



CITY OF BURTON

BUDGET MEETING

JUNE 16, 2021

MINUTES

Council Chambers

Budget Workshop

6:00 PM

4303 S. CENTER ROAD
BURTON, MI 48519

This meeting was opened by President Steven Heffner at 6:00 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	Present	
Christina Conley	Councilwoman	Present	

B. STAFF PRESENT

Duane Haskins, Mayor
Racheal Boggs, City Clerk
Jodi Holbrook, Controller
Jean Johnson, Senior Center Director
Amy Clous, Parks & Recreation Director

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

D. BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Smith stated so far, we have appropriated approximately \$1.2 million. The general fund started out at \$4.3 million. We have a total of \$3.1 million left in the general fund before tonight. He outlined the following changes made by the council to the proposed budget from previous budget workshops.

- Police cameras \$120,000
- Police radars \$35,000
- Traffic lights \$30,000
- Culverts \$10,000
- DPW Building \$400,000
- DPW gas storage tank \$50,000
- 10 yard dump truck with plow \$240,000
- 5 yard dump truck with plow \$150,000
- Mini excavator \$95,000
- Tornado siren \$25,000
- City Hall roof (back) \$30,000
- Internal control review \$20,000

- DPW supervisor \$10,000

Mr. Smith continued by stating historically, the city has kept \$1.8 - \$2.2million in the general fund. Our fund balance policy is \$730,000. We are not anywhere near this. I would like to suggest the council determine how far we want to go down with the general fund. The next step would be to give the administration a direction of what we would like to do with the money.

Mr. Martinbianco asked about the \$150,000 for the water tank.

Mr. Smith stated that money is already there and does not affect the general fund according to the minutes.

The administration concurred.

- Senior Center & Libraries

Ms. Holbrook stated for revenues in the Senior Center, there was \$1,000 for sale of assets from last year that is not expected this coming year so that was removed. The donation revenue and hall rental were both decreased due to COVID. There is a \$9,000 decrease in revenue for this year. For expenditures, there is a variance in salaries for DPW for mowing. Overtime decreased by \$500. There is an increase in fringes and IT expense. There is a \$5,000 decrease in supplies. ERC LED is expected to decrease. There is a \$3,000 decrease in equipment rental and a \$15,000 increase for new equipment.

Mr. Heffner asked what the new equipment is.

Mrs. Johnson stated I asked for additional funding for security cameras.

Mrs. Conley asked if there are any capital asset requests for the Senior Center.

Mrs. Johnson stated the biggest issue facing the Senior Center is that we are outgrowing our building. I would like to see an addition to the Senior Center sometime in the next five years before it becomes a crucial issue.

Discussion ensued regarding security cameras, problems with panhandling and mischief taking place in the parking lot.

Mrs. Walton suggested placing locked gates at the entrances due to things happening at nighttime in the parking lot. Boats and semis have been parking there. Parking on Carman Street is also an issue. Maybe putting up no parking signs on each side of the driveway would help.

Discussion continued regarding parking lot issues and the need for cameras.

Mr. Fenner recommends signs in the parking lot to let people know the parking lot is being monitored.

Mrs. Johnson stated she would also like to see a sign stating unauthorized vehicles may be towed.

Discussion regarding the legal issues with placing signs in a public parking lot.

Mr. Wells asked if the library is utilized.

Mrs. Johnson said, yes. There is so much wasted space at the Senior Center. The library could have its own entrance and then the foyer and lobby could become used space.

Mr. Smith suggested getting an architectural firm to take a look at the Senior Center. Jean has been here for a long time and knows the building inside and out as well as the needs of our seniors.

Discussion regarding finding a new building versus updating the current building.

Mayor Haskins stated the cost for an architect to look at it would run about \$15,000-\$20,000. This is much less than trying to find a new building.

Mrs. Johnson stated the building was bought with CDBG money so if we decide on a new building, there are liabilities about how we get rid of this one. We really need space or partitions for classrooms.

Discussion regarding how to square off the building, eliminating the exit out to Grand Traverse and adding an additional exit onto Carman.

Mr. Fenner would like to allocate up to a certain amount of money for a structural engineer to come out and get the ball rolling.

Mr. Wells stated he would like to see \$15,000 set aside for this.

Mr. Martinbianco stated the first thing to do is get a general idea of what you want, develop an RFQ, advertise and see how many engineers we get. We will then have a firm price. They can do the price estimates and report this to the council.

The council concurred to place \$15,000 in an account for architectural services for the Senior Center.

Sadonna Meyers of Burton and longtime member/current President of Friends of the Library spoke regarding the needs of the Burton Memorial Library on the corner of Center and Atherton. The windows are rotted and leaking; the pillars in the front of building are rotting and have water coming in. There is also painting that needs to be done on the exterior of the building. The breakroom floor needs to be redone because the tile is breaking up due to a leak in the bathroom. Mrs. Conley asked me to come tonight to help you make decisions on the things that need to be addressed.

Mr. Heffner asked on what page of the budget is the library.

Ms. Holbrook stated we don't budget for government buildings. There is a line item when we decide to put money for it. There is nothing planned for the library at this time.

Mr. Heffner asked which department pays for maintenance on the building.

Ms. Holbrook stated the Senior Center and Library are grouped together for maintenance.

Mayor Haskins stated we are currently getting quotes for the windows as well as parking.

Mrs. Conley stated the windows and pillars need to be fixed right away before we have a mold problem and have to shut it down.

Mr. Wells agreed.

Mr. Heffner stated there is currently \$27,500 in the Senior Center maintenance line item. How much of that will go toward the library?

Mr. Fenner stated that is the total for the Senior Center and both libraries.

Mrs. Johnson stated the \$27,000 is just for general maintenance. It is not for additional projects. If they need windows or a parking lot for example, there would be a separate line item put in for that.

Discussion continued regarding maintenance at the library.

Mayor Haskins stated if the council would like to allocate some money specifically for projects at the library, we will have the quote for the windows soon. Maintenance has been out regarding the windows and the tree that came through the building. This is the first I have heard about the pillars.

Mr. Heffner stated we need the administration to commit to sending the maintenance person over there. I would like to put \$20,000 in a line item for the library.

Council concurred to create a line item for the Center Road Library maintenance and place \$25,000 in the line item.

- IT Department

Ms. Holbrook stated for revenues, as we went through each of the departments, you are seeing the difference here from the IT allocations. For the appropriations, there is a slight increase in salaries permanent and MERS. Those are the only changes.

Mr. Heffner asked if we have something budgeted for the security issues we had a few months ago.

Mayor Haskins stated it is a complex issue that is still under investigation but we are secure. We are waiting on the reports and we will know what direction we need to go and if we will need extra security.

- Rubbish

Ms. Holbrook stated the revenue and expenditures match because we charge the amount of our fees. For this year, it is \$1,725,000.

Mr. Martinbianco asked how many stops this represents.

Ms. Holbrook said, 10,905.

Mr. Heffner asked if we were refunded money when they did not pick up the recycling.

Ms. Holbrook stated not that I know of.

Mr. Heffner stated we need to bill them for that. They cannot charge us for a service they are not performing. They missed several weeks. We are up here to make sure our resident's money is not being frivolously spent. Emterra has taken on more communities than they can handle.

Mr. Wells stated people put it back out and it was eventually picked up. It wasn't just Emterra. Every trash company was down during those same weeks. Republic still has not picked up in Flint.

Mayor Haskins stated we never charged Waste Management when they suspended bulk pick-up due to COVID.

Mr. Smith stated COVID changed so much. Emterra has done a great job under difficult circumstances. I didn't see a problem. Most people have been very patient with the situation.

Mr. Fenner agreed with Mr. Smith, COVID changed things.

Discussion continued regarding the recycling plant being shut down due to COVID and whether or not to collect from Emterra for the time when recycling was not picked up.

Mayor Haskins stated our residents pay for waste collection. According to the Emterra contract, the other two services are included per visit. It is \$12.92 per month for solid waste service. Recycling and yard waste is included in that price. I am not sure how we could get reimbursement back for something that is included.

Discussion continued regarding trash collection, clean-up week, the performance of Emterra and recycling issues.

Mr. Heffner stated we have a fund balance in garbage that we were told has to be spent on garbage.

Ms. Holbrook stated we do spend that fund balance. It covers our payments while we are waiting for tax collection.

Mr. Smith stated it is called a float. That is not an ending balance.

Ms. Holbrook stated there are some special projects that were added this year in the police fund. Because of timing and construction, they were unable to get some stuff done before the end of this fiscal year. This is the same for the parking lot and sidewalks. This will roll back into fund balance, so we would like to request to add that back in next year's budget. The equipment line item is \$182,000, building repair is \$24,500 and parking and sidewalks are \$200,000.

Council agreed to add these amounts back into the budget.

- Parks & Recreation/Race Events

Ms. Holbrook stated Parks & Recreation has individual funds as well as general fund.

Mr. Heffner asked if we put money in a Parks & Recreation fund for a specific event such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the money is not spent, it stays in Parks & Rec, correct.

Ms. Holbrook stated it stays in the department unless there is an amendment done by council.

Mr. Heffner stated Parks & Rec does not have the authority to move the money. I was very disturbed at the last Parks & Rec Meeting. Mrs. Conley came to the council and got us to move money that was going to fall back into the general fund. She got the third degree from the Parks & Rec Committee and they took a vote to see if the council could move the money. Then, I heard Amy say if this runs over will it come out of the council budget. Remember, Tina Conley is a councilperson. If the council takes action at a council meeting, she is not to be questioned by Parks & Rec Commissioners. It upsets me that she was being questioned.

Mayor Haskins asked if Mrs. Conley spoke up at the meeting. We have a new Parks & Recreation Director who is trying to learn the budget as well as a fairly new Parks & Recreation Commission with a new Chairperson. I am sure there was no malice intended. Not one person contacted me about this.

Mrs. Conley stated this is not something I shared with Steve. He watched the tape but I will say there are times with the Parks & Recreation Commission that I feel people are jabbing at me. New or not, Amy knows well that we are not going to take money out of the council budget to pay for this.

Mayor Haskins stated she does not know that well, so please watch your statements. She is learning the budget and that is not an accurate or fair statement.

Mrs. Conley stated it is to me. I can say other things that have been said that shouldn't have been said at Parks & Rec meetings but I'm not going to go there because this is a budget meeting. I felt it was a jab. If it wasn't, I apologize.

Mr. Heffner stated Mayor, I suggest you watch the tape. I felt it was very disrespectful to a councilperson.

Mr. Smith stated Amy is new. Tina did mention this to me and I felt that Amy and the Mayor should have gotten together so she understands how the charter works and how the budget works. I hope this does happen. Aside from the Zoning Board of Appeals, the final say on monetary funds in the city is the City Council. The Mayor administers those funds. We can overrule anybody according to the charter. We don't want to undermine peoples jobs. I looked at it as a possible teaching moment between the Mayor and Amy and that is how I personally would have handled it. I worked with Amy on the race and she did a great job. I know she is a good employee. This is about being new on the job. Mr. Heffner stated I think she does a great job myself. I just saw something and I felt I needed to say something about it.

Ms. Holbrook stated the Burton Youth League mirrors last year because last year, the league did not take place. It is starting back up this year and we are not sure how it is going to go. The revenues directly affect the appropriations. We don't have to worry

about overstating the revenue because if we don't have the revenue, we also don't have the expenses.

Mr. Wells asked how many kids we have this year for the youth league. Do we have money set aside for kids who can't afford to play?

Mrs. Clous said, we have 225 kids. We plan to have a fund for that next year.

Mr. Wells stated you are doing a great job. I hope that we can grow the league. I recommended we have more youth programs such as flag football. In the future, I would like to see about starting this.

Mr. Fenner agreed with Mr. Wells.

Mr. Heffner stated I would like to add \$2,500 to the Parks and Recreation Director stipend.

Council agreed to add \$2,500 to the budget for the stipend for the Parks and Recreation Director.

Discussion ensued regarding using school properties for the football league.

Ms. Holbrook stated for Veterans Memorial Park fund, there were no changes made.

Mr. Heffner stated we have the money for new pavers in the budget. I do not know the cost of walls. We will need an architect. We can charge for the pavers and use that money for more statues or walls. Grand Blanc Cement Products is willing to continue to work with us on the pavers.

Mayor Haskins stated we have been talking with a local company who would like to donate to this. It would be great if we could get some work done on it this season.

Mr. Smith asked if we would like to add more money to this fund.

Mr. Heffner stated I don't know if we can use public money for this. We will need to talk to the City Attorney. Waste Management was a huge help with donations for this in the past.

Mayor Haskins stated it shouldn't be different than other parks.

Discussion continued about pavers, other options such as concrete and maintenance on the park.

Mrs. Conley stated the flowerbeds need to be redone as well.

Mr. Wells stated the city owns the monument and is responsible for maintaining it.

Council agreed to get an opinion from the City Attorney before putting additional money into this fund.

Council went into recess at 7:40PM.

Council returned from recess at 7:52PM.

Ms. Holbrook stated for the Cancer Survivor Park fund, there is a small fund balance that generates some investment gains and interest income but there is no other activity.

Mr. Heffner asked how long are we going to keep this on the books. Is there anything we can do to make it go away?

Mr. Smith stated we were told that this money was donated for this specific reason so we can't change the reason to use the money.

Mr. Heffner asked if we can donate the money to the Cancer Society and move on with the piece of property. It would make a great splash pad for the Parks & Rec.

Mayor Haskins stated we had the aquatic center on there for about 30 years before the \$500 was disbursed. The attorney told us 20 years and it hasn't been that long. I don't know if there is anything we can do.

Mr. Smith asked the administration to ask the City Attorney about Cancer Survivor's Park.

Mr. Smith stated moving on to the Memorial Day Race fund. the Memorial Day Race went well this year. Everyone did a great job. We will be donating \$250 to Atherton High School for the use of the school facilities for this event.

Mayor Haskins stated when you are ready to do that, make sure we get something formal from you so we can attach it to the invoice.

Mr. Smith stated you should be getting a bill from the timer. We will need something showing the revenues and expenses so we know how we ended up.

Ms. Holbrook stated the Veterans Honor Run fund has no changes.

Mr. Smith stated Jim Craig is the Race Director for this event and he will be getting with the administration about this.

Ms. Holbrook stated the Burton Mile fund is next.

Mr. Smith stated the numbers didn't work to make this event financially viable. We transferred roughly \$1,800 into Memorial Day fund. Whenever the council is ready to eliminate this line item, we can do that. There is no money in there.

Ms. Holbrook said the Burton Race Series fund is next.

Mr. Smith stated Hurley is a major contributor to this. They do the medals and we keep a running total. It is all paid for by Hurley. You will see that coming in the next few weeks. The \$2,200 is from that donation.

Ms. Holbrook stated department 6090 is the Parks and Recreation fund. The first line is the change that was voted on earlier from \$10,000 to \$12,500. There are increases for MERS and fringe benefits for DPW workers when their time is allocated to this fund for maintenance and mowing. There is an increase for the IT allocation. Contractual services, there wasn't a change but it was requested to add \$19,431 to that line for a fence. There are no other changes.

Mr. Smith stated the council has already approved the fence. I think a portion of the money was coming out of Parks & Rec events that did not happen and the remainder was to come out of the general fund.

Ms. Holbrook stated it was agreed to move the money and do that this year but because the project will not happen in this year's budget, the money will fall back to the fund balance. We will need to approve it for next year. The project will begin on July 7th. With that change, the total in that line will be \$28,431. The total appropriation for Parks & Rec will be \$122,031.

Mrs. Conley stated we all know the cost of living is going up. I would like an increase of \$1,000 in each of our Park & Rec events and \$2,000 more in community events in case we need it. This year is our 50th anniversary. I would like to see a line item for that event. Will Memorial Day and the 50th Anniversary events be together? I would like to have \$50,000 for the whole thing.

Mayor Haskins stated the plan is to celebrate the 50th Anniversary during Memorial weekend and to have a three-day event. It depends on the money we have and all the activities. We will work hard to get funding. We did well with Memorial Day this year, the business community really stepped up. It would be great to have a fireworks show on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Discussion continued regarding the 50th Anniversary event, participation from city departments and whether to create a separate line item for the 50th anniversary or to combine it with the Memorial Day line.

Council agreed to place an additional \$20,000 in the Memorial Day event line item for funding the 50th Anniversary event during the same weekend.

Mayor Haskins asked if the council plans to allocate money to the Saginaw Street Christmas lights. We will have to get them ordered if that is the council's plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the DDA donating money to the Saginaw Street Christmas lights.

Mr. Heffner stated he would like to move \$25,000 to purchase lighted Christmas decorations to be placed on Saginaw Street in the DDA district.

Mr. Fenner stated we need to figure out how to use the banner poles that have been sitting there not being used. It has been a waste. It's a shame. I will reach out the DDA and see what we can do.

Mr. Wells suggests finding all-in-one lights for all the holidays. They make them. You flip a switch and they change for each different holiday.

Discussion continued regarding different options for Christmas lights, placement and issues with poles.

Council agrees to allocate \$25,000 for Christmas lights and to add \$1,000 to each of the following events: Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Tree Lighting, Trick or Treat Trail and Pizza with Santa for a total of \$4,000.

- Wrap-up

Mr. Smith stated so far, we have \$15,000 for architectural services for the Senior Center, \$25,000 for the library building on Center and Atherton, \$2,500 for the Parks & Rec Director stipend, \$25,000 for the 50th Anniversary event, \$25,000 for Christmas lights, \$4,000 for Parks & Rec events, for a total of \$92,000 tonight. We are at approximately \$3 million left in the general fund.

Mrs. Conley stated we need new chairs in the Council Chambers. These are ripped and uncomfortable.

Mr. Fenner asked if there was money budgeted for furniture.

Mayor Haskins stated most of the furniture in City Hall is more than 20 years old. There have been some chairs purchased here and there but we did not budget for any upgrades.

Mr. Fenner stated I have a hard time getting new chairs with everyone else still using the old chairs.

Mr. Smith asked for each council persons agreement to approve the budget on Monday night.

Council agreed to approve the budget.

Mr. Smith stated after changes made throughout the budget meetings, we are at approximately \$3 million in the general fund. The question is what does the council want to do with that money and how far down do we want to take the general fund.

Mr. Heffner stated I would like to put \$2 million into local streets and take the general fund down to \$1 million. We have COVID money coming in. The water department owes the general fund \$672,000. If we could pay the general fund back, that would take us up to \$1.6 million in general fund. \$2 million for the re-pavement of local streets would do so much for this city.

Mr. Wells stated when we do this, let's make sure we do the ditching on each of these streets.

Mr. Heffner would like to place this in a special line item not just in local streets and let the administration decide where it goes. Then, we hold a special council meeting to decide how we want to distribute the money. Do we want to do a 50/50 match or a 75/25 split? We need to figure out how to best leverage the \$2 million.

Mr. Smith stated I spoke with the Mayor today and I am not sure how much we will be able to get done in this season before the weather changes.

Mayor Haskins stated to be able to have the contractors available for next season; we would have to start on it right away. Everyone is aware of the backlog with contractors right now. I think this is a great idea. I just don't know if I would go that low with the general fund. We worked hard to build it up and we are unsure if we will be able to use the ARP money for paying back the general fund.

Mr. Fenner stated he agrees with the Mayor. We are not 100% sure we will be able to do that and until we are I don't want to take the general fund down to \$1 million.

Mr. Heffner stated let me tell you something, Mr. Fenner, we don't get this opportunity very often and this may never come again as a council for us to do this. No other council in the last 20 years has been able to do what we are talking about doing. We all have a chance to make an impact. Property values will go up. When we repave some streets and make the neighborhood look nice, it will spread.

Mayor Haskins stated this administration has worked hard in two budgets and made some bold moves. I am all about getting the local streets done too but this is our reserves. What if something unexpected comes up?

Mr. Fenner stated I would feel comfortable going down to \$1.5 million. What if the federal government doesn't allow us to repay general fund with the COVID money? I am sold on doing roads. If the \$672,000 comes in, we can move that to local streets from the general fund.

Mr. Heffner stated you do realize that here at the city, every year that taxes get paid and the general fund money replenishes every year.

Mr. Fenner stated I do understand that until 2008 rolls around and everything crashes. I am only one vote up here and I am just making my argument.

Mr. Wells stated we are never going to get to all these streets this year. We can at least get a good start. This will get our residents pumped up.

Mr. Martinbianco stated I am torn. I have to agree with Mr. Fenner. I don't ever want to be in that place again and I wouldn't wish it on future councils.

Mrs. Conley stated I am for \$2 million for the local roads. If we have to give the money back, it will work both ways.

Mrs. Walton stated I am good with \$1.5 million for right now. I also want to focus on blight. Without the millage, we would have been in very bad shape. I am very cautious to take the general fund down.

Discussion regarding the previous administration.

Mrs. Walton stated this administration is asking you not to take the general fund down to \$1 million.

Mayor Haskins stated we are all about local streets too. I just don't know if we should take the general fund that low. If you put the \$1.5 million into local streets and then the ARP money comes in, it will leave a little balance in there and give us a little protection. This administration over the last two years has worked hard to put \$1.6 million back in the general fund. We did it by making bold moves to recoup to get to the point where we are now. I don't want to see us in a hardship. It takes five votes of council to move the money back and it takes five votes to move the money out.

Mr. Heffner stated we have given pretty close to all the employees' raises, if not all of them over the last couple of years.

Mayor Haskins stated that is not an accurate statement. AFSCME, Teamsters and SEIU unions didn't get raises.

Mr. Smith stated I am somewhat conservative, fiscally. It is because there are always unexpected things in life. I don't want to see the general fund get down that low. At some point, the administration will get confirmation of the ARP funds and if we can use it the way we have talked about. If we can confirm that, I am all for it.

Mr. Heffner asked what we are holding the money for? Do you have a plan for it? Mayor Haskins stated there are no plans for it but it is a security blanket so we don't hit the floor of the fund balance policy. If that happens, we will be in panic mode again. We would be looking at raising millage rates and levying taxes and all the stuff we don't want to go through again.

Mr. Smith stated once we can confirm that we are getting that money, I do not have a problem with it.

Mr. Fenner agreed with Mr. Smith. I would love to spend \$2 million on those roads; I will be all in once we get confirmation, no questions asked.

Mr. Heffner stated we have a once in a lifetime opportunity. Do you want to let it pass you by? We may never have this opportunity again. This is the resident's money. It is not our money. It needs to be spent to make their lives better.

Mr. Smith stated it will be spent once we know we have it.

Mr. Heffner asked, what is it going to be spent on? That's the question. Vaughn, we have talked about this.

Mr. Smith stated I think this administration has done well. Tonight, we have eluded to the mindset of the prior administration. I am not seeing that here. Part of this money is from COVID, part is from things the council has done and part of it is what this administration has done. The mindset today is not where it was a couple of years ago.

Discussion continued about the mindset and actions of the previous Mayor and administration.

Mr. Smith stated I don't believe this Mayor will do what the previous one did.

Mr. Heffner stated we have the same department heads that we had with the last administration and the same people telling us stories.

Mr. Smith stated I don't see it. He has saved \$2.2 million. Financially, we would not be where we are if the previous mindset was sitting in the Mayors chair. That mindset used to sit in that chair. There is a whole different atmosphere now.

Mr. Heffner stated it is not as different as you think. We have a different Mayor and Controller. Everything else is the same.

Mr. Smith stated the leadership is different. I can see a difference and I see a difference in the financial numbers. We would not be where we are today if we didn't make the

changes we did seven years ago. I agree with the \$1.5 million for local roads.

Mr. Fenner stated I am all for this money going to roads. It's just a matter of it going to the roads at the time it needs to go to roads.

Mr. Heffner stated it is not going to go to the roads.

Mr. Fenner stated I will not vote for it to go anywhere besides roads.

Mr. Heffner stated you may be surprised and this will be a learning experience for you.

Mr. Smith stated all you have to do is keep track of the general fund at the end of the day.

Mr. Fenner stated I think I know what Steve is eluding to.

Mr. Heffner stated you will see and there is nothing you will be able to do about it either. Vaughn knows where I am going with it too.

Mr. Smith stated I know where you are going with it but I don't believe that is going to happen.

Mr. Heffner stated it is going to happen.

Mayor Haskins stated somebody let me know what is going to happen. If you can predict the future, please let me know. I am pretty upfront and I will tell you if it is going to happen or not.

Mr. Smith stated I don't want to go there. We have the fund balance down to \$1.5 million and \$1.5 million into local roads.

Mr. Heffner stated this is for the re-pavement of local roads. We are not paving dirt roads. We are repaving local roads.

Mayor Haskins asked this is not going to be used for chip seal or anything.

Mr. Heffner said, no.

Mr. Smith stated I thought with this money, we were trying to lengthen the useful life of all the roads we could. What does the council think?

Discussion ensued regarding the chip seal in the south end and the project on Belsay Road.

Mr. Wells stated we need to spread the wealth all across the city not just in one area.

Mr. Heffner stated we need to have a special council meeting to discuss the roads and how we want to use the money.

Mr. Smith stated we can do that. I want to give the administration time to come to us and say this is how we want to maximize the use of this money.

Mayor Haskins stated it won't take that long if you are talking about resurfacing and ditching. That is very expensive so we won't get a whole lot done with it. Pick three or four of the worst streets and that's it.

Mr. Smith stated I look at it like I am not an expert in that area and the administration knows what they are talking about. I want to see them maximize the useful life of the roads as much as possible.

Mr. Fenner stated at one time you were talking about a 50/50 match. Is that what you are still talking about?

Mr. Heffner said, yes.

Mr. Fenner stated so we are only going to repave the road if someone wants to do a 50/50 match on it. That's a different story.

Mayor Haskins stated it is a special assessment 7-0 vote.

Mr. Heffner said, no. If the residents put a petition together and get 51% of the people to sign it, they pay for 50% of the road. This way, they have some skin in the game.

Mayor Haskins stated we will have to rely on the residents to sign it. I am not opposed to it, if we can get to that point.

Mr. Heffner stated I think you might be overwhelmed by the number of people who will be willing to do it.

Mr. Fenner stated it gives the residents the option and doubles the number of roads we can get done.

Mr. Heffner stated it is not like doing major roads. We can get a lot of side streets done. If we have no takers, we can put it back in the general fund. We will get quite a few takers. The chip seal in the south end bought another five to ten years on the roads but if you look at them now that the fog seal has dried, the road is in pieces that are four inches. It is going to fall apart especially during winter with a good frost.

Mr. Martinbianco stated I stand by the \$1.5 million. We need a special line item for repaving. If you listen to the Mayor's argument, which is well taken, even with a 50/50 match, we might get four to eight lane miles out of it. We need to have a special meeting.

Council agreed to set up a line item for local street repaving for the \$1.5 million.

Mr. Smith stated I would like the Mayor to bring us information on Steve's approach and what the DPW's thoughts are on how best to use the money. Then, we can set a special meeting after the holiday.

Mr. Heffner asked the Clerk about rearranging the council seats in council chambers.

Ms. Boggs stated it is just a matter of replacing all the computers back on the council bench and moving everyone down a little. Is that what you are referring to?

Mr. Heffner stated I want to get us back to the way we used to sit.

Ms. Boggs stated okay, we can do that.

Discussion on removing the plexi-glass partitions between council members.

Mayor Haskins stated I believe July 1st is the day we can do that.

Mrs. Walton stated on Camden between Hemphill and Bristol in the west side lane heading south, where the MTA bus stops, the road is getting bad from the bus sinking in. Is this something the city takes care of?

Mayor Haskins stated yes, we take care of it.

Mr. Wells mentioned a program that Ralph Laduke put together where the Atherton teachers and coaches played a ball game against our police. Can we do something like this to get our police back in the neighborhoods?

Mayor Haskins stated we are short on Police Officers at this time. We can probably do firefighters.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.
