



BURTON, MICHIGAN

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 22, 2014

MINUTES

Council Chambers

Special Meeting

10:00 AM

4303 S. CENTER ROAD
BURTON, MI 48519

This meeting was opened by Chairman Vaughn Smith at 10:15 AM.

A. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dennis O'Keefe	Councilman	Present	
Danny Wells	Councilman	Late	10:13 AM
Vaughn Smith	Chairman	Present	

B. STAFF PRESENT

Rik Hayman, Executive Assistant
Ginger Burke-Miller, Controller
Doug Bingaman, Treasurer
Greg Kray, DPW Director
Lindsay Young, Clerk Typist

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

D. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS.

1. Discussion on Water and Sewer Rates with possible recommendation to City Council.

Mr. Hayman said water bill arrangements are handled on an individual basis in order to help residents cope with financial hardships. However, the City does still need to collect its money. If the residents don't keep up on the arrangement their water can be turned off immediately.

Mr. Smith asked what percentage of water and sewer customers are current on their bills.

Mr. Hayman said we have roughly 12,000 customers with approximately 120 of them on a payment arrangement plan.

Mr. Smith referenced Mlive articles regarding water rate increases for Genesee County residents. He also referenced the problem in Detroit where residents who are delinquent are getting their water shut off.

Mr. Bingaman said Detroit has probably laid off many workers and do not have the staff to keep up on all the water shut offs.

Mr. O'Keefe said with only 30,000 residents we can help people and if we can be flexible, we should be. However, at some point people need to pay their water bill.

Mr. Hayman said the water bill arrangements are a joint effort between the Department of Public Works, Treasurer's Office and Mayor's Office.

Mr. Wells asked how many businesses have water bill arrangements.

Mr. Hayman said about a handful.

Mr. Smith said the County raised their rates by 12.5% and sewer rates are almost doubling. He asked if any of that money is going towards the infrastructure of the existing system.

Mr. Kray said most of it is for repairs and upgrades.

Mrs. Burke-Miller said that money was built in years ago and gets moved for repairs on those systems. She said the City of Burton is being proactive.

Mr. O'Keefe said that if we had added a couple cents to everyone's bill this whole time, they wouldn't know any difference and we wouldn't be in this mess. He asked if the City directs residents to any organization that helps with social services.

Mr. Hayman said they give residents a reference sheet that lists organizations that offer help.

Mr. O'Keefe asked Mr. Kray if the City will see relief when it switches to the new water system.

Mr. Kray said he has not been involved in talks regarding rates for the new system.