

CITY OF BURTON
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2000, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Council Workshop was called to order by Paula Zelenko, Council President, at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brawner, Centilli, Cross, Hammon, Martinbianco, Tinnin and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Martinbianco

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Richard Hamilton and J. Adams, Clerk's Office.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: COUNCIL WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE POLICY FOR PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS.

PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Zelenko said she gave the Council the revision of the policy made from the last meeting and incorporated all the changes and suggestions given. Mrs. Zelenko said they could review these changes and that she would not be asking for a vote on the policy this evening.

There seemed to be a lot of concern about audience who are late arriving to the meeting, but present before the conclusion of the public participation, still being afforded an opportunity to speak. This has been incorporated in Item #2.

There was some concern about filling out a privacy card or comment card rather than a list to keep their addresses more private. This has been incorporated in Items 1 and 2 also.

Evidently we are not the only ones revisiting our guidelines for public participation. Mr. Brawner brought to our attention, from an article in the Flint Journal, that City of Flushing is reviewing theirs also.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zelenko said she gave the Council the second revision along with the first revision, because evidently it wasn't included in their packet. The second revision has today's date at the top.

Mrs. Tinnin said on one of the revisions it talked about how the Administration will address the Council and the public. She does not see anything here.

Mrs. Zelenko said Item #5 should address this issue.

Mrs. Tinnin stated that in some of our past meetings it was indicated these guidelines would be implemented by the Administration. However, the talk back and forth has differed from what they initially stated they were going to do.

Mrs. Zelenko said this is basically our workshop to review this and we don't need them present.

Mrs. Tinnin said she is confused as to what they are going to do and she would like a clarification from the Administration as to what they intend to do. Will they be addressing the issues at the council meetings or will notes be taken by whomever is here representing the Administration and come back at the next meeting with the answers. That is what they initially stated.

Mr. Cross addressed Item #3, regarding additional time for the audience to speak. He was not in favor of taking a vote for the public participant to speak. He would like the Chairperson to ask if there are any objections in allowing this person 3 more minutes.

Mrs. Zelenko stated that Mr. Austin suggested we could take a vote for additional time for the audience to speak. However, if this is the way the Council wishes this issue to be handled, she has no objections to it.

Mrs. Tinnin said she thinks Mr. Austin said we might want to look at this issue again. We could put the additional 3 minutes in the policy, so that nobody would feel discriminated against and everything would be fair and equal to all.

Mr. Cross said in Item #7, elected officials, developers, etc. are given 10 minutes, and he doesn't think they should be treated and different than the constituents.

Mrs. Zelenko said the idea there is that anyone on the agenda or new legislation that would be affecting us and the State Representative wanted to speak, then they could notify us and speak.

Mr. Cross stated that should someone not notify us, prior to the meeting, that an i.e. be placed at the end of Item #7, stating that they will be given the same amount of time to speak as everyone else.

Mrs. Zelenko clarified that if there is no prior notification given to the Mayor, Council President or City Clerk, then anyone wishing to speak at the council meeting will be afforded the 3 minutes just like everyone else.

Mr. Cross asked about Item #1, regarding a privacy box.

Mrs. Zelenko said there were concern about protecting privacy issues and security issues when publicly reciting a home address, should the meeting be video taped. There are communities that use a privacy box and just prior to the meeting being called to order, the clerk gives the contents of that box to the Chair.

Mrs. Tinnin asked what the policy would be if the person did not sign up to speak that night. Can they still come up and address the Council.

Mrs. Zelenko said the intent is that all those who have signed in will be afforded the opportunity to speak first. Anyone who did not sign in, the Chair will ask if there is anyone else, prior to the close of audience participation. If so, then they will have to either state their name and address publicly, at the podium, or they would have to fill out the card and hand it to the Clerk.

Mr. Centilli said this is stated in Item #2.

Mr. Hamilton said his only concern is that the City complies with the Open Meetings Act and I think you have done that.

Mr. Brawner asked if the Chair would make another revision and then have the Council vote on it at the next meeting.

Mrs. Zelenko replied yes, if the majority of the Council is comfortable with that. Possibly we could have one more meeting or maybe some discussion as an agenda item to finalize it, then we will put it on the first meeting in February.

Mr. Brawner said we could also have another workshop with the revisions that were made tonight.

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Mr. Centilli said there have been very few revisions done tonight.

Mrs. Zelenko stated that Mrs. Tinnin asked for clarification on the Administration's part under Item #5. Mr. Cross suggested that no motion be taken to extend time limit for public participation. He also asked to clarify that everyone be given the same amount of time to speak unless they previously notify someone that they need additional time. Mrs. Zelenko said she would like to have everything typed out and in order before voting on it.

Mr. Cross said we also have one member absent and they would like to review them prior to voting.

Mr. Hammon asked about an individual stepping up to the podium and only giving their name, would the minutes only contain the name of the individual who spoke before the Council.

Mrs. Zelenko said she would say yes, with the address being in the Clerk's Office.

Mr. Hammon said that information would be available to anyone in the audience through the Open Meetings Act. He said the only problem is going to be that when an individual speaks before the Council, that Council should know where the person lives. It could be germane to the topic.

Mrs. Zelenko said the address should then be incorporated into the minutes. She said the purpose of not requiring a person to publicly give their address is a security issue. The minutes wouldn't be as public as stating it at the meeting.

Mrs. Tinnin said could we ask the Clerk to include the address in the minutes of those who speak before the Council.

Mrs. Zelenko replied yes, the address could be included in the minutes. The main purpose of this was for security if there was anyone taping the meeting in the audience.

Mr. Centilli said the Council could ask what city or township they are from.

Further discussion continued on the issue of publicly stating a person's address when speaking before Council.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML