

CITY OF BURTON

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Finance Meeting was called to order by Keith Cox, Chairman, at 9:30 P.M.

Members Present: Centilli, Cox and Martinbianco.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: D. Lowthian, Assessor/EDC Advisor and C. Ladd, Deputy Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and Possible Recommendation  
Concerning the  
Economic Development Corporation.

PRESENTATION:

Bill Young and Norm Dombrowski were present representing the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Young said they sometimes have a difficult time getting a quorum of the members. They have concerns about the future of the EDC and what direction or role it should play in the City. We believe in bringing in businesses and industries, as well as people. We are not just interested in developing businesses, but also more people. We need to make businesses and industries more aware of Burton and entice them into the City. Mr. Young said Michigan's growth patterns may not continue and that is when the EDC becomes more important to the community. Mr. Young said if the City had money in the budget to develop brochures and have a part-time person that would be compatible for EDC, eventually the businesses that come into Burton would pay for this person.

Mr. Dombrowski said without someone promoting Burton, it is difficult for commerce to know anything about the City of Burton. Today, the prospects are calling Burton and actually, the City of Burton should be calling the prospects. There are numerous trade shows held throughout the year and we should be attending these to promote the City. We need representation, such as a coordinator/director. Ideally, a full-time person is needed, but we should at

least have a part-time person. We need to have someone to be a catalyst for the City. Mr. Dombrowski said he thinks part of the reason for not have a quorum at most of the meetings is due to members thinking this is a social gathering and nothing is getting accomplished. If the members could see some type of progress being done, we may not have the attendance problems. With the way the EDC is constituted now, we can't play much of a role, if any.

Mr. Young said he thinks the EDC needs to work and in hand with the Chamber of Commerce. The educational programs should be taken over by the Chamber. It is difficult for Mr. Lowthian to take on additional responsibility with the duties he presently has, but we need someone who has the time to do go out and seek businesses for the City.

#### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None.

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#### COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mr. Martinbianco asked what role the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation should play. He explained that when he joined the Chamber of Commerce, he understood that they would play the role of what has previously been discussed this morning. He said when talking about money for staffing, someone who will be a promoter, the Chamber should have someone on staff that would do this.

Mr. Young said he would like to see the City pro-active rather than reactive.

Mr. Dombrowski said he thinks the mission of the Chamber is different than that of the EDC.

Mr. Martinbianco said a part-time person could come in when a developer is in town and let him know what is available and find out what would fit in our plan.

He said the more the name gets out, the more people will relocate.

Mr. Centilli asked if any brochures have been made with an aerial view and sent to the realtors. Mr. Lowthian said no.

Mr. Young said the economy cannot continue as it is today. When the time comes for the fall, we need to be out front and let others know what Burton has to offer. We have two expressways, good roads, property and people.

Mr. Cox said we probably cannot afford a full-time staff person at this time, but the issue is important enough to put money into the budget to promote the City.

Mr. Martinbianco asked what portion of the EDC budget has been used. Mr. Lowthian said about \$500.00 of the \$4,000.00

Mr. Martinbianco said at one of the EDC meetings, they might possibly formulate a plan for brochures, aerial work and make of list of trade fairs and costs thereof, and bring this back to the finance committee so we can portion this into the budget.

Mr. Cox said he would like to see funds put into the upcoming budget for such a project. He noted he does not want to see the EDC fold. The energy is there and people are wanting to put an effort into this worthwhile project.

Further discussion continued about the funding for a part-time position for coordinator and the cost of developing a brochure, aerial view and trade fairs available to get information about the City out to the public.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

No particular recommendation was made by the committee at this time.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:22 A.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE  
Deputy City Clerk

CML