

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2007, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Special Meeting was called to order by Council President Gary Isham at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Conley, Cross, Isham, LaDuke, Major, Tinnin and Wells.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: K. Foster, Controller and G. Webster, City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Adopting the 2007-2008 Budget Amended Proposals.

PRESENTATION:

None.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Jane Nimcheski, 2429 N. Genesee Rd., opposed eliminating positions within a bargaining unit that are involved in a court case. She said the Council could remove funding from the budget, but they cannot tell the Mayor who to hire or fire. She opposed the elimination of the Code Enforcer. She felt all the police millage money should go to the Police Department.

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., felt the General Fund should continue to support the Police Department at the same level, along with the extra voted millage. She spoke in favor of the building inspectors doing code enforcement and privatizing the IT department. She said the Council sets the policies and budget. The Mayor should carry out the wishes of the Council.

Warren Nimcheski, 2429 Genesee Rd., felt the voters would lose confidence in the City of Burton if the millage money weren't used for the Police Department. He felt this would have a negative impact on future millages or bond proposals.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. LaDuke said Proposal 2 should read: Benefit Rep solely out of the Mayor's budget. He said the Council increased the police budget \$100,000 more than originally proposed. Council was eliminating funding in some areas, not positions. He said the \$200,000 deficit in the Building Department should be addressed. The two certified inspectors should be kept in the Building Department. If the workload increases, the work could still be done. In regards to the IT department, he said there has been an ongoing problem with the website and implementing billing on line. That department was increased by \$30,000 in the proposed budget. Council felt the work could be done with less money by privatizing the department. He felt these steps would save approximately \$200,000 in the General Fund. Mr. LaDuke said Council made a commitment when water rates were increased. If money became available, we might reduce the rates. He suggested these savings could be utilized to roll back the water rates. He spoke regarding implementing a line item budget for salary and fringes of each employee within the assigned budget.

Mrs. Tinnin wanted to know where the \$100,000 transfer from General Fund to the Police Department was listed in the proposals.

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Mr. LaDuke said the \$100,000 wasn't actually a transfer. It is being earmarked for the Police Department before the budget is adopted. He said this was included in the proposed Budget Amendment information.

Mrs. Tinnin moved and Mrs. Conley seconded to add to the agenda as Item 12: Approve and authorize raising the General Fund contribution by \$100,000 to transfer to the Police Department revenue for the purpose of vehicle replacement.

Mr. Wells wanted to know if this was an extra \$100,000 on top of the \$94,000 that was already transferred.

Mrs. Foster explained all the millage money was going to the Police Department. Originally, the General Fund contribution to the Police Department budget was reduced by \$94,000. This General Fund transfer of \$100,000 will simply move the money back. She did not realize that the General Fund support to the Police Department was guaranteed. Mr. Wells agreed that it was not guaranteed, especially after the millage was passed. Mrs. Tinnin felt the General Fund contribution was to remain the same. The Police Department received an additional \$140,000 in the last fiscal year. They can meet all their needs with the return of the \$100,000. She felt this additional money was fair.

A vote was taken to add Item 12 to the agenda. The motion carried 6-1, with Wells voting no.

Mr. Cross moved and Mrs. Conley seconded the motion to add to the agenda as Item 13: Approve and authorize a total line item budget for all departments.

Mr. Wells said it would cost extra staff time and money to implement a line item budget.

Mrs. Foster said it would cost an additional \$20,000 to implement a line item budget for salary and fringes alone. It would be very time consuming just setting it up. Every week she would have to charge people to where they are budgeted. Separately she would have to track where each employee actually worked. Monthly we would have to come to Council to physically move those wages from where they're budgeted to where the person actually worked. Someone might be budgeted in sewer, but would have to work in the water department. This would have to be done to have a true and accurate picture of what the water department was actually costing.

Mr. Wells said that potentially we would have to come in every day to move money where it is needed. He opposed putting a line item budget in place because it could potentially shut the City down and cause a lot of flexibility problems.

Mr. Cross said this would include all full time employees. He said in the last budget the Council trusted the Mayor to carry out their wishes, but he did not. We have to put some type of safeguard in place to assure the Council's budget wishes are fulfilled.

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Mr. LaDuke does not want the option of employees being moved around to various departments. That defeats the purpose of what we are trying to do. There is no trust between the Council and the Administration. He will be voting against a total line item budget. That would really handicap the departments. However, he supported salary and fringes being done on a line item budget.

Mrs. Tinnin opposed any wage and salary transfers to cover those positions where the funding was eliminated. They are being paid across the board, taking a lot of money from the Police Department. Council should just say no on these transfers, until the Mayor has done his debt reduction plan.

Mr. Cross moved and Mrs. Conley seconded the motion to add to the agenda as Item 13: Approve and authorize a total line item budget for all departments. Motion failed 5-2.

Mr. Major moved and Mr. LaDuke seconded to adopt Items 1-12 as a group, as a consent motion.

Mrs. Tinnin wanted to vote on these items individually. She said there was an agreement that if any Council member objected, we could vote on consent agenda items individually.

There was a brief discussion on the motion to vote on Items 1-12. The motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

There was a brief discussion after the vote on Items 1-12. There was agreement by a majority of the Council that the vote had taken place.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ACTION:

Moved by Tinnin, seconded by Conley to add to the agenda as Item 12: Approve and authorize raising the General Fund contribution by \$100,000 to transfer to the Police Department revenue for the purpose of vehicle replacement. The motion carried 6-1, with Wells voting no.

Moved by Cross, seconded by Conley to add to the agenda as Item 13: Approve and authorize a total line item budget for all departments. Motion failed 5-2, with Isham, LaDuke, Major, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Moved by Major, seconded by LaDuke to adopt Items 1-12 as a group, as a consent motion. The motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 1 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

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2. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 2 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

3. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 3 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

4. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 4 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

5. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 5 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

6. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 6 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

7. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 7 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

8. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 8 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

9. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 9 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

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10. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 10 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

11. Approve and authorize budget amendment Proposal 11 to the City of Burton 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Major moved and LaDuke seconded the following motion:

12. Approve and authorize raising the General Fund contribution by \$100,000 to transfer to the Police Department revenue for the purpose of vehicle replacement.

Motion carried 4-3, with Cross, Tinnin and Wells voting no.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Gayle Webster, CMC
City Clerk