

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 22, 1999, 4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Special Meeting was called to order by Paula Zelenko, Council President, at 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brawner, Centilli, Hammon, Martinbianco, Tinnin and Zelenko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cross

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Smiley; J. Major, DPW Director; G. Webster, Clerk; R. LaDuke, Building Supervisor and C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL.

PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Zelenko welcomed the newly elected Council Members and made a brief presentation stating that the last few years have been stressful on Council, Administration and Staff. She would like to move forward and focus on the issues before the Council. It's important that we agree to disagree and show each other respect. Mrs. Zelenko said she has two goals this first year. The first, is to begin the healing process to bring the division closer to form an effective and professional body that our city needs; and the second is to begin a more structured agenda and procedures for our meetings, including the enforcement of guidelines during public participation.

Mrs. Zelenko said that while at the MML Conference in Grand Rapids, she attended the Parliamentary Procedure Conference, which focused on public participation. A Registered Parliamentarian instructed this class and most citizens who address councils, do not realize that it is not the purpose of the Council's to address the day to day business operational type things and address those concerns. Most of those issues and concerns could be addressed by the Mayor's office or by a phone call to the appropriate department head. Council's throughout our state and country, have learned that establishing guidelines and enforcing them, not only makes for a more efficient meeting, but helps prevent politically motivated incidents and protects the integrity of everyone present. She said she is providing each member a list of her initial recommendations in establishing some guidelines. These are just a few of the ideas presently used in several communities of our state now, and I thought they might help us in preparing such a policy or guideline. She said she would like to have such a policy in place for the new year and would like to have a Council of the Whole Workshop to examine my ideas and others that you may have. Please feel free to contact the MML for information they have concerning this issue. Beginning tonight however, all comments from public participation, will be directed to the Chair. The Administration and Council will not address comments during public participation, this will wait until Council Discussion.

Mrs. Zelenko said the Committee placements tonight are about learning processes and learning to get together. I have done my best to assign you to the areas you wanted and well as areas you are needed. If you will notice, I did not appoint to the EDC, as they have not been meeting regularly. When the time comes and they do resume meeting, I will make that appointment. Even though the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee have not met in the last few years, I still think it is important to visit the composting and leaf issue, and come up with some ways to continue to education and promote recycling with our citizens. As much as the Mayor has represented us on the Water and Waste Committee, I think it may be necessary for us to think about our own City Water and Waste Committee to give the Mayor some ideas in taking these issues and concerns to the County.

A couple new areas to be discussed are the establishment of a Census Committee and a Charter Revision Committee. I have given you each a copy of my notes from the MML Convention Census class received and there packet and will leave it in the Clerk's Office for your review. It has been brought up to me, in conversation, to take a look at our city charter. Revisions of the charter must be approved by the voters, but even if there are no areas we choose to revise, it can only be beneficial for us to learn what is in the charter.

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The Mayor has suggested to me about a press table for reporters and I think this is a good idea. Also, I would encourage conference attendance. The MML and National League of Cities have excellent educational opportunities. I urge each of you to get involved and learn more about the processes and legislation and ways that other communities are dealing with the same challenges we face.

Mrs. Zelenko then read the list of appointments to the various committees. (See Attached)

Mayor Smiley said he also has been considering what role the administration should play during a council meeting. According to the charter, I have to have staff representation at each of the meetings and we will have some type of calendar and let you know who the representative will be. However, we will no longer answer questions at the meetings, but notes will be taken and an answer will be given during the Administrative Report, possibly at the next regular meeting. I think this will be a more professional way of handling the questions. If a Council member should decide to answer a question from the audience and it is wrong, we will make the correction at the next meeting. We also would suggest that some of the issues addressed by Council on the meeting night, might better be addressed by calling the departments as they arise. The agendas are generally completed early on Thursday, prior to the meeting, and if Council has a problem with the agenda items, please feel free to address the issue with the department head.

Mayor Smiley said he will be delivering the State of the City Address on April 3rd and he will also continue to hold Town Hall Meetings the last weeks of July.

The Mayor said, since new ground rules are being applied, he would like to address the issue of Freedom of Information. Council is privy to certain information, but when it comes to election year, candidates start digging, and it's his position, that if Council wants information, they should comply and pay for the information, just like everyone else. We need to address this issue, because it is a problem for the staff.

During our typical sub-committee meetings, we will have dialogue with the department heads and Council. That will be the only place, as well as workshops, where there will be discussion.

Mayor said he would also like to echo Mrs. Zelenko's suggestion for training, especially for the new members. MML has an Elected Official Academy, Levels I and II certification, and they usually meet on Saturdays. You will be receiving further information on the classes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, said she heard the comments, but the Council will still be responsible for the ordinances and also, regarding the FOIA, there is a legal responsibility that must be fulfilled. She commented on The need to update the ordinance book in the Clerk's Office.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zelenko stated that the Committees will stand as stated.

Mrs. Zelenko said MML has requested a preliminary headcount if you are interested in attending the Fall 2000 Conference, held on Mackinaw Island. Please contact the Clerk's Office know as soon as possible, because MML wants to know by December 15th.

COUNCIL ACTION: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE, Deputy City Clerk