

CITY OF BURTON
FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINTUES
AUGUST 29, 1990, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This Finance Committee Meeting is called to order by Mr. Martinbianco, Committee Chairman at 7:05 P.M.

Members Present: Martinbianco and Hammon.

Members Absent: Abbey.

Others Present: W. Walworth, City Clerk; B. Becker, Treasurer/Controller and R. LaDuke, Building Superintendent.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion of Weed Cutting Fees, Gibson Drain, Water Rates, Late Fees, Bentley Requests and Other Matters that might arise.

PRESENTATION:

WEED CUTTING FEES:

Ralph LaDuke reviewed the Weed Cutting Ordinance. He said the weed cutting usually takes place when weeds exceed 10 in. in height. He said there is no supervision of the cutters and they have only received one bid the last couple of years. The owners of the cut lots are charged for the cutting time plus a \$25 fee, plus administrative costs. He said the DPW is open to suggestions to handle the problem. Mr. LaDuke added, it is the same lots every year and the \$25 fee doesn't seem to make a difference.

GIBSON DRAIN:

Mr. Martinbianco reviewed the Council's action on the Gilkey Creek and Branch Drain land purchase and the referral of the Gibson Drain to the Finance Committee.

WATER RATES:

Mr. Becker said the water rates are addressed in three ways:

1. Allowances have been placed in the 1990-91 budget to bring the rates in line for the north and south end water service.
2. New water rates can then be set by the ordinance that is in place.
3. Legislative Committee can address the present differences in Ordinance 5 they relate to the north and south end.

LATE FEES:

Mr. Becker noted that the Ordinance on late fees was last addressed in 1984. He said the 10% was affirmed in that ordinance and it is reasonable when compared to surrounding municipalities. Mr. Becker said \$73,000 was generated last year in the sewer and water late fees. Almost 30% pay late fees. The 10% doesn't change for one day late or one month late.

BENTLEY REQUESTS:

Mr. Martinbianco read the letter from Bentley on the crossing guard payment. The letter suggested they would waive any claim for crossing guard monies for 1988-89 and 1989-90 if the City waived the tap in fee for the High School, Junior High School and Johnson Elementary.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Weed Cutting Fees:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, said she has made complaints about a lot in her neighborhood and there is also a problem for people with allergies.

Gibson Drain: None.

Water Rates: None.

Late Fees: None.

Bentley Requests:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, said there was a Court case in 1983 dealing with the Pontiac Schools. She feels the City has a responsibility to pay for the crossing guards and they have jurisdiction for the roadways and the citizens on those roads.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Weed Cutting Fees:

Mr. Martinbianco asked the Clerk if proper posting was done. He said it is handled by DPW and proper posting had been done. He said that "on a complaint basis" might be the way to go or communicate in some way other than by the newspaper.

Mr. Hammon asked if the individual is contacted. Mr. LaDuke said no.

Gibson Drain:

Jeff Wright from the Drain Commission passed out a breakdown of New Construction projects in Burton and Burton's future liabilities. He said the appraised value of the Gibson Drain land was \$75,000 and that Burton's share is 7%. He said all other municipalities have approved the purchase and he wanted Burton's support.

At Mr. Martinbianco's request, Mr. Wright reviewed the boundaries of the Gibson Drain as it relates to Burton.

Mr. Martinbianco asked Mr. Becker about putting a cap on the amount of money for the Gibson Drain. Mr. Becker stated the resolution gives the Drain Commissioner the right to proceed and the liability is about \$5200.

Mr. Becker said he thought the 1991 estimates from the Drain office looked low.

Mr. Wright said Dixel Park and Forest Avenue are the only new projects initiated by the county this year. He also noted that two large expenditures in 1990 will go to zero next year (Term Street and Ives Avenue Drains).

Mr. Wright said holding areas for flood waters are more cost efficient than new drains, if the land is selling at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Wright explained that the City is not required to pass a resolution, as the cost will be under 20%, but the County Drain Commissioner wants all the municipalities involved in the process. He also stated the City could grieve the matter if the charges went over 7%.

Mr. Martinbianco asked if anyone would benefit from the project. Mr. Wright replied no one in the drain office has a vested interest in the project.

Mr. Hammon said this has been a very informative presentation. He asked that the words Grand Blanc Township be changed to City of Burton and the word Supervisor to Mayor.

Water Rates:

Mr. Martinbianco suggested the issue be postponed as long as possible due to the significant difference in the present rates for the South end.

Late Fees:

Mr. Hammon asked about other penalties. Mr. Becker explained, after 60 days, the resident is notified that they have 15 days to make the payment before the water is shut off. The residents really have a grace period of about 22 days and those with only sewer, would not have an additional penalty, as there is no water to shut off.

Mr. Martinbianco asked if they could use VISA. Mr. Becker replied this has not been considered for sewer or water fees.

Bentley Requests:

Mr. Martinbianco said now that Bentley has put there request in writing, there may now be some legal implications.

Mr. Becker thinks an opinion from our Attorney is needed in regards to the City's responsibility in this area.

Mr. Hammon wanted to know if there was an attorney's opinion. The clerk will check with Mr. Hamilton.

It was noted that Bentley did not participate in the original water loop and now wants to tap in.

It was also noted that other schools are in the City's jurisdiction and the letter did not address future crossing guard costs.

Mr. Martinbianco said he would not support the trade and wanted the matter referred to the Attorney. He also noted that we collect their taxes and the total issue of services to the schools needs to be addressed. Mr. Martinbianco also wondered what the crossing guard costs would be, now that Bentley's buses are running.

Mr. Hammon wanted to know where the crossing guards are stationed and which streets are the responsibility of the City and which are the responsibility of the County.

Mr. LaDuke noted that previous school boards overlooked this issue as the City gave them other services.

Mr. Hammon wanted to know the cost of electronic stop devices. He asked Mr. Becker to check on the costs of tap in fees for the three schools.

The Committee wanted to know who the two front line aides might be.

Mr. Hammon wanted to know if Mr. Young was aware of the meeting and was told yes. He said anyone concerned with an issue should be invited to the meeting by the Chairperson of that committee through the Mayor.

Census 90:

Mr. Martinbianco asked about the loss of funds due to the 1990 Census.

Mr. Becker said Mr. Lowthian was on top of this matter. He explained that we are given a very short appeal time and Mr. Lowthian had addressed a letter to the Mayor on this matter. Also, he said he was concerned but has no solution to the appeal process. Mr. Lowthian seemed to think the changes were reasonable.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Weed Cutting Fees:

It was suggested that the Legislative Committee take the matter under advisement as to how the DPW should handle the problem for the summer of 1991.

Gibson Drain:

Moved by Hammon, supported by Martinbianco to recommend approval of the resolution, on the purchase of the Gibson Drain land, to the full Council.
Motion carried 2-0.

Water Rates: None.

Late Fees:

It was suggested that the Legislative Committee could look into this matter if they so choose.

Bentley Requests:

Mr. Martinbianco asked the City Clerk to place the Bentley letter in each Council member's folder. He asked that the letter be referred to the Attorney. He is also referring the matter to the total Council.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Walworth
Burton City Clerk