSTAGE/SHIPPING	\$903.85
FULL AUTO REPAIR	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$106.00
IMFOA	ASSOCIATION DUES	\$50.00
IOWA ONE CALL	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$6.30
KNUTH LAW OFFICE	LEGAL EXPENSE	\$411.25
LISBON-MT VERNON AMBULANCE	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$200.00
LYNCH FORD	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$968.81
MID AMERICAN RESEARCH CHEMICAL	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$709.23
MID IOWA SOLID WASTE	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$123.49
MT VERNON LISBON SUN	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$102.00
OASIS ELECTRIC LLC	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$1,950.00
OVESON REFUSE & RECYCLING LLC	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$3,150.00
POLARIS SALES INC	VEHICLES	\$4,900.00
QUILL	OTHER SUPPLIES	\$345.67
RICKARD SIGN & DESIGN	VEHICLES	\$480.00
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY LLC	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$174.00
SEEHUSEN INSURANCE AGENCY	INSURANCE EXPENSE	\$269.00
STATE OF IOWA	ACCOUNTING & AUDITING EXPENSE	\$1,200.00
TIPTON CONSERVATIVE & ADVERTIS	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$444.78
US CELLULAR	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$98.81
VEENSTRA & KIMM	ENGINEERING EXPENSE	\$35,880.00
WALLYS WELDING	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$50.00
WELTER STORAGE EQUIPMENT CO	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$380.00
ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$1,400.00

Receive visitors/public comment: Various audience members spoke on the topic pertaining to the potential to go into closed session to evaluate the professional competency of an individual and a decision on terminating or extending probation period stating their opinions on the matter.

New Business discussion and possible action on:

Re-set date for public hearing on the maximum property tax dollars: The public hearing date was changed to February 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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:

Mayor Furry asked employee Wieneke if he requested a closed session and Wieneke declined. The meeting stayed in open session.

Amy Bishop read the following statement "I would like to address the mayor regarding his attempts to circumvent the council's obligation to follow due process. The mayor called me Sunday evening, 1/26 to tell me that he would be terminating employee Dirk Wieneke on Friday 1/31. I strongly advised the mayor not to do so. I reminded him that the council had not had the opportunity to formally act upon the PWD's recommendation to extend Dirk's probation. The mayor indicated that he was not interested in my objections and that he would proceed as he saw fit. The fact that the mayor was willing to ignore the decision of the council and by-pass due process is incomprehensible to me. It is my opinion that the mayor has shown a lack of good judgment in this matter. It is my opinion that the mayor has shown a lack of respect for the rules of conduct and for the rules of city government. It is my opinion that the mayor's willingness to ignore the law jeopardizes the health and well-being of the city. I am of the opinion that if the mayor is unable to lead this city with objectivity, transparency and respect for the law, then he should resign as the mayor of Mechanicsville.

I make the motion that my statement, in its entirety, be included in the minutes of this meeting."

Jennifer Lester seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Furry stated that in December 2018 an expectation meeting was held with Dirk on attaining water and wastewater certifications. September 30 employee was put on probation and given until February 1 to attain. December 9, 2019 council meeting, employee requested probation be extended to July 1.

The motion from the December 2019 meeting was "to allow for new PWD to work with Wieneke for 30 days and reevaluate at January 6 meeting". Public Works director submitted written recommendation to clerk's office January 31. Document was provided at this time for the mayor and council to review and consider. Amy Bishop read for the public. Amy Bishop motioned, Adam Paidar seconded to provide a 6 month probation extension to July 31. Ayes: Lester, Bishop, Oberbreckling, and Paidar. Nays: Taylor. Motion carried.

Set next meeting date: 02/10/20 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, council member Amy Bishop motioned, Jennifer Lester seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Linda K. Coppess, MMC

David L. Furry, Mayor