

CITY OF BURTON
LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 1990, 4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Legislative Committee Meeting was called to order by Charles Smiley, Chairman, at 4:02 P.M.

Members Present: Smiley and Card

Members Absent: Walls

Others Present: Mayor, Jane L. Nimcheski; K. Collard, City Administrator; J. Major, Asst. DPW Director; R. LaDuke, Building Supt.; R. Stewart, Bldg. Insp.; C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

Citizens Committee Members: Kallin, Borucki, Stapish, Perkins, and Sorenson.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: DISCUSSION ON EXISTING BOCA CODE 1987, WEED
ORDINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS THAT MIGHT ARISE.

PRESENTATION: Mr. LaDuke said prior to the November election, the Committee met and since the election, we have had a change in members. At the last meeting we had a mutual agreement to several changes in the Existing Structures Code and send the changes to the City Council for adoption.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Bud LeGrande, 2105 E. Buder, said he would like to have the changes read in its entirety.

Mr. LaDuke noted at the last committee meeting there was a large audience and we were instructed by you and the committee members to make copies available to anyone who wished to read this prior to adoption. Those copies were available for the public in the Clerk's Office.

Mr. Smiley said if anyone wished to speak again, after Committee Discussion, he would reopen the audience participation section of the agenda.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mr. Card asked if Existing Structures Code was approved by the Citizens Committee?

Mr. Smiley replied it was approved to go before the Legislative Committee with the changes we have before us today.

Mr. Smiley said he has no problem with the Existing Structures Code, but questioned the Non-Mandatory form and suggested possibly they would inspect only those dwellings which are abandoned.

Mr. LaDuke said the City is not soliciting the inspections. With the Non-Mandatory form, it would have to be signed by the property owner, not the renter, for the City to make an inspection on the house. We are trying to protect the owner of the property and that's why the form was developed.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning the Non Mandatory Inspection Form.

Mr. LaDuke said the City only inspects the property if the lending institution makes a request. If an inspection is done, the City charges the property owner for the inspection to recoup the cost.

Audience Participation Resumed:

Mr. LeGrande, spoke in regards to the fees charged to inspect the homes.

Mr. Perkins, Committee Member, said fees were not discussed at the meetings. The committee was strictly concerned about the owners rights as to the inspections.

Mrs. Borucki said it is not mandatory for the owners to use someone who charges for this service.

Mr. Smiley and Mr. Card read the changes from the Existing Structure Code, which were accepted by the Committee. (A copy of the changes are attached to the minutes and copies available upon request from the Clerk's Office).

Mr. Major reiterated that inspections are made only upon request.

Mr. Smiley said the other item up for discussion is the Weed Ordinance. He said there is a problem with weeds and he would like to present an idea to see if this problem can be cut to a minimum. Possibly a Youth Program could be started and to do this, a committee should be formed to look at the pros and cons of this type of program.

Mr. Major said no matter what is done, it is impossible to please everyone.

Mr. Card asked about the insurance rider and the cost that would be incurred. He also inquired about the equipment, who would furnish it?

Mr. Smiley said he was thinking possibly those working could use their own equipment and be supervised by adults.

Mr. Major said it seems that the same property is cut by the City every year. We have increased the prices and the people are taking better care of their own lawns by doing so. There has definitely been a decrease over the past three years or so.

Mr. LaDuke said the weeds are cut on a complaint basis only.

Mr. Perkins said he thinks the City should continue with the present system and possibly get the youth involved in other areas in their neighborhoods.

Mr. Card said in the early 70's the City had a cleanup week and it involved the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Possibly something of this nature could be done in the future.

Mr. Collard reminded the committee the City provides two (2) free dumping permits each year for Burton residents.

Mr. Stapish said he is sure that there are Senior Citizens who would be happy to have their lawns cut but can't find someone who would do the job.

Mayor Nimcheski said when the Committee meets to have a list of what you want the committee to study, ordinance, costs, youth, etc. Define what you want the committee to do.

Mr. Smiley said he doesn't want to change the scope of the Ordinance but look at new ways to help the youth. Possibly if they can help in their own residential areas and at the same time earn some money, with no expense to the City. Mr. Smiley said he thinks there should be representatives from the DPW as part of this Committee. Mr. Smiley asked the DPW for figures as to the number of parcels which were cut by the City, and possibly have them ready for the next meeting. Anyone who wishes to be a part of this committee should contact the members of the Legislative Committee, Mayor's Office or Clerk's Office.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Card moved and Smiley supported the following recommendation:

Send the Existing Structures Code, along with listed changes, to the City Council for First Reading of An Ordinance on February 19, 1990.
Motion carried 2-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl M. Ladd
Deputy City Clerk

CML