

CITY OF BURTON
FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2009, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Finance Meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Heffner at 6:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heffner, Zelenko and Tinnin.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Heidenberger, Assessor, G. Kray, DPW Director, and L. Young, Clerk's office

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:**

**1. Resolution Establishing Fees for Registration of Abandoned
Structures RE: Ordinance 2009-5-91**

PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Heidenberger stated that the City of Burton currently has 311 properties in mortgage foreclosure. She said that if a worker from the city inspected the properties twice a month, the registration fee would have to be set at \$140.00 to cover the cost. She noted that there should be a provision in the registration fee that would take into account the homeowners who are having a difficult time selling their homes or are doing work on the properties, yet still fall under the category of abandoned. She stated how this program would help to preserve the property values in the city. She suggested a reduced fee for the first year and then reviewing the fee annually to ensure it is fair, but sufficient. She emphasized the fact that the city is not trying to place a hardship on its residents.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zelenko stated that she would like to see some language that addresses people that are working on their home that allows them to register at a reduced rate. She noted that this program is targeting mortgage-servicing facilities that own foreclosed properties and are not taking care of them.

Mrs. Heidenberger said that they could distinguish between the properties that fall into different categories.

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Mrs. Zelenko stated that they should keep it simple without categories. She emphasized the fact that this program is not a punishment, but a tool to keep track of and protect empty properties and their values in the city.

Mrs. Heidenberger explained that she arrived at the registration fee by calculating the hourly rate of the building inspector, fringes and car rental to figure what the cost would be for each inspection per parcel.

Mrs. Tinnin expressed her concern with the uniform enforcement of this program due to a lack of manpower.

Mrs. Heidenberger stated that this program would reduce resident complaints. She also mentioned that other communities have implemented such a program and one in California feels that it has been very successful.

Mrs. Zelenko suggested that they report to council.

Mrs. Tinnin stated that Attorney Austin should be present at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mrs. Zelenko recommended they report what they have discussed to council.

The Finance Committee recommended scheduling another meeting regarding the resolution establishing fees for registration of abandoned structures for June 15, 2009 at 5:45 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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