

CITY OF BURTON
COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 31, 2011, 4:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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President Steven Heffner called the Budget Workshop to order at 4:35 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellenburg.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor P. Zeleko, J. Benthall, Police Chief, D. Halstead, Fire Chief, G. Burke-Miller, Controller, I. Piske, Treasurer, G. Kray, DPW Director, and J. Anderson, Clerk/Typist.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Final Budget Amendments.

PRESENTATION: None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martinbianco stated it occurs to him there is going to be changes within what we already have structured and he suggests we hold another final budget session once those numbers are identified. Along with other issues that need to be discussed regarding: Fire Departments status in General Fund, Police Department's restructuring, development of the IT Department, the condition of our roads and reaching agreements with the unions. Even though Mrs. Burke-Miller has done a wonderful job, with all these issues we are not in a position to pass anything on a final basis at this time. He asked Mrs. Burke-Miller if it would be possible to get the changing figures together by the second council meeting in June.

Mrs. Burke-Miller agreed it would be possible.

Mr. Smith supports Mr. Martinbianco on having another Budget Workshop. His main concern is that the budget is predicated on the unions taking a wage freeze and that is not established at this time or are we sure that will occur. He also feels we need an answer from the unions before we pass this budget.

Mr. O'Keefe stated he is new to this process but in his experience he can see that our income is not stable and we have no control over that but Council needs to make decisions before things are in more disarray. He also understands Council must stay budget neutral but public safety is his main concern.

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Mr. Wells thanked Chief Halstead for his list of department needs. He understands we have been in discussion for a new hose for the past 3 years. Mayor Smiley was here for the previous budgets that we all have bought into and passed but now is the time to put the breaks on. Mr. Wells asked Mayor Zelenko if all the unions and administrators are negotiating at this time.

Mayor Zelenko responded the administrators were the first and everyone else has come to the bargaining table but as of today, not everyone is willing to give. She wants this to be more equitable across the board and she is not feeling good about this happening and without everyone conceding there will be layoffs.

Mr. Heffner questioned if Council is trying to hold the budget up until after the unions come to an agreement.

Mr. Martinbianco stated we should wait till we are at the level that we either know more or are forced to pass the budget, and make adjustments as they occur by holding executive sessions to discuss any and all changes.

Mr. Smith stated he wants to pass this budget not because of a deadline but because the Council feels it is a workable budget.

Mr. Wells said the employees should know what this time of year means but he wants to be fair with the residents so we can give them a definitive budget and see where we stand.

Mr. O'Keefe stated he feels it would be in our best interest to pay off the special assessments on Pebble Creek, Burton Estates and Mallard Ponds to save money on interest.

Mr. Haskins inquired if DDA had a 6k expenditure to Consumers Energy?
Mayor Zelenko replied that it was Christmas Lighting.

Mr. Haskins asked Mr. Halstead if it is possible to get the fire hose needed at the discounted price.

Chief Halstead replied they would honor the discounted price thru July 29 with free delivery even though it will cost the company to sell it to us.

Mr. Haskins asked Chief Halstead if the Fire Department is now under a hiring freeze?

Chief Halstead replied there is not a hiring freeze but we have not had that many applicants and it is very expensive for the training if we do hire. He also stated we are down firefighters we cannot afford to hire. There are options we are looking into to make hiring possible.

Mr. Haskins said safety is his first priority but he does understand that money is an issue.
Mr. Heffner asked Mayor Zelenko what her plans are for the roads?

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Mayor Zelenko stated we have plans to do two miles of roadway this year plus we will be repairing one bridge.

Mr. Martinbianco asked where will we get the money for these projects?

Mayor Zelenko replied that these monies are in the current years budget.

Mr. Heffner asked the Mayor if there are any more expensive surprises we can expect like the one we received last year from the Road Commission.

Mayor Zelenko replied no, but she can tell us there may be a surprise next fall because the State is on track in passing a bill to take away personal property taxes which would take away \$420,000 from the city alone not including the other entities we collect for.

Mr. Wells questioned what the DPW is currently doing to handle the high volume of high weed complaints?

Mayor Zelenko responded that out of the last 60 days it rained 52 of them but DPW is trying to catch up and maintain the properties.

Mr. Wells asked if DPW crews would be able to catch up and maintain.

Mr. Kray responded that in addition to our crews we have put out a bid to contract the high weed mowing. So with our crews and the contract company high weed mowing is not an issue at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

jma