



CITY OF BURTON
BURTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020
MINUTES

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

4303 S. CENTER ROAD
BURTON, MI 48519

This meeting was opened by President Steven Heffner at 7:00 PM.

A. INVOCATION LED BY: VAUGHN SMITH

B. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS LED BY: VAUGHN SMITH

C. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tom Martinbianco	Councilman	Excused	
Dennis O'Keefe	Councilman	Present	
Steven Heffner	President	Present	
Danny Wells	Councilman	Excused	
Vaughn Smith	Councilman	Present	
Gregory Fenner	Vice President	Present	
Christina Conley	Councilwoman	Present	

D. STAFF PRESENT

Duane Haskins, Mayor
Charles Abbey, Deputy DPW Director
Racheal Boggs, City Clerk

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. City Council - Special Meeting - Dec 11, 2019 6:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis O'Keefe, Councilman
SECONDER:	Vaughn Smith, Councilman
AYES:	O'Keefe, Heffner, Smith, Fenner, Conley
EXCUSED:	Martinbianco, Wells

2. City Council - Special Meeting - Dec 11, 2019 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis O'Keefe, Councilman
SECONDER:	Vaughn Smith, Councilman
AYES:	O'Keefe, Heffner, Smith, Fenner, Conley
EXCUSED:	Martinbianco, Wells

3. City Council - Regular Meeting - Dec 16, 2019 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis O'Keefe, Councilman
SECONDER:	Vaughn Smith, Councilman
AYES:	O'Keefe, Heffner, Smith, Fenner, Conley
EXCUSED:	Martinbianco, Wells

F. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Haskins stated he hopes everyone had a great holiday and a happy new year thus far. We have a light agenda tonight, the attorney billing and the first reading of the ordinance. Mr. Abbey is here tonight if you have any questions on the ordinance. At the last meeting we discussed traffic crashes at the Belsay and Bristol Road crossing and a couple other areas, I put in everyone's mailbox the statistics for the last twelve months of traffic accidents that have been recorded at certain intersections. As you will see, Belsay and Bristol actually has the least amount of accidents there. The other intersections that have traffic signals are actually way higher, which probably could be adjusted as well with traffic volumes. I also want to make everyone aware that the MML, the Michigan Municipal League Conference, is coming up in March. If you are interested in going please contact us and we will try to help as much as we can with making arrangements. Our purchasing agent will be off until Thursday, Brenda had a loss in her family so please keep her in your prayers. Other than that, it is the same status quo, trying to put things together for the Census and move forward on that. I am hoping to meet with a few community church leaders this week to get with them about promoting the Census.

Mr. Heffner stated that was a great segue because one of the items they will be discussing at the MML is the Census, so I think that is something we all should attend even if just for the day. Tonight I would like to announce the Census committee. The committee will be lead by councilman Vaughn Smith, co-chaired by Greg Fenner, Kevin Burge, Deb Walton, and Steve Welch will also be on the committee. Anybody that the administration would like to put on there please do so as well, Mr. Smith will be in contact with you this week for that. This committee is open to anybody, so if you would like to be on it please let us know.

Mayor Haskins stated I spoke to Mr. Fenner about the banner poles for Saginaw Street, if we could start addressing things like that, that would be helpful. If you have any information on how we can help out on the cities end.

Mr. Fenner stated I believe we need to get the sizes of the banners.

Mayor Haskins stated that was what I had discussed with Mr. Fenner. They will only hold a certain size, so if we can get someone to figure that out we would like to get moving on this.

Mr. Heffner asked if we have the old banners?

Mr. Fenner stated if we have the Back to the Bricks banners we could go off their size or we can ask them. Those were about the largest size that is allowed, they were quite large. But if you get with Mr. Coates he may have the installers recommendations of the size and material.

Mayor Haskins stated I spoke with Mr. Coates a couple weeks ago and he did not have that information.

Mr. Fenner stated there was a drawing of it, I will search for it. My suggestion would be to ask Back to the Bricks what size their banners are, they put up basically the largest that could be up. They used the mesh material so the wind could go through, I may recommend something smaller and more legible.

Mayor Haskins stated once we figure out what size they can hold we can get recommendations from the people who make them. Once we get that information we can get moving forward on this.

Mr. Heffner stated great point to bring up. Mr. Smith and I were talking about this last week.

Mr. Fenner stated they sit there unused for a lot of community events. The DDA spent a lot of money to put them up and we are not utilizing them as we could be.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Smith stated I want to briefly discuss the ordinance that is on the agenda tonight. As a representative on the Planning Commission, I was there when we discussed this issue. Amber brought up that the number of dogs allowed per household in City of Burton's ordinance is only two dogs, whereas the county will issue licenses for more than two dogs. Amber's concern was that we could end up in litigation if the city does not become more in line with the county and the county supersedes us. Once it was explained to us, the Planning Commission did vote unanimously for the increase in the amount of dogs allowed per household, so now it is up to us, the council, to confirm that. It also clears up things with the kennel license as well. Amanda, I am sure you were involved in this to some level, they were worried about the county being different from us, the kennel license could create some issues is how it was explained to me because theirs is different than ours. So the result was that we could end up in litigation. Mr. Abbey am I correct on that?

Mr. Abbey stated it takes four or more dogs to have a kennel license in Genesee County, but we have the statistics from every other municipality in Genesee County and the majority all are allowed three or four dogs per household except for us.

Mr. Smith stated that ordinance will be before you today. I am going to switch to the Census now. I have sent to the President and the Mayor everything we need. There are flyers for renters, seniors, bilingual flyers, all sorts of flyers we need. I posted some on Facebook showing the intergenerational aspect of how the Census can help not only the seniors but all the way down to the kids in school. So if we could get some of those printed that would be helpful. We need to get these distributed out to the businesses, the senior center and places alike. There is a flyer for every facet of life. So if I could get those that would be great, maybe 100-200 of each flyer.

Mayor Haskins asked if the Census covers the cost on this or if we do this on our own?

Mr. Smith stated we do this on our own.

Mayor Haskins stated I was just checking because I thought there was some things that the Census actually helps us cover costs on. If they aren't providing flyers, absolutely we will get them printed out.

Mr. Smith stated they aren't providing materials, they hire the people that they have to go out, but we are doing what we can as a municipality and this we would have to pay for. There are different states in our country that set aside money for this. The problem we run into is the clock. They give us a period of now until March 12th when the letters go out as your educational time frame. April 1st they do the Census Day, on that day they actually start really pushing it for the month. After that they try to reach the low response areas. So we are under the gun to try to get these things out and inform people why it is in their best interest to fill these out. The other thing is, I have talked to the Burton View, I asked them to put together a marketing budget, and this is of course all contingent on the council. I am just trying to get some stuff in place because of our time frame so that we can say yes or no that we don't want to do it. I am going to meet with Pete Wednesday night, he approximates we may be able to do it for a couple thousand dollars. The more we can educate the people on why it is in their best interest to do this, we will get further ahead. The only thing I have asked for that I have not received is the vector format file, which is one of those files you can expand and they don't get real grainy. Everything else we have. First thing I would say, Mayor, is to get those flyers printed as soon as possible. Mr. Burge has an excellent idea, he has brought up all those LED rolling signs in the city, Kevin has offered go to those businesses and ask if they would be willing to put it on their sign. There are also flyers you can take out there to show why it is in that businesses best interest to advertise for the Census. The one last thing I would like to do is set up a time so we can have a committee meeting somewhere where we can invite the public to see who wants to be a part of it. People are out looking. I had a lady call me today, I believe the Clerk's Office sent her my way, that is great please do that. One reason why it is so important this time is that their projections have us around 28,600 residents. We need to get over the 30,000 mark so we cannot afford to miss anybody. This impacts the roads you drive on, the schools, your kids, the police, the fire, our seniors. It is in our interest to really be active on this.

Mr. Heffner stated as important as the flyers are, we are going to have to have a budget for this. We do have \$5,000.00 in our newspaper fund to do the council newspaper that we never did that we could possibly transfer over if we had to.

Mr. Smith stated I do not want to be presumptuous so I am trying to put together a budget that you all can look at including the administration. But with the short amount of time, I am trying to expedite this.

Mr. Heffner stated depending on how well we do this, this could mean millions of dollars for the City of Burton.

Mr. Smith stated yes. I know Mr. Fenner has talked to every school. I have talked to Christy Span from Bentley and Debra Dunsmore from Bendle. We need a rallying point to help expedite this. I would like to set a meeting date and location. Mr. Heffner mentioned we have the \$5,000.00, when I was speaking with the Burton View I was going to bring that cost to you guys first to see if it is something you would even want to do.

Mrs. Conley asked how are we going to stress to not just our seniors, but to anybody, that this is a legit deal? We get so many phone calls from residents and they don't believe this. Is there a legitimate form we can show them? Or get with schools at teacher conferences and have a table set up where people feel comfortable to do it. The senior center, the fire station, they can come in here to City Hall. There are so many things that can throw people off and we have to show people that this is one thing that cannot throw them off.

Mr. Smith stated there are flyers available that discuss that. Being in the city we talked about putting it on the bills. So hopefully we are moving forward on that because we are running out of time. We have spoke with church leaders to promote this because we need the help from our leaders that the community trusts. I am worried about reaching that 20 percent that does not respond. It is so important to talk to your neighbors about this, they want to be sure that this is not going to be used against them in anyway. If you are in the country illegally, this cannot be used against you. These are questions that they ask and the flyers have all that information on them. I would be happy to come in when you do the printing but we do really need to get going on this. The flyers are the first thing we need to go for, the budget and get a meeting set up.

Mr. Heffner stated we have to talk about this every time we meet. We have to make this common place all summer long so when the Census does come out, people will know that it is legit. When they go down Saginaw Street and they see the banners, when they open the Burton View, they see Census. We want them to see Census every where they turn.

Mr. Smith stated we have from now until April 1st to educate everyone on the Census. That is where the budget and the newspaper will help us. If we can get the flyers up at City Hall, the libraries, our senior centers, the schools, everywhere so people see it and they can start to trust it.

Mrs. Conley stated that Sunday at noon we will be taking down the Christmas decorations over at the fire station. If anyone would like to come help we would really appreciate it. There will be a meeting on January 21st t 5:30pm regarding Burtons 50th Anniversary in the community room. We hope a lot of people get involved because this is going to be a big celebration, we would like everyone to be a part of it and share their ideas.

Mr. Heffner stated I would like to go back to the Census for just a moment. During the election, Facebook was flooded with different videos that candidates made. I think we could make videos to put out to our residents, we all touch a certain amount of people on Facebook and if we all put out videos explaining the Census and the importance of it, and continue sharing those videos, we could really reach a lot of people. We could each do one individually and I would like to see one of the Mayor and Councilman Wells together promoting the Census showing unity of the city.

Mr. Fenner stated we can start a goal of lets get 30,000.

Mr. Heffner stated I am hoping for 32,000 but after seeing how many of our residents were not counted last time I do not believe that 28,000 number at all.

H. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Rolando Luciano of Burton stated the water debt fee, we never received a letter on it in the mail. I just received my bill and there is all of a sudden an extra fee on there. For how long is that fee going to be there? And how did that happen?

Mr. Heffner stated after audience participation we will get your answer for you.

Steve Welch of Burton stated he is here for the Burton Kiwanis. We have a Fundraiser coming up and it is our biggest one of the year, the Hot Fudge Run. It is on February 25th at noon. I would like to thank everyone who has supported this on the council as well as the administration. The Kiwanis is to help the children of the world, all the funds and proceeds from this event will stay here to help local children. The proceeds go to scholarships, school grants and we sponsor a lot of school activities. So it's for a really good cause. There are

flyers upstairs and registrations forms if anyone is interested in going, we would appreciate your support.

I. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mrs. Conley stated she made her 2020 New Years resolution for the city, she would like to stress the Census and how important it is to the residents so the city can get funding. The second item is the water, we need to have a water workshop, we get so many calls about the water and need to get this straightened out. The third item is blight, we have all ran on blight so many times, we need to start addressing this and we need to choose certain areas to start cleaning up. The other thing would be the neighborhood watch, I would like to see if we could get that back through the police station. Every time we turn on the news, we hear about someone else going missing or getting picked up and we need the community and police departments help on this to make sure it doesn't end up being one of our loved ones. If we could have one of the police at the schools.

Mayor Haskins stated that you have to start eliminating some of the apps on your phones. If you look at the last few that have occurred, they all happened through the apps.

Mrs. Conley stated you are absolutely right. But we could still educate them more on the apps and how dangerous the apps can be. It would make me feel better when the next kid comes up missing, like I have done something to try to prevent this. I just feel like it is our job to help educate the public on all these issues, about the blight, the water, about what apps not to go on, questions you should not answer, educate parents where not to let your kids run around because it is not safe anymore.

Mr. Heffner asked Mayor Haskins if he could answer the gentleman's question on the water debt service.

Mayor Haskins stated the first thing he wants to say about the water issue Mrs. Conley brought up, it took over eight months for this consulting firm to bring something forward to council before council voted on it. I have been in office since November 19th and have had a task force working diligently on this issue. They have gone over every little aspect trying to find out what we can do to resolve this, they are getting close. We do not have a definite just yet but we may call up the consulting firm again to bring them in to see how they came up with their numbers. So, just to let you know, this did not happen overnight, but we are sure trying to fix it overnight. Please be patient with us because this is one of my biggest goals too. When I watch my mother-in-law and my grandmother, who are all on fixed incomes, struggling to pay bills, it is not something I am taking lightly. I realize that this is getting brought up at every council meeting and you keep getting the same answers but it's not an easy fix and they have been working hard on it. We will get some results, I promise you. You may defer to Mr. Abbey on the other question.

Mr. Abbey stated to the gentleman regarding the water debt service, there is not a definite of how long it will be. That charge has always been in your bill, but what their methodology was, was changing it from putting it all in the commodity, the usage, into a fixed cost for infrastructure. That is what you are seeing on your bill now, it is broke down into a more defined format and categories. There was an increase, but it's just broke out and you see it as a line item and fixed cost now for infrastructure improvements whereas before it was all rolled into the commodity. The problem with putting it into the commodity is if you have a long term note, commodities go up and down. If you have high water usage you have more revenue, when people conserve, the revenue goes down. You have to take in enough to make sure you cover your infrastructure cost at least. So to answer your question, no matter what formula we use, that will probably remain there, you will see the breakdown like that. But what we are working on is trying to correct the methodology injustices that do not work for us. We are an anomaly, we have sewer only customers, water and sewer

customers and different meter sizes. So we are working on those aspects, trying to modify the AWWA format and bring more compliance with our cities dynamic to ease the burden on the residential user which was always the goal. When the infrastructure goes in, it has a life expectancy, you have to start building some funds to replace that. In our case it is 21-22 years old. That pipe has a 40-60 year life so you start putting a little bit away for replacement of water-main breaks and stuff like that nature.

J. COUNCIL ACTION

1. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Doyle) 12/11/2019 to 1/1/2020 in the amount \$6,194.00.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Christina Conley, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Vaughn Smith, Councilman
AYES:	O'Keefe, Heffner, Smith, Fenner, Conley
EXCUSED:	Martinbianco, Wells

2. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Masud) 11/04/2019 to 11/27/2019 in the amount \$304.00.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Christina Conley, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Gregory Fenner, Vice President
AYES:	O'Keefe, Heffner, Smith, Fenner, Conley
EXCUSED:	Martinbianco, Wells

K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE

1. Approve and Authorize first reading of an ordinance for Zoning Case #326, amend chapter 157, the zoning ordinance, of the code of ordinances of the City of Burton by the amendment of the definition of a kennel.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis O'Keefe, Councilman
SECONDER:	Christina Conley, Councilwoman
AYES:	O'Keefe, Heffner, Smith, Fenner, Conley
EXCUSED:	Martinbianco, Wells

Agendas and minutes may be found at www.burtonmi.gov

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.