

CITY OF BURTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2012, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Councilman Danny Wells led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Tom Martinbianco at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martinbianco, Heffner, Smith, Wells, O’Keefe, and Haskins.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellenburg.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor P. Zelenko, S. Bassi, Assessor, G. Burke-Miller, Controller, S. Warren, Dir. of Human Resource/Labor Relations and L. Young, Clerk’s Office.

Haskins moved and Heffner seconded the following motion:
Approve and authorize the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on December 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor Zelenko said the Christmas Parade was a success and commended Councilman Heffner and the Parks and Recreation Commission. She said last week they had “Shop with a Hero” at Meijer. Over twenty-five low income families were sponsored by the Burton Police and Fire Departments. The Michigan Legislature has passed many bills and encouraged the Council to go to MML.com to view them. She asked for an Executive Session after Audience Participation.

Ms. Bassi said some people had purchased a property at tax sale and had a certain amount of time to pay the taxes but there was a miscommunication between the County and these residents. The taxes did not get paid and they voided out the sale. Out of 39 properties, 21 had purchase agreements on them through the tax sale. She has two resolutions, one with five houses on it, all of which are occupied and the people have already been working with the Land Bank to possibly sell those houses on land contract. She believes those should go to the Land Bank because we don’t really have the capability with insurance. She suggested they agree to let them purchase the property for what they originally bid and pay the 2012 taxes.

Mr. Austin said the Council needs to decide which option they would like to vote on tonight.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. O’Keefe said he is on the 911 Communication Committee and there was a meeting and a siren test last week. He encouraged the Administration to apply for grants.

Mr. Heffner said the City received a grant for \$171,000 for Kelly Lake Park. The Christmas Parade was a success and had about 27 entries. The Parks and Recreation Director did a great job in organizing the event. He read the tentative schedule for next year’s Parks and Recreation events. He gave the Mayor kudos for her part in the grant for Kelly Lake.

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Mr. Smith said they had a Finance Meeting at 6:00 p.m. The fee schedule was revised but the fees did not go up. They set the fee for subsequent events at \$125.00 instead of \$250.00. He said the VFW is involved in a national contest called "Aprons in Action" through Facebook that runs December 1st through December 31st, from which they could win \$25,000.

Mayor Zelenko said the City was approved for the S2 grant for \$700,000, with a match by the City of \$70,000. She said the money they have already put towards Stantec will get reimbursed and we can start this spring.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Jean Johnson, 1462 Merle, said she was speaking on behalf of the Teamsters Union. The Council has every right to switch to the 80/20 option, but we have only been on the hard cap for six months. There are no figures for the 80/20 so it would be a roll of the dice. The Unions have already agreed to switch from a HSA to a HRA, which should provide significant savings to the City. She suggested we finish out the year with the hard cap.

Ann Abbey, 4260 Meadows Ave., said she was speaking on behalf of the AFSCME Union and the 80/20 is not good. The union has already given up many concessions and we need to figure this out.

John Stapish, P.O. Box 190134, said he has had a bad experience with the Land Bank.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 8:35 p.m.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Haskins said Waste Management will be running a day late for garbage pickup due to the Holiday.

Mr. O'Keefe read a letter from Bruce Williams, owner of Thrifty Drugs. Thrifty Drugs is being bought out by Rite Aid. December 20th will be their last day. Mr. Williams has run his business in Burton for over 20 years and will be missed.

Mr. Martinbianco said the closing of Thrifty Drugs will be a loss to the community. He referenced a comment made by Mr. Stapish and asked Ms. Bassi about her experience with the Land Bank.

Ms. Bassi replied the people at the Land Bank are always very polite and helpful.

Mr. Haskins said Item #2 should be a negotiated item. He said the Michigan Legislature has made Michigan a Right to Work State and we should stand up against it. He said it is a non-stop movement to disband unions and because of that he will be voting no.

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Mr. Wells said we will probably still save money going with the hard cap and will give the employees a piece of mind.

Mr. Heffner asked when we will be getting a list of the new properties.

Ms. Bassi said at the end of January.

Mr. O'Keefe said the Fire Department has had a Holiday food drive for the last two months and collected enough food to donate to fifty-one families.

Mr. Martinbianco said City offices will be closed from December 24th through January 1st and will reopen on January 2nd.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ACTION:

Moved by Heffner and seconded by Haskins to: Approve and authorize going into Executive Session under Section 8C of the Open Meetings Act after Council Discussion. Motion carried 6-0.

Moved by Wells and seconded by Haskins to: Amend agenda Item #2 to read "Approve and authorize the hard cap resolution regarding the cost of sharing model set forth in State of Michigan Public Act 152 of 2011." Motion carried 5-1, with Haskins voting no.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Heffner moved and Haskins seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Richard Austin) from December 28, 2012 through December 12, 2012, in the amount of \$5,913.80.
Motion carried 6-0.

Heffner moved and Wells seconded the following motion:

2. Approve and authorize the hard cap resolution regarding the cost sharing model set forth in State of Michigan Public Act 152 of 2011.
Motion carried 5-1, with Haskins voting no.

Haskins moved and Heffner seconded the following motion:

3. Approve and authorize that the City of Burton Board of Review will be in session from March 11 through March 13, and on March 19, 2013. Meeting times will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the exception of March 13, when the Board will meet from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at Burton City Hall, 4303 S. Center Rd., Burton, Michigan.
Motion carried 6-0.

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Haskins moved and Heffner seconded the following motion:

4. Approve and authorize that a resident taxpayer may file their Board of Review appeal by letter, without a personal appearance being required. This is pursuant to section 211.30 M.C.L.

Motion carried 6-0.

Haskins moved and Heffner seconded the following motion:

5. Approve and authorize the City of Burton Guidelines for Granting Poverty Tax Exemption for Assessment/Tax Year 2013.

Motion carried 6-0.

Haskins moved and Heffner seconded the following motion:

6. Approve and authorize a Resolution Objecting to Transfer of Title to 5 Specific Tax Reverted Property which title will automatically be transferred to the City from the Genesee County Land Bank if not rejected.

Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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