

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 1991, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This Special Meeting was called to order by Council President Cross at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abbey, Card, Cross, Hammon, Martinbianco, Smiley and Walls.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Jane L. Nimcheski; K. Collard, City Administrator;
A. James, Administrative Assistant; P. Pero-McArdle, Sr. Citizens Director;
B. Becker, Treasurer/Controller; D. Lowthian, Assessor; H. Clark, Police Chief;
S. Perez, Purchasing Agent.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE NO. 68(C) AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Cross explained the Council would discuss Ordinance 68C first, before opening it up to the audience. He said Mr. Opper from MERS was not able to attend the meeting tonight.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Bud LeGrande, 2105 E. Buder, spoke about MERS and asked who brought the program to the City. Mr. Collard said he believed that it came from the sergeant, police, and supervisor's group who had raised the issue at a pension meeting originally.

Mr. LeGrande said he did not think appointed or elected officials should have MERS.

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, said she liked what the Mayor said and that the MERS decision should be postponed until after the election.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martinbianco stated at the September 11th meeting it was noted that MERS should be a part of Ordinance 68C. He discussed a variety of changes he thought should be looked at by Council for the ordinance and he would present an ordinance revision to the Council for their review. He noted that if the MERS percent went below the 15% contribution by the City, that those monies should be put in escrow until the percentage again went above the 15%.

Mr. Hamilton asked about the length of time it would be kept in reserve and wondered if there should be a limit.

Mr. Martinbianco said he thinks the elected officials should not go into MERS at this time.

Mrs. Walls asked how the Council got into Ordinance 68c in the first place.

Mr. Hamilton said it was part of the charter requirements.

Mayor Nimcheski said she would not bring the ordinance back to the Council until after the election and said the Administrators did not go out and seek MERS.

Mr. Hamilton asked that a modest amount be added to the attorney fee and not have to address it in a couple of years, when there would then have to be a large increase to adjust to the marketplace at that time.

Mr. Walworth asked that MERS come back to the administrators to see what program they now wanted, in light of the large percentage noted in the latest accrual study.

Mr. Becker said that all the administrators wanted was a fair shake and the contract should not be negotiated in public. He said the salary adjustments are greater than 4% in the SEIU contract.

Mr. Clark asked the Council to treat this group the same way as the Council has treated all other employees. He said to just treat us fairly.

Mr. Martinbianco noted that it is unfortunate that the founding fathers chose to use the ordinance as a vehicle for the administrators salaries and fringe benefits to be enacted.

Mr. Smiley noted that at the last meeting, he wanted to postpone this item until next year. He asked if all employees had the opportunity to opt out initially.

Mr. Collard said it must be done within 30 days of the effective date of the group. Future employees cannot opt out.

Mr. Abbey said he wanted to have some input into the ordinance and he would get with Mr. Martinbianco.

Mr. Hammon defended the integrity of the Council members and the Mayor and noted that the City is in competition with industry in getting qualified people to take administrative positions in municipalities. He said he did not want the MERS program to be a deterrent for future administrative employees to take positions with the City. He said that if he ever runs for mayor, that he would not look at a union contract until after the election process, for Council and Mayor positions.

COUNCIL ACTION:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Walworth, CMC/AAE
Burton City Clerk
WRW/cml