CITY OF BURTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2010, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Councilman Duane Haskins led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.
The Regular Meeting was called to order by President Steven Heffner at 7:20 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellenburg, Haskins, Heffner, Martinbianco, Smith, Wells and Zelenko.
MEMBERS ABSENT: None.
OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor C. Smiley; Attorney R. Austin and G. Webster, City Clerk.

Haskins moved and Ellenburg seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize the minutes of the following meeting: Regular Council Meeting on February 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:
None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Ellenburg attended the Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance Meeting on February 18th. Basically, the only Federal funds available are for road safety projects. We have already applied for a couple of those projects. They praised the City for their well-organized applications.

Mrs. Zelenko said the Legislative Committee met to discuss the sale procedures of city owned properties, registration fees on abandoned structures, backyard chickens and the purchase of water meters. The committee recommended that the chicken ordinance be sent to the Planning Commission. She gave Council members the proposed ordinance with the new changes. The ordinances regarding the sale procedures of city owned properties and registration fees on abandoned structures were sent to the next regular council meeting scheduled for March 15th for first readings. She planned to give Council a copy of both of these proposed ordinances. The committee will continue to discuss the purchase of water meters.

Mr. Wells spoke to Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Wright and Mr. Kray on what other communities were doing regarding water and sewer fees. He said the last Council and Administration did a great job on structuring readiness-to-serve charges. Now, the committee is trying to address some issues relating to the purchase of water meters.

Mrs. Zelenko scheduled a Legislative Meeting for March 15th at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing two police ordinances and to continue the discussion on the purchase of water meters. She requested the Finance Committee schedule a meeting to review fees on abandoned structures.

Mr. Martinbianco set a Finance Meeting for March 15th at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting fees for the abandoned structure ordinance.

Mr. Haskins announced that the Friends of the Burton Parks and Recreation are now on Face Book. He encouraged everyone to visit the site. He said the Gus Macker event is underway. Mr. Heffner and Mr. Smith are active on this committee. There are a lot of donations coming in from businesses. He said the Parks Commission is doing a lot of positive things for the youth in the community. He felt it was imperative to keep the Parks Commission active. He invited everyone to volunteer to help with this endeavor.

Mr. Smith recognized a new business in Burton called "In His Eyes Photography". The business is having a grand opening tomorrow. It is located in the Beechwood Center on the corner of Davison and Belsay Rd. He encouraged everyone to stop by and give the business a warm welcome.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Jeff Houston, 2307 Belle Meade Dr., Davison Twp., announced his candidacy for 50th District State Representative. He looked forward to discussing issues with the voters. He said in these tough times we need the best representative in Lansing to serve the district.

Rick Fuhst, 1208 Genesee Rd., spoke in reference to a re-occupancy fee for the abandoned homes. He said simply remodeling a vacant home should not require a re-occupancy permit. He spoke in reference to dropping property values and the impact on tax revenues. He suggested budgetary cuts be made in the motor pool. He said we need police officers to protect our residents, due to an increase in crime.

Liz Moss, Parks and Recreation Director, 1382 Ready, announced the annual Easter Egg Hunt would be held March 27th at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall. This event is primarily for children ages 4-10. The event has grown considerably over the last several years. She would like the event to be sponsored by the Mayor's Office and Council, as it was initially. She asked Council to donate $50.00 a piece to help with the event.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Haskins and Mr. Smith said they would be donating $50.00 towards the Easter event. Mr. Heffner felt Ms. Moss could count on everyone for donations.

Mr. Martinbianco requested an update on tax tribunal issues. In addition, he would like information regarding future tax tribunal cases that would significantly impact the City.

Mr. Austin said it would be a good idea to provide Council with a summary of the tax tribunal settlements. Mr. Joliat and the Assessor could prepare this information. He planned to contact Mr. Joliat in reference to this issue. Mr. Austin didn't plan to give out information in reference to ongoing litigation.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Haskins moved and Zelenko seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Richard Austin) from February 10, 2010 through February 24, 2010, in the amount of $4,764.75.

Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Gayle K. Webster, MMC
City Clerk