



CITY OF BURLINGTON
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Robert Miller, Mayor
Diahnn Halbach, City Clerk
Tuesday, December 3, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Robert Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. starting with roll call. Aldermen present: Bob Prailes, Ed Johnson, Peter Hintz, Ruth Dawidziak, Tom Vos, Tom Preusker, Jon Schultz, and Todd Bauman. Excused: None. Student representatives present: Joe Nguyen. Student representatives absent: Sam Joski.

Also present: City Administrator Kevin Lahner, City Attorney John Bjelajac, Police Chief Peter Nimmer, Fire Chief Perry Howard, Public Works Director Craig Workman, Treasurer Steve DeQuaker, and Tom Foht of Kapur & Associates.

2. Citizens Comments and Questions

There were none

3. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2013

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Johnson to approve the minutes from November 19, 2013. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

4. Discussion regarding the City of Burlington Snow Removal Policy.

Craig Workman of the Department of Public Works explained the Snow Removal Policy as being more of a snow removal guideline and there were no stark changes made to the existing policy since it was originally revised in 2008. Workman further stated that the policy provides a better understanding of how the department deals with winter road maintenance issues, maintenance goals, and pre-removal decision making.

Preusker raised concern regarding the use of wheel loaders for snow removal and felt they weren't being used properly and questioned why in some cases, the wheel loaders would only make one pass down a road, pushing the snow to the center and then not return for a second pass for quite some time. Workman explained that the wheel loaders are actually an integral part of snow removal because they have the ability to maneuver the snow better and are more effective than the big plow trucks. Workman further stated that snow removal focus is placed on main and arterial roads and that the goal is to at least allow passage through the side streets until the busier roads can be completed.

Preusker asked if plowing school bus routes would be added to the policy as a priority. Hintz agreed that bus routes should be a priority as well. Workman replied that bus routes could easily be added and plugged into the system.

Preusker also voiced his concern with the 18-hour rule requiring property owners to clear snow from their sidewalks saying that in some cases it wasn't enough time and should be consistent with the City rules. Mayor Miller replied that the Ordinance used to be 24 hours but was changed to 18 hours by Council. Kevin Lahner also responded that the issue is somewhat of a lose-lose situation and the City needs to find a balance between those who use the sidewalks and those who have to clean them.

5. **Resolution 4642(32)** to consider approving the 2014 Annual Budget.

Steven DeQuaker reported the MIL rate for 2013 would be 8.65 percent, up from 7.81 percent in 2012, however most tax bills would remain roughly the same because of the reduction in property values throughout the City.

Lahner reported that TIF 3 was performing very well and is expected to close as early as 2016 or 2017 as opposed to the originally projected date of 2020 or 2021 and as a result, the City will receive a sooner than expected bump in taxable property and one-time payout from the TIF. Lahner further stated that devoting money to capital projects will help to reduce taxes overall; in addition, the City's new home construction is also on the rise--new growth and new construction will help keep the MIL rate down.

6. **Resolution 4643(33)** to consider approving a Youth Fire Explorer Program with the City of Burlington Fire Department.

Chief Howard introduced Mark Strasser of the Burlington Fire Department. Strasser gave Council documentation regarding the Youth Fire Explorer Program and then explained what the program was all about. Strasser explained that the Fire Department is interested in implementing a Fire Explorer Program for teenaged members of the local community ranging in age from 14 to 18 years old. Strasser further explained that the program is based on five areas: career opportunities, life skills, citizenship, character education, and leadership experience and that emphasis will be placed on safety, learning, and opportunities for the participants. Strasser further stated that adult leadership by the Fire Department members includes coaching/mentoring and leading explorers in fire training processes. All explorers must also complete an application, sign liability and medical waivers and release forms, as well as go through an interview process in order to participate in the program. Strasser said that he currently has 41 individuals interested in participating in the program.

Ed Johnson asked if individuals were required to be a member of the Scouting program. Strasser replied that this is a "Learning for Life" program and that they do not need to belong to the Scouts; that it is open to anyone interested.

7. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Schultz with a second by Bauman to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Diahnn C. Halbach
Burlington City Clerk
Racine & Walworth Counties