



CITY OF BURLINGTON

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CITY OF BURLINGTON
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Robert Miller, Mayor
Beverly R. Gill, City Clerk
August 21, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. starting with roll call. Aldermen present: Bob Prailes, Ed Johnson, Ruth Dawidziak, Tom Vos, Steve Rauch, Tom Preusker, Katie Simenson
Excused: Peter Hintz

Also present: City Attorney John Bjelajac, Police Chief Peter Nimmer, Library Director Gayle Falk, Assistant to the Administrator Megan Watkins, Treasurer Steve DeQuaker, Streets and Parks Supervisor Dan Jensen

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 7, 2012

A motion was made by Prailes with a second by Johnson to approve the minutes from August 7, 2012. With all in favor, the motion carried.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

In a prepared statement, the mayor explained the reasoning behind the proposed community block party, movie and the rescheduling of the cancelled 4th of July Fireworks. Both events are proposed for September 15, 2012.

After discussing the issue with one or more aldermen and working with several area service clubs, it was decided the block party would be a family oriented event geared toward children.

The mayor stated he had the legal right to authorize the expenditure of the approximately \$4,500 to fund the block party. Ald. Simenson had indicated to him that she felt the council should have a vote, but the mayor disagreed. He further said that it was his belief that council members should vote on any matter they deem appropriate and he was willing to bring this to a vote.

Simenson said that she did not want her name attached to the spending of money by the city for something that philosophically she was not in agreement. She felt the mayor should have spoken to the whole council and not just a few of the aldermen that were in agreement with him.

Prailes felt that a little better job could have been done presenting it to council at the last meeting before the deposit had been sent in for the carnival activities.

The mayor proposed the following choices:

- Cancel the block party and movie
- Continue as planned
- Sell wristbands to recoup costs for the block party
- Cancel the fireworks, block party and movie

The mayor had been in contact with Bartolotta Fireworks and because of the summer dryness they would be willing to roll the money forward to next year's display.

Dawidziak wanted it made clear that she had contacted Kevin and said if anything developed on the block party she would volunteer which is how she became involved.

Vos did not find the idea of the September block party and fireworks unreasonable and he did not think the council needed to vote on the issue.

Ms. Charise Lorenz, 1164 Hidden Creek spoke in favor of the block party as being a more reasonably priced activity for families and she was in favor of it.

Rauch commented that he had not voted for the fireworks, but would not stand in the way of the block party. He did not feel that a vote from council was necessary.

Ms. Joanne Cunningham, 324 North Pine Street spoke in favor of the event. As a business owner she was in favor of any community activity that would potentially bring additional people to the city.

Johnson questioned if there would be admission charged to the event. The mayor said the only charge would be for the wristbands. Food would be available from the service clubs or families could bring in their own food and beverages to keep down the cost.

The consensus of opinion from the council members was for the mayor to proceed with the block party.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Johnson with a second by Dawidziak to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Beverly R. Gill
City Clerk
City of Burlington
Racine and Walworth Counties