

CITY OF BURTON
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 20, 2009, 4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Finance Chair Steve Heffner called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tinnin, Zelenko, Heffner, Conley, Ellenburg.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Martinbianco.

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Foster, Controller, D. Heidenberger, Assessor, G. Kray, DPW
Director, J. Adams, Deputy Clerk

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: FINAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR THE
PROPOSED 2009-2010 CITY OF BURTON BUDGET.**

Presentation: None.

Council Discussion:

Mrs. Tinnin inquired about the election equipment line item in the Capital Improvements budget and asked if the balance is carried forward.

Mrs. Foster replied that the money was for laptop computers and the balance is carried forward every year and can only be used for its specified use.

Mrs. Tinnin asked if the money in the Park Project was designated for anything specific.
Mrs. Foster replied the money was not for anything specific and that it was remaining money from the Parks budget and was transferred with the hope of obtaining enough money to do a project.

Mrs. Ellenburg asked if the ADA building improvement money had to be used for ADA.
Mrs. Foster replied that the money had to be used for ADA building improvements.

Mrs. Ellenburg voiced her concerns with the ADA accessibility of the back entrance to the library.
Mrs. Tinnin asked where the money for maintaining the city lawns comes from.

Mrs. Foster replied that the money for lawn maintenance comes from the building department.
She went on to explain that there is a revenue called Weed Cutting, which is high weed mowing when someone calls in a complaint, and an expense when the City pays the company.

Mrs. Tinnin inquired as to the role of summer help and if the City approved a contract for mowing.

Mr. Kray stated that the City used to hire contractors to mow the city properties, but now it uses summer help. The high weed mowing contract is in it's second of two years and for mowing residents whose lawns exceed ten inches. If we didn't have summer help, we would have to contract out for mowing.

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Mrs. Tinnin asked if summer help has already been hired.

Mr. Kray replied they hired four persons and may need to hire more as the summer progresses.

Mrs. Conley asked if the summer help were the same people that were hired last year.

Mr. Kray stated that three were the same as last year.

Mrs. Tinnin discussed taking Mr. McArdle out of the budget, since the union contracts were already negotiated and it would save the City \$66,000 a year. The money could be used to get the roads fixed. She explained that there were many years that the City did not have a personnel director and it was fine. She understood the need for his position during contract negotiations, but now they are complete.

Mrs. Tinnin stated there is \$700,000 in unpaid tax and penalties on Burton Estates. She anticipates the City to bid on the lots that are remaining. She wants justification as to the reasoning for keeping Mr. McArdle in the budget for the year.

Mrs. Zelenko stated it was her understanding that Mr. McArdle is not a resident of the State of Michigan and this was supposed to be a temporary position. She stated that it should be up to them as a council to give up something.

Mrs. Tinnin said that council should receive health care benefits if they pay for it out of their pay. Mrs. Conley said the people that do not take health care benefits receives a check for \$2,500 a year.

Mrs. Tinnin explained that if the Council didn't take their benefits, they would no longer get those payouts. She also stated that Burton is the fourth highest city in the county as far as wages.

Mr. Heffner asked Mr. Kray if the DPW had a plan to fix some of the roads.

Mrs. Conley asked why we took over the roads from the county.

Mrs. Tinnin replied that it was highly suggested by DPW and administration that the City could do a much better job of maintaining our roads.

Mr. Kray stated that they would be doing some crack seal this year. They are also looking into doing a chip seal program, which would be something new this year.

Mrs. Zelenko explained that we got more money to do the county roads that we took over as a local municipality than the county would receive for those same roads.

Mr. Kray stated the City does a better job on snow removal. He has handled the road construction projects and part of his salary is coming from federal funds, which helps out the City.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

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