

CITY OF BURTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2009, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Pastor Bruce Gardner led the Invocation and Councilwoman Laurie Tinnin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Tom Martinbianco at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conley, Ellenburg, Haskins, Heffner, Martinbianco, Tinnin and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor C. Smiley; G. Kray, DPW Director; Attorney R. Austin and G. Webster, City Clerk.

Conley moved and Tinnin seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize the minutes of the following meeting: Regular Council Meeting on March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor Smiley said it was an honor and a privilege to present another balanced budget to Council. He acknowledged that 37 years ago, April 6, 1972, our City Charter was signed. He thought the City has made significant progress. We have always counted on an increase in our property tax revenue to help fund our expenditures. This is the first year that we will see approximately \$150,000 less property tax revenue going to the general fund. He was optimistic that revenue sharing would remain the same. We are one of the lowest levied cities in Michigan. We have worked extremely hard over the years to provide services to our residents. The Mayor's proposed budget included online payments, Center Road improvements, library parking improvements and recreational opportunities. In spite of the poor economic conditions, we should be proud of our accomplishments and the sound financial foundation that has been put in place to keep the City solvent. Not all communities can say that. He contributes Burton's success to the hard and dedicated work of past and present Councils, Administrations and employees. This year is no exception. He spoke with the unions after they had already reached agreements. He asked them for a letter of understanding indicating that they would use or lose all of their vacation days for this calendar year. Normally, union payouts would average approximately \$100,000 a year. They have agreed to forgo these vacation payouts. The letters of understanding are in the process of being drafted. In return, the Mayor assured them there would be no layoffs of hourly employees. That's how this year's budget was balanced. The Mayor said we will do everything we can to move this City forward and meet the residents' needs.

In two weeks the Mayor will add an agreement to the agenda. At no cost to the City, a company will facilitate an online or in person credit card payment of utility bills and taxes. Through our BSA software we have the capability to attempt on line checking payments. However, the Treasurer and Controller are not currently interested in participating in that type of service.

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The Friends of the Library are meeting with us in reference to their parking needs. Mr. Panchula has done some preliminary designs and assessed the costs of parking lot improvements. They do have some funds in capital improvements, but it is not enough to complete the work.

As Elected Officials, we should be extremely proud of the community leaders that have come together to bring a variety of events to enhance the image of our City. Events that are being held at the City of Burton include, Gus Macker, Memorial Day, Relay for Life, Back to the Bricks, Veteran's Day and numerous Park and Recreation events. We have received Federal and State recognition for our successful community involvement programs. Bringing people to our community promotes commerce and indirectly creates revenue for the City. We must continue to be proactive and encourage high quality residential and commercial growth. Residents have benefited from past development. It has contributed to creating jobs, opportunities, lower taxes, stronger foundation and broader and stable tax base. The Mayor thought it was important for the City Council, Administrators and union employees to work together to provide a spirit of cooperation that will allow us to secure the future of the City of Burton. He appreciated the support of the union leadership for showing good faith and dedication to the City. He assured them there would not be any layoffs, if we receive our projected revenue sharing and property tax funding.

He looked forward to working with the Council to put forth a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The 2009-2010 Budget Hearing is scheduled for April 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

John Stapish, P.O. Box 190134, indicated that his taxes have increased. He requested that the mounds of dirt at Bubba's and on Atherton Rd next to the railroad tracks be removed.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Tinnin said the Planning Commission discussed the five-year Master Plan update. They agreed that nothing needed to be changed at this time. She wanted to know if the Council needed to adopt a formal resolution regarding this issue.

Mr. Austin said the Council did not have to adopt a resolution regarding the Master Plan. However, the Planning Commission should acknowledge their intent not to amend the Master Plan in the minutes. Mrs. Tinnin said the Planning Commission has voted on this issue.

Mr. Martinbianco thanked Mrs. Tinnin and the Mayor for taking the initiative to implement on line credit card payments for water and tax billings.

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Mr. Martinbianco asked for clarification on the water liability study.

Mr. Kray is waiting for the DEQ to provide input on the water liability study. He has no firm date for its completion. Mr. Martinbianco asked that the water reliability study be discussed during the water and sewer portion of the budget. He would like a representative from the DEQ and Water and Waste Services to be present to discuss their role in the study.

Mr. Kray will look into the status of the water study and the possibility of representatives being present for budget discussions.

In reference to the Attorney billing, Mrs. Conley asked for clarification on the Trail Ridge litigation.

Mr. Austin said the Trail Ridge litigation was initiated to simply change the name of the subdivision. A motion for summary disposition is scheduled for June 1st. On that date, Mr. Austin will ask the Judge to sign an order officially changing the name of the subdivision to Trail Ridge. He has received no objection to the subdivision's name being change. There will be no other changes.

Mr. Martinbianco indicated that the proposed budget would be on file in the Clerk's Office for public viewing. Because it is not a finished document, copies will not be provided.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Haskins moved and Zelenko seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Richard Austin) from March 18, 2009 through April 1, 2008 in the amount of \$4,766.50.

Motion carried 7-0.

Haskins moved and Conley seconded the following motion:

2. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Keller Thoma) 440 East Congress, 5th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226, for the month of February in the amount of \$292.68.

Motion carried 7-0.

Ellenburg moved and Conley seconded the following motion:

3. Approve and authorize the transfer of 2007 CD funds in the amount of \$8,816.00 from CD Project 1518 City of Burton Senior Center Improvements to CD Project 1517 City of Burton Waterline Improvements.

Motion carried 7-0.

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Ellenburg moved and Conley seconded the following motion:

4. Approve and authorize a resolution authorizing the City of Burton to petition the Genesee County Drain Commissioner for improvements to be made to the Pierson Branch of Thread Creek #1319 Drain.

Motion carried 7-0.

Haskins moved and Zelenko seconded the following motion:

5. Approve and authorize setting a public hearing for April 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Burton City Hall to discuss the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010.

Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Gayle K. Webster, CMC
City Clerk