

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2011, 5:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Special Meeting was called to order by President Steven Heffner at 5:09 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heffner, Zelenko, Martinbianco, Ellenburg, Wells, Smith and Haskins.
MEMBERS ABSENT: None.
OTHERS PRESENT: J. Adams, Acting City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Appoint the Mayor and possibly to fill Council Vacancy Created by the Mayor's Appointment.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Heffner stated they will take open nominations and no seconds are required. It takes 4 votes to become the mayor. Each person nominated will be given up to 10 minutes to speak and say why he or she is the best person for the job.

Mr. Martinbianco said we had both ample times to discuss the issues we have raised. Moving the interest of the City forward is the most positive thing we can do. It is important to note, that irrespective of our feelings or our positions with regards to this issue, the City must move forward. It is apparent to me that the majority of Council has made a pre-selection of someone they have the utmost confidence in their ability to perform the role, dedication and the needs we have as mayor of this City. We as a Council, have a responsibility to discharge the demands of the Charter in filling this position. It is our duty to move forward and provide that service to the dedicated taxpayers of this community. We are going to be confronted with many challenges in the immediate future, the near and long-term, all of which need to be addressed. It can only be addressed properly by cooperation between sitting Council, in its entirety, once it is reconstituted to its full and the administration whoever that ends up being.

Mr. Wells wished everyone a happy New Year. He expressed there are very qualified people to go outside of Council for the mayor's position and he still feels it is better for the City as a whole to consider it. He spoke regarding concerns of election distractions for the council and mayor race. Mr. Wells stated if he hurt anyone's feelings he apologizes. His concern is for the City and Mrs. Zelenko. She is going to have to run a campaign. There are 10 or 12 people that have been waiting for Mayor Smiley to move down so they can be the next Mayor of Burton. Campaigns are long, drawn out and emotional, and financially devastating projects. This is a pivotal year. This is not about me and Paula. I truly love Paula Zelenko and I would not be here today if it wasn't for her. If Paula has the votes tonight, which it sounds like she does, she knows she has my 100% backing and I will be here to help her.

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Mr. Smith spoke on the need for leadership and the importance of following the Charter. The Charter says we need to have our budgets in by February 1st. In less than a month, those budgets have to be done. It is my belief with the absence of the leadership with the Mayor and department heads that are gone, the next level of leadership for this City is sitting up here. No matter how astute of a decision maker you are, to come in to that position and open up the books and make heads or tails out of it is difficult. Tom has 25 years and Paula 12 years and they are the closest we have. Everyone up here is a leader. Burton is going to go through change. If the next person makes decisions based politically versus what is best for the city, you are going to know it. You will have more say now on who is going to be the next Mayor than any other time Burton has been a City.

Mr. Smith commented briefly on John Wooden, Coach of the UCLA Bruins. He led them to 10 NCA Championships and 88 consecutive wins. Johns was not only known as a great basketball coach, but he also was known for his belief in leadership. He passed away a few years ago. Mr. Smith read aloud one of his quotes on the values of a leader.

Mr. Haskins said Mr. Wells brought up some very valid points. His apology is very well accepted. I have always felt it should be someone within our Council. We deal with the budgets and finances. I have full confidence in Mrs. Zelenko that she can handle the job fully. I have no fear what so ever that she will do what it takes to get the City running and keep it in shape. Mr. Haskins expressed to Mrs. Zelenko that they are all here for her, and support her.

Mr. Haskins nominated Mrs. Zelenko for Mayor. Mr. Heffner asked if there were any more nominations. There were none. A roll call vote was taken. Mrs. Zelenko was nominated unanimously, 7-0, as the Mayor of the City of Burton.

Mr. Heffner stated Mrs. Zelenko will be sworn in as Mayor at 5:45 p.m., shortly after this meeting is adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., Mrs. Zelenko was sworn in as the City of Burton Mayor by Julie Adams, Acting City Clerk.

Julie R. Adams, Acting City Clerk