

CITY OF BURTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2000, 7:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Councilman Tom Martinbianco led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Meeting was called to order by Paula Zelenko, Council President, at 7:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hammon.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor C. Smiley, Attorney R. Hamilton and G. Webster, City Clerk.

Cross moved and Martinbianco seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize the minutes of the following meetings: Regular Meeting of February 21, 2000 at 6:30 P.M., as printed. Motion carried 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

The administrative report included information on the following topics: Posting council action on the Burton's web page; A letter of appreciation from the Bentley Schools in regards to prompt snow removal and police traffic control; The importance of the upcoming Census and Council's suggestions being incorporated into the budget.

Mr. Martinbianco asked for clarification on council action to post the minutes on the web.

The Mayor indicated that minutes are public documents and available in the clerk's office, also.

Mr. Hamilton said the minutes are not an official document until Council has approved them at the following meeting. They could be posted, stating they are subject to approval. He didn't think council action was necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Don Sanderlin, 4460 Killarney Park, spoke on the start date of yard waste pick up, repairing pot holes in front of city hall and on Belfast/O'Heren St., against adopting new guidelines for council participation, getting an update on S&K Services and publishing minutes in the paper.

Mrs. Dargel, 6119 Hugh, spoke on posting minutes on the web page, the Planning Meeting minutes of February 8, 2000, the Census and in opposition to adopting new guidelines for council participation.

Warren Nimcheski, 2429 N. Genesee Rd., made comments on a census letter and the need for timing of traffic lights on Court St. by the mall.

Larry Petrella, 1081 Howe Rd., asked for an update on the recycling program and the best time to contact council members. He spoke in opposition to the new council guidelines and the Lowe's development.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cross made reference to Doug Halstead's memo dated March 3, 2000, concerning the purchase of three external defibrillators.

Mrs. Zelenko asked if there was a time limit for purchasing the new equipment for the fire department.

Mr. Cross made reference to the Mayor participating in a donut-eating contest at Meijer's Wednesday morning.

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Mr. Halstead indicated he would like to deal with this issue as soon as possible. He has received matching funds of \$4,500 from the Burton Fire Auxiliary to help with the purchase of this equipment.

Mr. Cross made a motion to send Chief Halstead's request to transfer \$4,500 for the purchase of three external defibrillators to the finance committee for review. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Centilli set a finance meeting for Wednesday, March 7, 2000 at 4:00 P.M.

Mr. Centilli made reference to a letter from Mrs. Tinnin dated February 27, 2000. He strongly disagreed with comments she made in reference to the city's bond rating and the upcoming budget.

Discussion continued in reference to Mrs. Tinnin's letter that dealt with the upcoming budget.

Mr. Martinbianco asked for an update on the trash collection contract.

The Mayor has been meeting with officials on the trash contract. He will provide the council with a report, as the information becomes available.

Mr. Martinbianco asked if the arbitration hearing was going to be held Wednesday, March 7, 2000, as he would like to attend the session.

The Mayor thought the hearing was still set for Wednesday.

In reference to posting meetings on the web, Mr. Martinbianco did not have a problem with posting tentative minutes.

In reference to Mr. Nimcheski's comments, Mr. Cross asked about the timing of traffic lights on Court Street.

The Mayor indicated these are city lights under the control of the county. Mr. Major has been reviewing this issue and is waiting for a response. He will give council a report of his findings.

Mrs. Tinnin would like the railroad tracks repaired on Robert T. Longway.

The Mayor said Robert T. Longway is under the jurisdiction of the county. A letter could be sent to bring this matter to their attention.

Mr. Hamilton indicated that the Railroad Company was responsible for track repairs. He suggested we ask the county to contact the Railroad Company of the needed repairs.

Mr. Cross has noticed the increase of used cars for sale on the roadways. He would like DPW to look into the situation.

In reply to the audience comments, the Mayor suggested that residents contact the DPW or the appropriate administrator, during working hours, in regards to their immediate concerns. Meeting comments and questions will be answered during the administrative report at the following meeting. This will allow the administration time to research the issue and give the appropriate answer. These administrative guidelines will help us to conduct the meeting in a more professional and productive manner.

The Mayor thought the yard waste program would start in April. He will have the DPW look at the pothole on Belfast.

Mrs. Tinnin would like council meeting guidelines to remain the same. She said rules aren't needed and the council receives good suggestions from the audience.

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Mrs. Zelenko thought there was a need for the proposed guidelines to be implemented. Rules need to be in place before they can be enforced. She felt the guidelines would help to conduct the meetings in a more orderly and professional manner.

Mr. Cross appreciated the time and energy Mrs. Zelenko has spent on the new guidelines. However, he opposes the new guidelines.

Mr. Brawner stated that the new guidelines did not violate the Open Meetings Act in any way. He said the new rules were concise and to the point. He fully supported the approval of the new guidelines.

Mr. Martinbianco was not in favor of the new guidelines. He said basic common sense should be used when conducting the meetings. He felt audience members should not have to sign in before speaking, and suggested we work under the same rules as in the past.

Discussion continued in regards to the new proposed council guidelines.

The Mayor said statements and questions could be made to the administration. After researching the topic, a response would come at a later date. He hoped to hold meetings to a higher professional standard.

Mr. Cross wanted to know if the electrical outlets were working in the council chambers.

The Mayor will discuss this issue with the DPW.

After serving as councilman for 2 ½ years, Mr. Centilli thought the new guidelines should be adopted. In addition, he thinks the majority of the residents were pleased with the status of the city.

Mr. Halstead indicated that he was extremely proud of his position and welcomed any comments from our residents. He thinks new rules should be put in place so the meetings can be conducted in a more professional manner.

Mrs. Zelenko said it was imperative to have some sort of written guidelines in place indicating how we conduct our business. It is necessary to have rules in place, if you need to refer to them. She said Council has been addressing this issue for the last two months and was under the impression that they were ready to put this on the agenda.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ACTION:

Moved by Mr. Cross, seconded by Mr. Martinbianco to send Chief Doug Halstead's request to transfer \$4,500 for the purchase of three external defibrillators to the Finance Committee for review. Motion carried 6-0.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Centilli moved and Brawner seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the Attorney Billing (Richard Austin) from February 16, 2000 to March 1, 2000, in the amount of \$2,328.50.

Motion carried 6-0.

Centilli moved and Brawner seconded the following motion:

2. Approve and authorize Council to accept Guidelines for Public Participation (4th Revision 2-7-2000). Motion was denied by a 3-3 vote, with Cross, Martinbianco and Tinnin voting no.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

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Gayle Webster
Burton City Clerk

GW/cml