

CITY OF BURTON
BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION
MAY 21, 1996, 6:15 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Budget Workshop was called to order by Paula Zelenko, Vice-President,
at
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abbey, Cox, Cross and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hammon, Martinbianco and Walls.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Smiley; J. Major, DPW Director; B. Becker, Treasurer/Controller; R. Riess, Water & Sewer Supervisor and C. Ladd, Deputy Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP: Discuss the proposed City of Burton 1996-1997 Budget.

PRESENTATION & COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET:

RUBBISH:

Mr. Becker said after extensive discussions regarding the recycling, he would like an indication from the Council as to which direction they will be going with this issue. To make any changes on the tax statements, this should be done by the June 3rd meeting. He also reviewed the rubbish budget, indicating that there are 9,660 stops at \$166.40 per month. He said there was an interest income and recycling income surplus of \$10,400.

Mr. Abbey said he is in favor of the recycling, but is concerned about the utilization of the program, and if it will be beneficial to enough residents.

Mrs. Zelenko said she thinks it is important to educate the people to use it, and would like to see this followed through. She is in favor of the recycling.

Mr. Cross asked how often the fee could be raised. Mayor Smiley said the cost of living is based on the first quarter of each year or until we amend the contract. The cost of living is about 3% each year.

Mr. Becker said if we don't participate in the recycling, our cost will still

go up about 3% because of the cost of living. He said if there are more changes to be made in the contract, they could be handled independently.

Mayor Smiley said we should make a commitment to Pollard one way or another, as the July 1st date is fast approaching. The consensus of the Council was to continue with the recycling project and place on the June 3rd agenda.

WATER & SEWER:

Mr. Becker said this is a status quo budget. He said they are anticipating some kind of growth, as in the general fund. The water revenues will come from new customer fees. On the expenditure side, this is also status quo. The makeup of the department, as far as personnel, has not changed. He said the contributions to the debt fund are contingent to sewer fund and water loop obligation. Everything else is consistent with the previous year.

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Mr. Abbey inquired as to who paid for the repairs of the streets after there has been a watermain break in the winter. He was advised the funds come from the water department.

Mr. Cox asked about the status of the water tower.

Mr. Riess said he has requested proposals from four (4) national engineering firms. He said there is an increase in bottle sampling because of the population increase. Discussion continued regarding the water storage tank.

Mr. Abbey asked how long the present system could be utilized. Mr. Riess said the tower is normally taken down every 7 years for maintenance, but we are now out of the maintenance cycle, it's been 9 years since the last maintenance was done.

Mr. Major said copies of the proposal will be given to Council in two or three weeks.

Mr. Becker said it may be possible to have a bond issue for the water tower.

Mr. Cox asked if there could be a short-fall in the proposed budget, and he was advised this may be the case.

Discussion was held concerning office equipment and Mr. Becker said they are updating and going to the County system. Equipment has been purchased out of the current budget.

Mr. Cox asked about \$67,000 in miscellaneous. Mr. Becker said Beechwood Estates water special assessment was established in 1975 and is now coming to a close. There is a \$60,000.00 surplus and this will be reverted back to the water fund. We are under no legal obligation to refund the money to the property owners in that district.

Mr. Becker said the water rates are going up, but we don't know how much. Our rates are regulated by the County.

Mr. Abbey asked if the hydrant fee still offers the homeowner a break on their insurance. He was advised yes. He then asked if the watermain improvements are done in-house. He was advised they are contracted out and there are 21 asphalt jobs to be done.

Mrs. Zelenko asked how often the fire hydrants are painted and she was advised they are done as needed.

Discussion was held concerning the water customers on Hemphill and Menominee being serviced by the City of Flint and the possibility of Burton taking them over in the future.

Mayor Smiley informed the Council that there is another mobile home park coming into the City by August. Mr. Major said the land is properly zoned for this type of housing, they just need to submit a site plan.

SEWER:

Mr. Becker said this budget is also status quo. We are in anticipation of actual new development and there is interest coming in on the water fund loan. On the expenditure side, the personnel is the same and the sewer usage revenues are up. The contractual service is up from previous years. Mr. Becker said the way we have borrowed is the way to go.

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Mr. Cox asked if the City is on schedule with the water paybacks to sewer. Mr. Becker said yes.

Mr. Becker said the sewer debt millage rate is being dropped 1/4 of a mill.

Mr. Abbey asked how many vehicles are driven home by the employees. Mr. Riess responded that only the water foreman has a vehicle, because he is on duty 24 hours a day.

BUILDING INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. Becker said the administration had some major discussions concerning the revamping of the building department, but it ended up staying the same. He explained the funding of the personnel.

Discussion was held concerning the various duties of the inspectors and their respective wages.

Mr. Cross asked for a current pay sheet for the City employees.

Mr. Cox asked how we make money for the building and inspection department. Mr. Becker replied by using the BOCA code and by charging more uniformly with the fee schedule.

Mr. Major said Mr. LaDuke has approached the Council in trying to compare our fee schedule with that of the surrounding communities. The options are to raise fees and have rental inspections.

Discussion was held concerning fees.

Mayor Smiley commented on the importance of the fire department deputies and assistant chief's having cars. He said it is impossible for one man to be on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days each week.

Mr. Becker said there will be a Truth & Taxation Hearing in June. The final figures should be in from the County some time this week.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML