CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2012, 6:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Special Council Meeting was called to order by President Thomas Martinbianco at 6:37 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor P. Zelenko, G. Burke-Miller, Controller and L. Young, Clerk's Office.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED 2012-2013 CITY OF BURTON BUDGET.**

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Zelenko said the focus for the proposed budget this year is public safety. Last year the focus was on internal structure and restructuring employees' workloads. Next year the focus will be on capital improvements for the road, water and sewer infrastructures.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Doris Hilts, 2145 Kenneth St., said City employees should not be able to use City vehicles for private use, which includes driving to and from work. Most people have to furnish their own transportation to and from their jobs. She said if they had an emergency and had to leave from their house they could be paid mileage.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martinbianco deferred to Finance Chairman Smith.

Mr. Smith listed the dates and agenda items for the 2012 budget workshops.

Mr. Martinbianco stated because of labor negotiations it is only possible to make a forecast. He advised the Mayor to bring updates on negotiations to the Council. He said there is a bond issue dropping off in 2013, which gives us the opportunity to look at doing some physical restructuring.

Mr. O'Keefe asked if they would be able to ask questions regarding the thought processes behind the creation of the budget. He asked how the Controller and Mayor looked at State Revenue and how it will affect the City both positively and negatively.

Mayor Zelenko said last year it was known the City would lose $250,000 in Statutory State Shared Revenues. They did not budget for any State Shared Revenues, only Constitutional. When the budget had to be presented to the Council at the first meeting in April, the Economic Vitality Incentive Program did not even exist. The City has met all the required criteria for receiving the EVIP money and have budgeted for $170, 000, which is 67% of the City's maximum State Shared Revenues.

Mr. O'Keefe asked if it was going to be the same.

Mayor Zelenko said Constitutionally it will go up because of State sales. She anticipates the EVIP to remain the same.

Mr. Martinbianco asked the Mayor what she thought is coming down the pipe regarding personal property tax.

Mayor Zelenko stated she believes they will do away with personal property tax. It looks like the Legislature is going towards the industrial portion of that.

Mr. O'Keefe questioned the MERS report and asked if the Mayor had any more commentary.

Ms. Burke-Miller said Mike Strader from MERS is coming to the May 14th Budget Workshop to explain the increase.

Mr. O'Keefe said Tadd Harburn from Plante & Moran suggested the City have an engineering study done on the water and sewer systems.

Mr. Wells asked if the 3% wage increase for employees is included in the budget.

Mayor Zelenko said they did budget in the 3% increase for wages and benefits, but that doesn't mean that is what it is going to be.

Mr. Wells requested a list of grants that the City is seeking.

Ms. Burke-Miller said any grant they apply for comes before Council for approval.

Mr. Smith listed line items in the budget that he will be questioning during the budget workshops.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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