

CITY OF BURTON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2010, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
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Councilman Vaughn Smith led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.  
The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Steven Heffner at 7:20 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellenburg, Haskins, Heffner, Martinbianco, Smith, Wells and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

Haskins moved and Martinbianco seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on February 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., and the Special Council Meeting on February 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor Smiley provided Council with the Credit Card Payment procedure that was drafted by Treasurer Iris Piske.

Mayor Smiley spoke regarding the Spring Sprint that would be held at City Hall May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Coordinator Marilyn Shaski gave a brief overview of the event. The running club started about four years ago and has grown to about ninety children. The group provides the children with the proper attire for weather conditions. Their hope is to expand the event and raise funds to purchase attire for the children. Sponsors that donate \$100.00 will have their names printed on shirts. Each registered participant will receive a t-shirt and either a ribbon or a medal. She is encouraging celebrity challenges to promote the race. The ultimate goal will be to promote fun, health and fitness for the children.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Zelenko reported that a legislative meeting was held prior to the council meeting. Topics of discussion included sale procedures of City owned properties (A draft is being prepared for the next meeting.), the sign ordinance concerning electronic signboards (There are no revisions planned. However, there needs to be more enforcement of permits and compliance with the current ordinance.), registration fees for abandoned structures (There are some concerns with a certificate of occupancy after abandoned structures have been sold. There will be a draft of the proposed ordinance at the next meeting.), backyard chicken ordinance (A proposed ordinance will be available at the next meeting.) and the committee is still working on the policy regarding the purchase of water meters. The next legislative meeting is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wells reported that the Public Access Committee met February 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. They discussed a resource guide. Senior Citizens Director Jean Johnson provided information to put be on the website. The committee hopes to involve businesses and residences. They wanted to get into a marketing aspect on the website. He hoped the website would become dynamic offering web browsers a wealth of information.

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Mr. Smith said we have to focus on future plans. The City's financial structure was pretty much based on GM and residential development, which is dwindling. The website has become so important because of the decrease in newspaper publications. We need to have a way for the public to communicate ideas to us. We want to focus on how to best market our community. Baker College has the means to do a marketing demographic study. This would help us formulate what the positives and negatives of the community are and how best to present that to the general public, and invite investment into the community. Then you use the website to convey that information.

Mr. Wells said the committee discussed the possibility of downloading forms and documents from the DPW and a Welcome to Burton packet from the Clerk's Office. They are working on that right now. He felt the committee was making great progress. He planned to have another meeting in about three weeks. He hoped to have the MTA present to discuss transportation for seniors. He wanted people to send their E-mail addresses to City Hall so pertinent information can be distributed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Richard Hughes, 67<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge, 4094 Manor Dr., announced his term of office would expire December 31, 2010, due to age restrictions. He reflected back on his sixteen years as district judge. He thanked the citizens and elected officials for their support. He discussed his friendships and warm memories that have grown over the years. In addition, he wholeheartedly endorsed Attorney Mark Latchana to fill the upcoming vacancy for the 67<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge position. He felt that Mr. Latchana had extensive courtroom experience, proven commitment to the community and the integrity to be an honorable judge.

Mark Latchana, 3326 Creekview Dr., Davison, announced his candidacy for 67<sup>th</sup> District Judge. He indicated that he was well qualified for the position, due to his prior court room experience, commitment to the community and proven integrity.

Kevin Rush, 1215 Cyprus Circle, wished Judge Hughes the best in his retirement. He thanked him for his public service to his community. Mr. Rush announced his candidacy for 67<sup>th</sup> District Judge. He has been a long time resident of Genesee County. He has attended meetings regularly to absorb issues that impact the community. He felt listening was a virtue. All aspects of an issue should be explored before passing judgment. He planned to be fair and impartial. He felt that he was qualified and experienced for the position. He has practiced law for 21 years.

Jan Bolen, 1169 Howe Rd., was concerned with the need for repairs at Kelly Lake. She spoke in opposition to people attending the Gus Macker seminar, laying off police officers and pay raises. She felt numerous jobs, except for police officers, should be cut immediately.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martinbianco asked for clarification on the backyard chicken ordinance.

Mrs. Zelenko said the following aspects would be addressed in the chicken ordinance: no roosters, the permit process, the number of hens (up to six), covered shelters, the placement in the backyard, a combination of a set back from the property line and from adjacent residents, square footage ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of acre), fenced enclosures, the storage of feed containers and meeting compliance with homeowners associations. The Attorney will draft a proposed ordinance taking all factors into consideration. The proposed ordinance will be discussed again at the March 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting.

Mr. Martinbianco assured Mrs. Bolen that they were taking steps to evaluate the staffing level in all departments. He applauded the Mayor for taking the lead on this issue. He said Kelly Lake repairs would be addressed in a timely fashion.

Mr. Wells said it was important to get more people involved with the boards. He would like more applications on file. He would like to get the word out in the newspaper and the website.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Haskins moved and Zelenko seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Richard Austin) from January 27, 2010 through February 10, 2010, in the amount of \$3,774.75.

Motion carried 7-0.

Haskins moved and Ellenburg seconded the following motion:

2. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Keller Thoma) 440 East Congress, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Detroit, MI 48226, for the month of January 2010, in the amount of \$423.33.

Motion carried 7-0.

Haskins moved and Ellenburg seconded the following motion:

3. Approve and authorize the Council's appointment of Steve Bennett, 2295 E. Judd Rd., Burton, MI 48529, to the Zoning Board of Appeals, to fill the unexpired term of Marguerite Scott. Term expiring June 2010.

Motion carried 7-0.

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Wells moved and Smith seconded the following motion:

4. Approve and authorize Council's appointment of Robert Spose, 4090 Maplewood Meadows Ave., Grand Blanc, MI 48439, as alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term expiring December 2012.

Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Gayle K. Webster, MMC  
City Clerk