CITY OF BURTON
COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2012, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Budget Workshop was called to order by Finance Chairman Vaughn Smith at 7:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Smith, Wells, Ellenburg, Heffner, and Martinbianco.
MEMBERS ABSENT: Haskins and O'Keefe.
OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor P. Zelenko, G. Burke-Miller, Controller, G. Kray, DPW Director, D. Bingaman, Treasurer, Fire Chief D. Halstead, B. Bigsby, Administrative Asst. and M. Snow, Clerks Office.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: COUNCIL WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 2012-2013 CITY OF BURTON BUDGETS

PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Burke-Miller said Mallard Ponds was taken back in 2011 so they already went on the summer tax bills when they accidentally went delinquent. The County is working with Burton to reduce or exclude penalties and interest on them. She said the Mayor's budget was reduced by $2,000 for training and seminars and $40,000 was moved from rubbish to General Fund. The projected fund balance is now $2.6 million versus the audited fund balance of $2.7 million.

Mr. Martinbianco asked about the possible replacement of police vehicles.

Mayor Zelenko said Flint is the #1 city in the Nation for violent crimes and asked for 1-3 cars.

Mr. Martinbianco agreed the City needs to invest in 2 cars but we have to find $70,000 to fund them, which would have to come from General Fund. He asked how much the cars might cost.

Mrs. Burke-Miller said $70,000 for cars plus the current deficit of $88,000 would equal $158,000.

Mr. Martinbianco said we could take another $10,000 from rubbish and incur the additional cost to the General Fund. He said our fleet of police cars needs to be assessed within 6 months.

Mrs. Burke-Miller inquired about borrowing money for the cars from Motor Pool.

Mr. Martinbianco said we have never done that but if Plante and Moran are ok with that so is he. His thought was Motor Pool vehicles are public service vehicles and not public safety vehicles.

Mayor Zelenko said police cars run about $25,000 per car once they are outfitted.

Mr. Martinbianco said Council could go from $7,000 to $4,000 for conferences and workshops.

Mrs. Ellenburg would like to leave the fund like it is.

Mr. Wells thinks each member should be allotted $1,000 for conferences. He said if it's not used by the end of the year then move the money back.

Mr. Martinbianco would agree to leave the $7,000 if each Councilperson was assigned $1,000.

Mr. Heffner said the City benefited from $48,000 in savings since members were present at conferences to learn how to save the City money. He said the money the City will save within the next few years would cover a police car.

Mr. Smith referenced a Parks and Recreation compensation survey done in May. He said at this time the City has a salary for the Parks and Recreation Director of $5,200. The fringe benefits that were in that budget were moved to the Mayor's department. He said according to the survey the Director's are mostly full time positions and that towns with water spend more on their Parks and Recreation Department. He asked what the Mayor's vision is for a Parks and Recreation Director.

Mayor Zelenko asked if the survey totals exclude benefits and grants and gave her vision for a Director. She said Bette waters the Community Garden, sells water for the Youth League, coordinates events and much more. We need to support this and get property values back up. Within the Burton Parks and Recreation Commission 5-Year Plan there are 2 pages of goals and objectives set forth by the Commission as well. She would love to have a full time Director and we do have enough work to warrant one but doesn't think the budget allows us to have one.

Mr. Smith asked how the Mayor would determine whether or not the Director is effective and what is the time frame before making it a full time position.

Mayor Zelenko said it would be part time through the 5-Year Plan.

Mr. Smith is struggling with the going rate of pay elsewhere versus what was requested.

Mayor Zelenko feels the $8,000 to $10,000 range would be fair for a part time Director. She does not want this incorporated into a job description of an employee here but a position that in the event someone employed here no longer wants to be involved, another person resumes as Director. Currently Mrs. Bigsby is putting in 15-17 hours per week into Parks and Recreation, 5 of which happens during the workweek. This has been tracked since late February.

Mr. Heffner said Kelly Lake and the Youth League are overflowing with people tonight, therefore Parks and Recreation has value. Mrs. Bigsby does a phenomenal job as the Director and we have an unbelievable Commission. We are changing the way people look at Burton with our Parks and Recreation Department and this salary would be small compared to what is entailed.

Mrs. Ellenburg said the City has a lot of great volunteers who spend numerous hours and simply accept a thank you for their work. Every volunteer who helped with the parade didn't do it to get paid but because they believe in the City. She would like to do the salary of $5,200 to see how it goes and if that's not acceptable she is sure the Mayor will find someone who will accept. We have all been volunteers because we have passion and don't expect to be paid.

Mayor Zelenko said the Director is responsible for doing grant preparations, event coordinating, scheduling media coverage, monitoring the budget, and buying material for events. Within the past months there were no complaints about Kelly Lake and there are now playground inspections.

Mr. Wells said a Director is not a priority, having police cars is. The City doesn't even have a working phone system and the new computers are not being installed. He said Mrs. Bigsby won't do the job without pay but you don't always need to be paid for volunteering. He said this is a silly conversation and the City is doing fine as we are.

Mr. Martinbianco thinks $100 a week to do Parks and Recreation work is a good start.

Mr. Heffner asked how someone who isn't employed here would get what they needed from DPW.

Mr. Martinbianco said they would have permission from the Mayor and connections from within.

Mr. Heffner asked what the Library charges to store and move books and where is that charged to.

Mrs. Burke-Miller said DPW moves the books and they do not do it free of charge.

Mr. Smith feels we could evaluate the position in a year and possibly bump up the salary.

Mrs. Ellenburg said Grand Blanc's Director is funded through schools, millages and the township.

Mr. Heffner said Council should be more involved with the Commission and they would have a better understanding of how it works.

Mr. Martinbianco said we are still talking about Parks and Recreation and we don't even have funds for street sweeping.

Mrs. Burke-Miller said we have $75,000, which would allow 1 sweep.

Mayor Zelenko said Detroit would be raising the water rate another 22 cents come September.

Mr. Martinbianco asked how the City would be collecting for that.

Mr. Bingaman said rates are put on the tax roll and if there is personal debt on a property a lien is put in place and the City would pursue collection on the debt.

Mrs. Burke-Miller said about $120,000 to $130,000 would be needed in General Fund. She mentioned the street sweeping bid of $192,000 that came before us going over 2 fiscal years.

Mr. Kray said the first sweep would be around the $55,000 range.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.
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