

CITY OF BURTON  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTS  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2000, 5:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Special Meeting was called to order by Paula Zelenko, Council President, at 5:32 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brawner, Centilli, Cross, Martinbianco, Tinnin and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Smiley; C. Abbey, Administrative Assistant; J. Major, DPW Director; G. Webster, City Clerk; R. Hamilton, City Attorney and C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: The interview of council applicants and selection of one applicant to fill the Council vacancy created by the resignation of Ted Hammon.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bob Bement            | 11. Rodger N. Mead       |
| 2. Herman M. Clark       | 12. Jane Nimcheski       |
| 3. David W. Cornette Jr. | 13. Larry Petrella       |
| 4. Keith Cox             | 14. Kim Raley - Withdrew |
| 5. Jamie W. Curtis       | 15. Frances M. Rowland   |
| 6. DeWayne S. DeFreese   | 16. Bobbie Weatherford   |
| 7. Tina Fielder          | 17. Danny Wells          |
| 8. Steve Heffner         |                          |
| 9. Gary Isham            |                          |
| 10. William Kalanquin    |                          |

PRESENTATION:

Council President Paula Zelenko gave an explanation of the structure for the applicant's interviews and the process of voting for the applicants. She thanked the applicants for their interest and noted that the meeting could be a lengthy process, but if a decision is not made by 10:00 P.M., the meeting would be adjourned until Tuesday, September 12, 2000, at 5:00 P.M. at the Police/Fire Facility.

Mrs. Zelenko announced that Kim Raley withdrew his application this morning, so we will be continuing with 16 applicants.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Linda Burris-Croley, 6223 Crabtree Lane, stated she would offer her support to Keith Cox as the Council appointee.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS:

Mr. Martinbianco expressed his thanks to Mrs. Zelenko for her leadership in this process and stated that there are a number of outstanding candidates. We look forward to having one of these interested individuals serving with us. He said in as much as we are taking the place of the voting public, we are charged as a Council with the responsibility of finding a suitable individual to work with both the council and administration. This will give the individual the gratifying experience to serve his/her community.

Mrs. Zelenko then read the list of ten questions to each of the above listed candidates

David Cornette, Jr., 3226 Myrton St., Burton, MI 48519:

Mr. Cornette stated that although he has no previous experience in government, he would be willing to listen to the people and work hard for the City and the citizens and do what he deems best for everyone involved.

Mr. Cornette said he has resided in the City of Burton for ten years and has a couple council meetings in Burton. He likes to get the facts before making a decision. He thinks the legislative branch of government involves keeping the best interest of the city and the citizens in mind and direct the city in growth and keep it prosperous. Mr. Cornette said he would be available to attend conferences if needed. He thinks there are never enough police officers and if additional officers are needed, they could be financed through increased projects for revenue. He supports the recreational programs and thinks they are important to the community. He would like to see all of the roads paved in the City and supports council voting to do so.

Mr. Cornette said he thinks the important issues for Burton are the police, the walkway at the park seems to be a hot topic and the need to further increase revenues for the city. He noted that he had no previous commitments that would hinder him from attending council and committee meetings. Mr. Cornette thanked the Council for their time.

DeWayne DeFreese, G-4071 Fenton Rd., Lot #75, Burton, MI 48529:

Mr. DeFreese expressed his gratitude for being allowed to go through the interview process. He stated that he has always been interested in city government and politics in general and thought he would apply for the position. He said although he has no Harvard education, he cares for his city. He said he has lived here his entire life and has attended many council meetings. He would view the issues, but likes getting all the facts first. The legislative branch would be the governing body of the City. He would attend as many conferences as possible. Mr. DeFreese thinks that additional police officers are needed and he said that a millage increase may be needed to fund the additional officers. He noted that with the city growing and more businesses, people expect to have more protection.

Mr. DeFreese thinks the streets should be paved. He also said that recreational facilities are important so that children will have a place to go and stay off the streets. Possibly grants should be looked at for the parks in the city. We need to think of our children. The issues he thinks are important are the roads, the park and recreation system and public Safety. He said he has no commitments that would hinder him from attending the council and committee meetings.

Mr. DeFreese thank the Council for their time.

William Kalanquin, 1198 Carlson Dr., Burton, MI 48509:

Mr. Kalanquin said he has lived in Burton for the past 16 years and has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past five years, with three of those years as Chairman. He also serves on the Salary Commission and said he believes in the City and its growth and would like to see a better education system. Mr. Kalanquin stated that he has attended several council meetings and likes to get the facts prior to making important decisions. He thinks the responsibility of the Legislative branch of government is to live by the by-laws of the city and to do what is in the best interest of the city and the citizens.

Mr. Kalanquin said he would be willing and able to attend conferences. He said the police department is the most important part of the city, as well as fire and teachers. He said there is only one way to finance the additional officers and that would be through additional taxes. He said he thinks all roads in the city should be paved. He thinks there are more recreational facilities needed because playgrounds are almost non-existent today. Children need to be active and have the recreational facilities is one way to keep them active. The issues that concern him are taxes, education and blight areas. He said if he were to be appointed, he would resign from the other boards and would be committed to serving on the council.

Mr. Kalanquin said he would like to see the city grow with new businesses. He thanked the council for their time.

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Rodger Mead, 1272 Arrowhead Dr., Burton, MI48509:

Mr. Mead said he finally has time to do some things he enjoys. He has lived in the city from 1972 to 1990 and then from 1995 to present. He said he has attended 10 or 15 council meetings at the city. He likes to get the facts prior to voting, but he has been known to make quick decisions when necessary. He thinks the responsibility of the City's Legislative branch is to rule and govern. Mr. Mead indicated he would be available to attend conferences and seminars to enhance his job.

Mr. Mead said he thinks there is a need to increase the number of police officers and they would most likely have to be financed through an increase in taxes. He said to pave all of the streets would be a large undertaking because of the number of gravel roads we have. He would prefer to keep them gravel. He said the recreational facilities are needed not only for the young, but also for the seniors. He said he has no one particular item that is a major issue for the city. He would be available to attend all council and committee meetings.

Mr. Mead said if he is appointed to fill the vacancy, it would be not just to fill the term, but he would run for the office next year.

Bob Bement, 5198 Washtenaw, Burton, MI 48509:

Mr. Bement stated that the reason he is interested in getting appointed, is because he has a desire and willingness to serve his community. He served many years in the Bentley School district and has always been interested in government. He said he taught the subject for three years at Bentley and he knows many of the people in the City of Burton. He said he has the time to do the job and would do his best to serve the people in Burton.

Mr. Bement said he has lived in Burton for 28 years and has attended council meetings in the past. However, he said he believes that people are elected to do a job and not be badgered. He said he can make quick decisions when necessary, but he prefers to get all the facts, and therefore, he would do his homework prior to making a decision that would affect the citizens of Burton. The responsibility of the City's Legislative branch consists of the ability to vote on issues concerning the city and to work with the Mayor and Council. He would want to represent the wishes of the people if it is in the best interest of both the people and the city. Mr. Bement said he would be available to attend any conferences and workshops necessary. He said police protection is always an issue. He doesn't know if there is a need for additional officers, but if so, he would be in favor of an increase. To fund additional officers, he would suggest reviewing the budget and work with it the best possible way to allow for the increase in officers. He said he would be in favor of paving the roads if feasible. Mr. Bement said the recreational facilities and programs are necessary so kids have a place to go. Most people want it and are willing to pay for it. Mr. Bement said issues facing the City include Council needing to work together, facing issues up front and do what is best for Burton. He said city growth is of some concern but we need tax base so business is important to the city. He said he would attend all meetings unless there was illness, as he takes his obligations very serious.

Mr. Bement stated that if appointed, he would bring honesty and integrity to the Council, and he would listen to the people and do his homework to make the best possible decisions for the city and its citizens.

Keith Cox, 4349 Chicory, Burton, MI 48519:

Mr. Cox said he has no opening statement other than he would like to be involved in his community. He his he and Mr. Hammon ran for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner race and wished Mr. Hammon well in his endeavor. Mr. Cox said he has lived in Burton for 42 years and has attended many council meetings. Mr. Cox said he can make a quick decision on items when necessary, but prefers to get all the pertinent facts before making decisions. Mr. Cox stated

that the Legislative branch of government sets laws, reviews ordinance, sets policy, etc. He said he would be available

for conferences and workshops. When asked about additional police officers, Mr. Cox said there probably is a need for them. He said there are several options open to Council for additional funding. One way would be street lighting

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revenue. In regards to paving the streets, Mr. Cox said there are some segments in the south end that are in need of that and the holdup would be the landlords versus homeowners. He wouldn't want to force anyone to pave the roads other than what we have been doing with the petitions. Mr. Cox said he likes what has been done to the fire station parks and would like to see the school systems and the City continue working together such as with the tennis courts.

Mr. Cox said he thinks growth is the main issue for the City and he had no other commitments that would interfere with attending council meetings.

Mr. Cross thanked the Council for their consideration.

Steven Heffner, 1181 Munson, Burton, MI 48509:

Mr. Heffner said he applied for the council vacancy so he could give something back to the community. He said he has lived in Burton for the past 37 years and has been attending council meetings for the past three years. Prior to making decisions, he would like to get all the facts. He said the responsibility of the legislative branch is to make laws for the City. Mr. Heffner said he would be available more in the winter than the summer to attend conferences and

workshops. Mr. Heffner stated that he thinks there is a need for additional police officers, but he would have to review the budget prior to determining how to pay for them. In regards to road paving, Mr. Heffner said he thinks it is an absolute necessity to have the roads paved. The recreational programs should go into the inner neighborhoods for parks and playgrounds. The issues facing Burton are the police and fire equipment and decaying of older neighborhoods. Mr. Heffner said he would have no problems attending council and committee meetings.

Mr. Heffner said he didn't have a closing statement, but thanked the Council for the time.

Gary Isham, 3443 Saxon, Burton, MI 48519:

Mr. Isham said he is pleased to come before the Council and that there is a large pool of talent for the Council to choose from. He said he has lived in Burton for the past 14 plus years and he has attended several council meetings in the past. He would prefer to get all the facts prior to making decisions and believes the legislative branch of government is to raise the standard of living, have safe streets and promote the welfare of the City. He said he would be available to attend conferences and workshops when necessary. Mr. Isham said he believes there is a need for an increase in police officers and if deemed necessary, an increase in taxes may have to occur to pay for them. He said he

is in favor of the streets being paved and the more recreational opportunities the City provides for the young people and senior citizens, the better, as this would only benefit the City. Mr. Isham said the issues that he sees is land development, police and fire education and infrastructure and upgrade technology of school system and renovation of

school buildings. He would have no other commitments to hinder him from attending council and committee meetings.

Mr. Isham said he wished the Council well in making their selection and he thinks they have done a good job representing the residents of Burton.

Jane Nimcheski, 2429 N. Genesee Rd., Burton, MI 48509:

Mrs. Nimcheski thanked Council for the opportunity to interview for the council position. She said she thought everyone was aware of her dedication to serve the community. She has lived here for 35 years and has attended many

Council meetings. She said prior to making a decision, she prefers to get all the facts. The legislative branch of government legislates ordinances, resolutions and city budget, not administer the city. She said she would be available to attend conferences and seminars as this is the way you know what is happening around you. Mrs. Nimcheski said she thinks there is a need for additional officers and to finance them, priorities need to be set and work with the money they have. There may be a need to increase the millage. Mrs. Nimcheski said the goal to pave the streets was set a long time ago and there is an assessment process that can be followed. The City paving some streets and not others may not be a good idea. In regards to recreational programs, Mrs. Nimcheski thinks ball games are important to the young people and she would have to consider the entire package. The main issue facing Burton is getting the master plan in place, so it can be used as a tool to guide us when considering zoning cases.

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Mrs. Nimcheski said she would be available to attend all council and committee meetings. She thanked the Council for their time and would appreciate their consideration in the appointment.

Bobbie Weatherford, 3084 S. Genesee Rd.:

Mrs. Weatherford said she has lived in Burton since 1953 and is active in the UAW and has held a seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past five years. She is seeking the appointment so she can offer help to the City. She said she has attended council meetings periodically over the years and likes to get all the facts prior to making decisions.

Mrs. Weatherford said she would be available to attend conferences and seminars if appointed. She said there may be a need to increase the number of police officers but is uncertain how to fund them. She didn't have an opinion on the paving of the streets. Mrs. Weatherford is in favor of recreational programs and facilities. She said crime is a major issue to the City. Mrs. Weatherford stated that she would be available to attend all council and committee meetings.

She thanked Council for their time.

Herman Clerk, 2427 N. Vassar Rd., Burton, MI 48509:

Mr. Clark said he appreciated the opportunity to be considered. He believes he is apply for the right reasons, because his city is very important to him and he would be committed to serving the community. He said he appreciates the tasks that the Council has before them.

Mr. Clark said he has lived in Burton for 28 years and has attended council meetings holding various rolls throughout the year. He said he could make a quick decision when necessary, but prefers to have the facts. Mr. Clark said he would agree with paving all of the streets in Burton. He said the visibility of police officers is important to the city, but financial restraints in the budget could be a factor. Mr. Clark said with a \$1.6 million fund balance, it won't last very long. There is an additional mil for police, but you would have to assess to see if there is more money to hire the additional officers. If not, you may have to ask for additional millage. Mr. Clark said he is in favor of the streets being paved if there is any possible way to do so. He stated that parks are a vital part of the community. However, where they are placed, designed and maintained are important issues to be considered. They make the city more vibrant and attractive. The issues facing Burton, as well as most other communities, are maintaining quality services, accountability, accessibility, management planning for the purpose of development. Mr. Clark said he would have no problem attending council and committee meetings.

Mr. Clark said he appreciates what has to be done when campaigning door to door. He said he is his own person and has no axes to grind. He would represent the citizens of Burton well. He thanked the council for their time.

Danny Well, 4144 E. Atherton Rd., Burton, MI 48519:

Mr. Wells said he has lived in the city for more than 30 years. He has met a lot of people through coaching at Atherton and Bendle Schools. He said now that his family is grown he wants to move to another level in his life.

Mr. Wells said he has never attended a council meeting due to the fact that his evenings were spent coaching sports.

Regarding decisions, he can make quick decisions but wants to be fair to all the issues involved. He thinks the legislative branch of the government is to run the city by making certain the finances are stable, hear the people's voices and take care of the neighborhoods. He would be available to attend conferences and workshops to enhance his job duties. Mr. Wells said he would support additional police as the city grows, because they could be financed with the additional growth. He thinks it would be a good idea to have the streets all paved. Mr. Wells said he would like to see the recreational facilities improve and continue working with the schools and improving the playgrounds. The issues facing the city are development, update inner-neighborhoods and update of City Charter. He has no obligations that would hinder him from attending council and committee meetings.

Mr. Wells said he appreciated the Council's time and met many fine people in the hallway. He wants to be involved in the community.

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Frances Rowland, 1096 E. Mandeville, Burton, MI:

Mrs. Rowland said she is a health care manager and she is applying for the council position so help make a difference in the community for her children and grandchildren. She thinks she would bring fresh ideas to the Council.

Mrs. Rowland has lived in Burton since 1984 and has attended about 10 council meetings throughout the years. She likes to make decisions based on facts but can make quick decisions when necessary. She said the legislative branch is to make rules by which people live in the City, to have an orderly place to live. She would be available to attend conferences and seminars when needed. Mrs. Rowland said more officers are needed, funding is another issue. She said she doesn't have all the facts of what to do, but we also need to consider the budget and maintain the current status with other services. She said she would be in favor of paving the city streets. The recreational facilities we have are nice but we need more for our children to play safe. Issues facing the city are growth and providing the services that come with the growth to be a safe and healthy environment. Mrs. Rowland said she would be available for council and committee meetings if appointed.

Mrs. Rowland said although she hasn't had an active part in the City of Burton, she has been active in community events and work related events for employee benefit. She said being a mother of three children was her first priority. She believes that through getting her education and working, she could be a benefit to the Council and make a positive impact.

Jamie Curtis, 2230 Ridgemoor Ct., Burton, MI 48509:

Mr. Curtis stated that he came to the City of Burton with informed choices and he likes the direction the City is going. His wife opened her medical practice in 1997 in the City of Burton. He has had experience with negotiating with the U.A.W. and thinks he would be an asset to the council.

Mr. Curtis said he has lived in Burton since 1992 and has attended about half dozen council meetings. He likes to get all the facts prior to making a decision. He thinks the legislative branch has the responsibility to oversee the administration and make decisions that are good for the residents. He would be available to attend conferences and workshops. He thinks additional officers are necessary and would like the city to partnership with businesses for more

Infrastructure so the businesses could help finance the additional officers. He would like to see the city roads paved but he would look to federal funding that could be used for paving or research other avenues for funding. Mr. Curtis said we need to have a culture, as that is what will make the city grow. We can prosper and go forward and he thinks we should explore getting more sporting events into the City. One of the main issues is growth. We need to have controlled growth and formalize a partnership with the businesses, so the growth is not so hard on the utilities, the infrastructure, water that we have now. Mr. Curtis would be available to attend all meetings.

Mr. Curtis said he appreciated the Council's time and thanked them for the opportunity to apply for the vacancy.

Tina Fielder, 4367 Chicory, Burton, MI 48519:

Ms. Fielder said she has lived in the City for a year, but is a very civic-minded person. She said she is level-headed and a hard working individual. She said if appointed, she plans on retaining the council seat once it expires.

Ms. Fielder stated that she hasn't attended any council meetings. She likes to collect all the facts but can also make quick decisions when necessary. She said the legislative branch is to be the ambassador for the constituents and be fiscally responsible. She thinks conferences and workshops are an important way to broaden your horizons. Ms. Fielder said there is always room for more police officers. She said she is a grant writer and there is always money for

the department of justice. This could be one way of financing the additional officers. In regards to the paving, she said

if the constituents were told that their road would be paved, then it should be done. There is not enough recreational facilities and programs for the children, not only in Burton, but throughout Genesee County. We need more facilities so the children have a place to go and not get into trouble. The issues facing Burton is water and development. Ms. Fielder said she would quit her part-time job if appointed to be available for all meetings.

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Ms. Fielder said she is sure she raised a few eyebrows when she applied, but she has always been a hard worker and thinks she would be an attribute to the Council.

Mrs. Zelenko asked if Mr. Petrella had arrived and was informed that he had not. She said there would be a ten minute recess before taking the vote on the appointment.

Council recessed at 7:10 P.M.

Council meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION CONTINUED:

Mr. Martinbianco asked if it was council's expectation to swear in a new member tonight.

Mrs. Zelenko agreed that time permitting, she planned to have council swear in the new member tonight. For this to happen, four affirmative votes are needed for one applicant to become the council appointee.

Mrs. Zelenko thanked all the candidates for participating in the process. She suggested they get involved with community service and run for election. She noted there were other board positions that might become available, if they were interested. She felt there were many good resumes and credentials amongst the candidates.

A motion was made to place all applicants in nomination. The motion passed 6-0.

Mrs. Zelenko explained that at the end of round one, if one applicant had not received the required four votes, round two would begin with the rotation of council members. Candidates would be eliminated through progressive rounds, until one candidate received four votes.

After the first round of voting, Mr. Bement, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Nimcheski and Mr. Wells remained in the running.

After twenty-nine rounds of voting, Wells received the four votes needed for the appointment. A vote was taken to accept the appointment. The motion carried 6-0.

Mrs. Zelenko announced that Mr. Wells would be sworn in immediately following this meeting.

COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Approve and authorize the council to place all sixteen applicants in nomination.

Moved by Cross, Seconded by Martinbianco, Carried 6-0.

2. Approve and authorize the appointment of Danny Wells, 4144 E. Atherton Rd, to the Burton City Council term expiring November 2001.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Mrs. Webster, City Clerk, administered the oath of office to Mr. Wells.

Gayle Webster  
City Clerk

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk