

CITY OF BURTON
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2004, 4:00 P. M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON CHARLES CROSS AT 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cross, Isham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Centilli

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Halstead, Fire Chief, D. Lacey, Asst. Fire Chief, K. Gould, Deputy Fire Chief, J. Adams, Sr. Clerk Typist

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and Possible Recommendation Concerning the following items:

1. Burn Permits
2. Other Fire Department Matters

PRESENTATION:

Chief Halstead expressed the City of Burton is growing constantly and there is more congregated housing and fewer agricultural areas in the city. We have a large number of people open burning that includes refuse and garbage type items. This is costing our City a large amount of money every year to respond to people who call complaints in on these burns. Chief Halstead read aloud Rule 310 of Article II, Air Pollution Control that addresses open burning. He believes it is up to the citizens, Council and the Mayor as to whether the City wants to continue open burning. He can make suggestions and offer statistics.

Chief Halstead addressed research information on the number of burn permits issued. He stated permits have increased to over 3,000 per year, and we are probably now at 13,000. However, permits is not the problem. When people burn, it can be uncomfortable for neighbors.

Chief Halstead made several suggestions including establishing set periods of times during the year, and possibly restrict the number of burning permits a resident can obtain during the year. Chief Halstead spoke further regarding unauthorized burning, number of runs made last year, wages, vehicle costs, deterioration of Fire Station 2, and other pertinent concerns.

Deputy Chief Ken Gould commented regarding concerns of on-line permits. Asst. Chief Lacey stated that they field 2 to 3 burning complaints a day.

Chief Halstead covered several areas on a Facts About Open Burning information sheet he handed out to the Committee.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., Burton, MI, expressed there are valid concerns along with pros and cons to the burning permit situation.

Don Sanderlin, 4460 Killarney Park, Burton, MI, stated many residents enjoy the recreational fire permits and he would not like to see these omitted.

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Dave Rowe, 2253 Howe Rd., Burton, MI, said he would not like to see permits being used to make money on. He feels computer on-line permits should be looked into more closely.

Bob Bement, 5198 Washtenaw, Burton, MI, stated there are areas of many concerns. He had 4 different calls from residents who are very opposed to doing away with burning. People like their freedoms. We need to look at educating people with articles in the paper as to what it is costing the City. Mr. Bement expressed further he does believe in rules and if people are burning illegally they should be fined.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mr. Isham said he is not in favor of a complete ban. He would support an effort to re-coup costs, and possibly limit the number of permits per household.

Mr. Cross spoke regarding type of containers used for fires, limiting the size of fires, types of materials to be burned, and possible fees for permits.

Mr. Isham expressed looking into fines, the burning distance from structures, and materials allowed to be burned.

Discussion followed regarding the above concerns, enforcement, and further restrictions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Cross expressed there were many good ideas in this meeting. He would like to tentatively schedule another Legislative Meeting for next Wednesday, August 25, 2004, for further discussion and recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

jra