

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2009, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Special Meeting was called to order by President Tom Martinbianco at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conley, Ellenburg, Haskins, Heffner, Martinbianco and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tinnin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor C. Smiley; K. Foster, Controller, G. Kray, DPW Director and G. Webster, City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Public Hearing for the Proposed 2009-2010 City of Burton Budget.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Smiley was proud to present a balanced budget. This was possible due to the cooperation of staff and employees working together. Last year the employees took a pay freeze. This year they volunteered to forgo vacation payouts. Normally, union payouts would average approximately \$100,000 a year. This budget will provide residents with the same level of service they are accustomed to without any increases in fees. For the first time, the City will receive \$150,000 less in property tax revenue. He was optimistic that revenue sharing would remain the same. The Mayor's proposed budget included online payments, Center Road improvements, library parking improvements and recreational opportunities. He suggested marketing vacant land and adjusting tap-in fees to promote residential, industrial and commercial development. The entire infrastructure is in place and Burton is one of lowest levied cities in Michigan. We could initiate a stimulus program. The Mayor assured the unions there would be no layoffs of hourly employees, if we received our projected revenue sharing and property taxes. The Mayor acknowledged Mrs. Foster for all her hard work and for receiving an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. He looked forward to working with the Council to put forth a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Rick Fuhst, 1208 S. Genesee Rd., was pleased to hear there would be a balanced budget. He felt we should focus on advertising vacant property for industrial growth, resulting in something that would provide a stable job base for the community.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Heffner indicated that Budget Workshops would be held on the following dates: April 28th, April 30th, May 13th, May 14th and May 20th. All meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. (More budget information is available in the Clerk's Office.)

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Mr. Martinbianco asked for clarification on when we would receive our final numbers from the County. In reference to the proposed budget sessions, he felt the water portion of the budget needed more allotted time. He said another meeting might need to be added to the schedule.

Mrs. Foster indicated that the County numbers should be finalized by the 1st or 2nd week in June. She was pretty confident that the proposed numbers were fairly accurate. After budget sessions, Mrs. Foster will need at least five days to complete the amendments.

Mr. Martinbianco noted that the Council allowed 20 minutes for audience participation on the proposed budget.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Gayle Webster, CMC
City Clerk