

CITY OF BURTON
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2004, 4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Charles Cross, Chairperson, called the Legislative Meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Centilli, Cross and Isham.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Halstead, Fire Chief; Ken Gould, Assistant Chief; Dennis Lacey, Assistant Chief and C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:
1. Burn Permits

PRESENTATION:

Chief Halstead reviewed items that had been discussed at the previous meeting. He presented the committee with a copy of the suggested changes for open burning in the City. (This document is on file in the Clerk's Office) The Chief explained that these changes could be done in ordinance form, and should appease the citizens that want to burn and still allow the Fire Department to regulate the burning in the city. The permits have been broken down into two categories. The first category is for open burning and the second category is for recreational burning. The open burning would include items such as clearing property of fallen branches and garden debris and would be limited to four, two-day permits per household at a cost of \$5.00 per permit. In reference to the recreational fires, each household would receive two free permits per year and would be given an unlimited number of permits at a cost of \$5.00 per permit, per household. Open burning would not be allowed to exceed a 4 ft. x 5 ft. area and recreational fires would not be allowed to exceed a 3 ft. x 3 ft. area and must be extinguished by 1:00 a.m. Chief Halstead noted that the rules are in reference to ground fires, not fires that are in screened containers. There would be no fees or limit to the number of fires in these types of containers.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Listed below are the residents who spoke in reference to the following items concerning fire permits: Fire permit extensions for inclement weather; the ordinance covering both open burning and recreational fires; addressing the footage between property; notification being given to the public prior to enforcement of the ordinance; Killarney Park residents having fires at the lake throughout the year and sometimes burning Christmas trees.

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., Burton, MI
Don Sanderlin, 4460 Killarney Pk. Dr., Burton, MI

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The committee discussed the following topics: Possibility of increasing the number of permits for open burning from four to six per year; commending the Fire Chief for trying to accommodate all concerns; drafting language for bonfires for church groups and schools; requiring prior notice for events that would be having bonfires and in need of inspections by the fire department; the fire department having the authority to decide if a bonfire would be appropriate, as well as having the Fire Chief draft the language for the ordinance.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Isham moved and Centilli seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize Chief Halstead to make an addendum to the draft that was presented today in regards to language to cover bonfires and bring back before the Legislative Committee for their review at another meeting. At that time, we will consider the new language and make a decision concerning the issue of burning permits.
Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:38 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

CML