



CITY OF BURTON
BURTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2021
MINUTES

Council Chambers

Special Meeting

6:30 PM

4303 S. CENTER ROAD
BURTON, MI 48519

This meeting was opened by President Steven Heffner at 6:30 PM.

A. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tom Martinbianco	Councilman	Present	
Steven Heffner	President	Present	
Danny Wells	Councilman	Present	
Vaughn Smith	Councilman	Present	
Gregory Fenner	Vice President	Present	
Deborah K Walton	Councilwoman	Excused	
Christina Conley	Councilwoman	Present	

B. STAFF PRESENT

Katie Malin, Clerk's Office

C. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

None.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

E. COUNCIL ACTION

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Local Road Projects.

Mr. Martinbianco stated he has not received a copy of the approved 2021-2022 budget.

Mr. Heffner added, he has not received a copy either.

Mr. Martinbianco asked if the Clerk was aware that council has not received the approved 2021-2022 budget.

Ms. Malin stated she was not aware, but she will look into it.

Mr. Martinbianco stated for this project we need to look at the current budget. We all received a five-year report from the administration, so we can look and specifically dial in to local streets. Our goal is to bring a better lasting surface and management to the residents that is low cost. I think it is fair to say any kind of improvement we do to local streets will involve private investment. We will need to identify by a

PASER rating each local street, identify cost of repair, get the property owners thoughts and evaluate a time table for the work.

Mr. Heffner stated the PASER study is important to have. It will help determine what we do. I think we have two options; the city pays 75 percent and the residents pay 25 percent or the city pays 50 percent and the residents pay 50 percent. I think we need to get the residents involved. We need to identify which streets need work the most and take care of them first.

Mr. Smith stated he is concerned without the administration here tonight that an informed decision cannot be made.

Mr. Heffner asked, what are we lacking?

Mr. Smith stated this is not our area of expertise, and we only control a part of this project.

Mr. Martinbianco stated we are here tonight to set a plan and identify what City Council can do with the resources we have.

Mr. Smith stated I still do not feel confident that I can make an informed decision until all the parties involved are here.

Mr. Heffner stated the purpose tonight is to just come up with a policy and procedure.

Mr. Wells asked, do we know why no one from the administration is here tonight?

Mr. Smith stated they told us that no one was available to come tonight.

Mr. Heffner stated with all the employees, not one person was available tonight to represent the administration.

Mr. Smith stated no one was available for the meeting tonight from the DPW, knowing that, I would have preferred to have this meeting when someone was available. I think it would have been a better use of our time.

Discussion continued regarding the purpose of the meeting tonight and previous road resurfacing projects.

Mr. Martinbianco stated if these roads have already been identified by a PASER rating, our strategy would be to focus on the roads that are fives and fours first.

Mr. Smith stated I agree we need a PASER rating as a guide, but we do not know if they have one or not and that's a reason we need to have a meeting with the administration. We can ask them questions and they can inform us and educate us on how and why things are done.

Discussion continued regarding reasons to have a meeting with the administration present.

Mr. Fenner stated I thought the reason for the meeting tonight was to create the mechanism to allow the administration to move forward. The administration cannot move forward until we have a plan. The purpose tonight is to determine how we want to spend the money and how we plan to reach out to the residents. Once we establish that then we can meet with the administration and look at the PASER ratings and that can help us determine which residents we offer the project to first. That is the focus tonight.

Mr. Heffner stated we do not need to know anything about roads because we go by the PASER ratings.

Mr. Fenner stated the resident's participation will be key in determining how we go about this.

Mr. Wells stated we need to do our homework and spend the taxpayer's money wisely and do it right.

Mrs. Conley stated we told the residents we were going to fix the roads, so we need to fix the roads. We need to all work together to move the city forward and we are obviously not because no one from the administration is here tonight to work with us.

Mr. Heffner stated I don't think they would help with the process we are putting together tonight. Once we have a plan on how we are going to do this, then the next step would be to involve the administration.

Mrs. Conley asked, who is in charge of the roads in the DPW?

Mr. Martinbianco said, Chris Howser is the Road Superintendent.

Mr. Heffner stated on a rebuild, if a resident is able to get a petition signed by 51 percent of the residents on that street, I'd like to see the city pay for 75 percent of the project and then the residents pay 25 percent. If it is a dirt road that needs to be paved, the city pay 50 percent and the residents pay 50 percent.

Mr. Wells stated that may involve changing an ordinance.

Mr. Smith stated we have never been in a position like this before; having money to fund some of these projects.

Discussion continued regarding money allocated for road projects.

Mr. Wells stated he thinks part of the plan should include hiring more people in the DPW and making sure they are trained properly.

Mr. Smith stated some of this money can be used for labor, but the only problem with that is what do you do when the money runs out.

Mr. Wells stated we need to fix the things the residents can see, so they know where their money is going.

Mr. Fenner stated I want to get back to what we are here to talk about tonight and that is the \$1.5 million dollars we set aside for local roads and how we are going to get that to the residents. I think we are talking about things tonight that we can't decide until we have a plan on how we are going to let this money be spent. Mr. Martinbianco laid out a good starting plan earlier.

Mr. Heffner said, this is the first year in a long time something like this has been done. It is going to take this first year to gauge how far that money can go.

Mr. Fenner stated I do think we need to have the residents involved and that's what we need to decide, how much we want to contribute.

Mr. Heffner stated I know we have paved gravel roads in the past and it cost the homeowner about \$5,000.00 and that was them paying 100 percent. So, this might only cost them \$1,500.00.

Mr. Fenner stated I think the price has gone up since then.

Mr. Martinbianco stated I would never let it get that low. This is where we would get into the ordinance change Mr. Wells was talking about as far as assessing.

Mr. Fenner stated we might find no one is willing to pay, then we need to decide what we plan to do in that situation.

Mr. Heffner stated ultimately, we are trying to revitalize neighborhoods.

Mr. Fenner stated another option might be we will pay a flat fee. Tell the residents we will pay the first so many dollars of the paving.

Mr. Heffner asked, doesn't the city usually finance that for the first 10 years?

Mr. Martinbianco said, yes up to 15 years. I think tonight our conversation helped us start a plan.

Mr. Heffner asked if the council would like to schedule another meeting and have the administration present.

Mr. Fenner said yes. I think we need to give the administration some guidance on what we would like them to bring to the meeting. We could look at the PASER study, if it's available.

Mr. Martinbianco said, yes. That would give us a basis on how we want to go about this. I would like Mr. Howser to be here, he is the one out on the streets every day.

The City Council members decided to schedule a Special Meeting for Local Road Projects on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:00 PM and that they would like Mr. Howser, Road Superintendent in attendance.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.
