

CITY OF BURTON  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA  
APRIL 28, 1997, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This Special Meeting was called to order by Ted Hammon, President, at 7:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cox, Cross, Hammon, Martinbianco, Walls and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Smiley; K. McArdle, Administrative Assistant;  
C. Abbey; R. LaDuke, Building Supervisor and G. Webster, City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Interview the Following Candidates for Council Appointment:

1. Robert Centilli
2. Herman M. Clark
3. Pauline Dargel
4. Dave Davis
5. William Kalanquin
6. Jane Nimcheski
7. Larry Petrella
8. Kim M. Raley
9. John G. Stapish
10. Laurie Tinnin
11. Diane Walton

Mr. Hammon suggested, but did not require, candidates leave the room during the interview process to be fair to all participants. Candidates were called in alphabetical order. After being interviewed, candidates were welcome to listen to remaining interviews. Participants were asked to give an opening statement and later questioned by Council members.

Robert Centilli, 4479 Lawnwood Lane, Burton, MI 48529

Mr. Centilli has been a resident of Burton for 45 years. His qualifications include State licensed general contractor, mechanical contractor, and licensed in real estate. He has knowledge in zoning, drainage problems and road repair. Currently, he is on the Genesee County Building Authority Commission. He thinks community involvement and volunteerism is important to our City. He has dedicated his time and efforts to the Veteran's Memorial, and is actively involved in block clubs and has built little league ball parks and ice rinks. He

would like to see Burton have more neighborhood parks and ball fields for children in the City.

Mr. Centilli said he is in favor of the new development and steady growth in the City; and we should continue to add water and sewer lines for increased tax base. The budget is the most important issue for the Council to focus on at this time. He would like to see more citizen's involvement when deciding whether to increase the millage.

Mr. Centilli said his wife works for the City of Burton in the Mayor's office. He will be a Council candidate in the fall election and thinks his 40 years of knowledge in construction and will be an asset to the City.

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Herman M. Clark, 2427 N. Vassar Road, Burton, MI 48509

Mr. Clark explained that he has previously served the City in a number of capacities and thinks being on Council would be a great opportunity to once again serve the community. Important issues for the Council to focus on are the budget, four unsettled contracts, road projects and Act 51 dollars, the revitalization of Burton Neighborhood Housing and zoning. In the future, the focus should be to provide and fulfill service needs and expectations for citizens with constricted dollars.

He thinks the new development and revitalization of neighborhoods, along with the Veteran's Memorial and the Police/Fire Facility, is good for Burton. We have to realize how little of the new development money goes back to the city and we should keep this in perspective. Mr. Clark thinks an increase in the millage is inevitable, and we could maybe look at passing on user fees such as street lighting. Some of the ways to promote the positive points of our community, would be to attend service clubs and neighborhood meetings.

Mr. Clark has no family members working for the City. He feels this would be a great opportunity, an enjoyable position, and that he would be effective in filling the vacancy. At the present time, he has no intentions of running for Council in the fall. Mr. Clark said he would have no problem working with the present Administration, Mayor or Council. Although, making budget decisions, as it relates to the police department, may be difficult, he would be able to make impartial decisions in the best interest of the City.

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, Burton, MI 48509

Mrs. Dargel said she is a long time resident of Burton, married with six children. She has an Associate's Degree from Mott and a Bachelor's Degree from U of M Flint. She has been actively involved in school, scouts, cheerleading chaperone, church and the overall community. She has taken part in the court watch for Child Abuse and Neglect and the MADD Program. She has taken part in Genesee County Planning/Zoning Seminars, Community Development Workshops, the citizen representative on the Davison Road Corridor Study, County wide EPA Environmental Study and regularly attended a variety of meetings.

She ran for Council twice, but does not plan to run for Council in the fall of 1997. However, she would like to fill the six month term. She has attended meetings since 1979. Mrs. Dargel has no members in her family is employed by the City of Burton.

Mrs. Dargel thinks the commercial growth has been in the right areas. However, mobile home parks might have an adverse impact on the schools. She thinks the schools and the city should work together in considering a millage increase. The most important issue facing the city is roads. Future issues would involve updating the Master Plan and creating a recreation program for children. The next big project might include renovations to City Hall and replacement of a water storage facility.

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William Kalanquin, 1198 Carlson Dr., Burton, MI 48509

Mr. Kalanquin said he has lived in Burton since 1984. He is retired and has time to donate to the city. He is ambitious, efficient, enjoys working with people and thinks he can do a good job.

He favors new growth and we should continue to build more homes and commercial businesses to help the people and the City establish their own identity. Positive points to promote the City are the community growth, the Veteran's Memorial and the schools. He thinks a majority of the Citizens would be in favor of a millage increase, because they want to see Burton prosper. We should get input from the people and implement their ideas into the Charter.

Mr. Kalanquin said his strongest quality is being a member of the zoning board for 1 1/2 years. He likes to meet people, exchange ideas and work things out. The most important issue facing Burton is schools. He said he has no family member working for the City of Burton. He said he has not made a final decision in regards to running for a Council seat in the fall.

Jane Nimcheski, 2429 N. Genesee Rd., Burton, MI 48509

Mrs. Nimcheski said it speaks well of the City, Council and present Administration that the vacancy was posted and so many candidates have applied. Her philosophy is that people are put on this earth to serve other people. She thinks her past experience would help Council at Budget time.

She said prior to a millage increase, the general fund balance should be reviewed, needs determined and then justified to the citizens. She said new development was long overdue and it was time people realized Burton was here. During her administration, some of the infrastructure work was done, knowing this was going to happen. The most important issue facing Burton today is to maintain current services. The roads are in deplorable shape, and the County

roads should be brought up to code before we take them over. A project that needs to be addressed is to update the Master Plan, so we can control what happens in the future.

The way to promote the positive points of Burton is by having Council and Administration unite in promoting a positive image. She said her husband works on the Burton Fire Department. She will not be running for Council in the fall.

Larry Petrella, 1081 Howe Rd., Burton, MI 48509

Mr. Petrella said he has lived in Burton for 11 years, and has attended City Council, Planning and Zoning Meetings for the past five years. He would like to take this opportunity to move to a higher position by utilizing his knowledge on the Council.

He said as the City grows, there may be a need to levy taxes for fire, police and services and have the Master Plan updated. The community can be promoted by focusing on positives points, services and the people within our city. He thinks he could assist the Council in working out some issues they might be weak in. He thinks the growth is good; however, it could hurt the City without good planning. He thinks we should have a better prepared Zoning and Planning Commission. They should be kept up to date on current techniques being used around the country. The most important issue Burton is dealing with today is how to handle incoming development. We need to know how to handle the road situation, areas of over crowding and the amount of traffic congestion.

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Mr. Petrella has no family members working for the City of Burton. He plans to run for City Council this fall. He noted that it would be hard, as a Council member, to make a determination on an issue involving his area vs. helping Burton. He said he would have to look at those issues separate from the City's standpoint. He said through his contract, he will have to wait 30 days before

taking another job position. He is a draftsman with an Associate's degree from Mott College.

John Stapish, P.O. Box 190134, Burton, MI 48519

Mr. Stapish said he is a lifelong resident of the City of Burton and is self-employed in property management. He would like to be a member of the City Council, as he attends meetings and tries to stay informed. He said the single most important issue facing the City is how to spend the money and lack of it. Another problem is the streets. Mr. Stapish said he has a degree in transportation.

He said the new development is both good and bad. He thinks there needs to be some new approaches taken to accomplish certain goals, such as canvassing residents and get their input as to what needs to be done. He doesn't think it would be a good idea to raise the millage, but find more efficient ways to spend what money the City has. A way to promote positive points of our City is through public relations, by inviting people out and publicizing good points of the City like the Veteran's Memorial.

Mr. Stapish has no family that works for the City of Burton. He could possibly be a candidate for Council this fall. He explained that he uses a P.O. Box number, due to his mailbox being destroyed on several occasions.

Laurie Tinnin, 2340 Harmony Dr., Burton, MI 48509

Mrs. Tinnin said she has been a Burton resident of Burton for four years. She ran for a Council seat in 1995, and came in, in fifth place. She has been employed by the UAW for 18 years, working in all capacities such as finance, budget, contract language and bargaining. She could bring fresh ideas to the Council. She said her husband works for the City of Burton.

Mrs. Tinnin is considering running for Council in the fall. She said she will have no problem getting along with the present administration or Council, if she is treated fairly.

She is impressed with the residential development. However, some of the planning

stages of the development could have been better. She is concerned with some of the proposed growth in the Genesee/Davison Rd. area. This would cause an additional burden on the sewer system and on the roads. Growth is good, as long as it is helping our general fund balance grow. Nobody wants the millage increased. She would have to consider the need for the millage and how it would be utilized, before making a decision. Burton is a good growing community. The Veteran's Memorial is a good indication that there is a lot of community involvement. Planning is the key issue in dealing with growth and community development. The most important issue, is to recognize there will be some problems and the financial health of the City should be No. 1.

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Diane Walton, 4489 Lippincott Blvd., Burton, MI 48519

Mrs. Walton has been a resident of Burton for 24 years and is a registered voter. She has little experience, yet would like to be considered for a Council seat. She has learned a lot through her job experiences and has a willingness to learn and would put forth an effort to accomplish her goals. She has an Associates degree from Mott College. She thinks the job would be a challenge and she would like a chance to be part of the Council.

She is willing to put forth an effort to use her abilities and knowledge to do the best she can. She thinks several things should be reviewed before deciding on a millage increase. The whole City should be taken into consideration. There has been a lot of positive growth that has been good for the City. Some of the ways to promote the positive points of Burton could be through advertising, billboards, group efforts, and committees. The most important issues are the housing and the roads. The most important issue is for the community to continue growth. The most work needs to be done in the southend at this time.

Mrs. Walton has no family members working for the City. She is not sure if she

would run for Council this fall. She said she relates well to many types of people.

Mr. Hammon thanked all the candidates for their participation in the interviewing process and for showing interest in the Council position. It will be a hard decision for Council to make. There have been a lot of great letters, resumes and sincere individuals that have applied. He wished them all good luck in the Council selection next Monday, May 5, 1997.

Mrs. Walls thought all candidates did a good job answering some hard questions.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Gayle Webster  
Burton City Clerk

GW/cml