

City of Burlington  
Official Minutes  
Common Council  
Robert Miller, Mayor  
Beverly R. Gill, City Clerk  
April 19, 2011

**1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. starting with roll call. Aldermen present: Robert Prailes, Edward Johnson, Peter Hintz, Jim Prailes, Tom Vos, Steve Rauch, Jeff Fischer, Katie Simenson  
Student members present: David Martin Absent: Lauren Nadolski

Staff present: City Attorney John Bjelajac, Judge Marvin V. Daniel, City Administrator Kevin Lahner, Assistant to the Administrator Megan Johnson, Treasurer Steve DeQuaker, Police Chief Peter Nimmer, Fire Chief Dick Lodle

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Miller led the council, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2011 COUNCIL MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Simenson. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**4. ELECTION REPORT FROM APRIL 5, 2011**

A motion was made by Hintz with a second by Rauch to accept the April 5, 2011 Election Report. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**5. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

At this time the Honorable Judge Marvin V. Daniel administered the oath of office to: First District Alderman Robert Prailes, Second District Alderman Peter Hintz, Third District Alderman Steve Rauch and Fourth District Alderman Katie Simenson.

**6. ROLL CALL OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Roll call of new council members: Bob Prailes, Edward Johnson, Peter Hintz, Jim Prailes, Tom Vos, Steve Rauch, Jeff Fischer, Katie Simenson

**7. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS**

The mayor appointed Megan Johnson and Chief Nimmer as tellers

**8. ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

A motion was made by Rauch to nominate Vos as Council President with a second by Jim Prailes. Hintz moved to close the nominations with a second by Jim Prailes. With all in favor, Vos was elected Council President.

**9. ELECTION OF TWO ALDERMANIC REPRESENTATIVES TO CITY PLAN COMMISSION**

A motion was made by Vos to nominate Bob Prailes to the Plan Commission with a second by Hintz. A motion was made by Hintz to nominate Vos to the Plan Commission with a second by Jim Prailes. A motion was made by Johnson to close the nominations with a second by Jim Prailes. With all in favor, Bob Prailes and Vos were elected to be representatives to the Plan Commission.

**10. ELECTION OF ALDERMANIC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

A motion was made by Rauch with a second by Vos to nominate Simenson to the Board of Public Works. A motion to close nominations was made by Johnson with a second by Hintz. With all in favor, Simenson was elected to the Board of Public Works.

**11. PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

A motion was made by Hintz with a second by Bob Prailes to approve pre-paid, vouchers and reimbursements in the amount of \$358,379.22. Simenson questioned an electric bill for the parking structure and asked if this was the same bill that she had questioned previously but has not seen a decrease in the amount of the bill. Lahner confirmed that it was the same bill. Simenson then questioned if the bill listed for E-Vergent Wireless in the amount of \$16,095.00 was included in the construction costs of the DPW. Lahner stated that it was included in the construction costs. Vos questioned the bill from ABS Mixers. Lahner replied that it was part of the radium removal project. Vos was concerned that the city was paying the bill before receiving the items. Lahner replied that this was the start of the process and the equipment needed to be in place at this time. Johnson inquired of the Veolia bill in the amount of \$41,564.09 and asked what time period that covered. Lahner will confirm the dates. Simenson questioned the electric bill for Sheldon Street. Lahner thought there may have been additional electrical usage because of moving equipment out of the building. The mayor also stated that it is the pump house for the well. Roll Call Ayes: Bob Prailes, Johnson, Hintz, Jim Prailes, Vos, Rauch, Fischer, Simenson Nays: None With all in favor, the motion carried 8-0

**12. LICENSES AND PERMITS**

A motion was made by Rauch with a second by Vos to approve the licenses as presented. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**13. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Miller delivered the following "State of the City" address:

How is the City doing? I am asked that question several times a week. The short answer is "Great". What that answer does not tell you is how we got to great, and what is still going on that keeps us great.

Fifteen years ago the City undertook a 30 million dollar improvement project. That project included acquiring rundown properties along the river, moving several businesses out of downtown and building an overpass over the railroad. As part of this project, incentive packages were put into place to help business relocate from downtown as well as luring business into moving into the City. Each package was different and things that might have been included were low interest, low land prices, state tax incentives as well as streamlining the approval process to help the business move as quickly as possible.

The improvement process that was set up has worked and is still working today. If we take a look around our City, the fruits of this improvement plan are clearly visible. The railroad overpass which now allows traffic to move through the City when one of 35 trains a day rolls through. The Hi-Liter Graphic plant, Veterans Trucking, Basset Wheel, Scherrer Construction, Circle Inc. and Rexcon located in the Burlington Office and Manufacturing Park. The Boardwalk, and Charcoal Grill moved into our Downtown, and the River walk replaced several empty buildings. Wal-mart, Kohl's, Menard's, Wendy's, Taco Bell are just some of the new business's that have located here because of our Improvement Plan.

The US Department of Commerce has referred other Cities throughout the Country to Burlington as an example of how to revitalize and redevelop.

All of this new growth and new businesses has created new jobs and has attracted even more inquiries from companies that are expanding. Other states and cities are also looking to attract new business and in this economy we have to be just as aggressive as possible, if we are going to keep the businesses we have and to attract new companies.

Last year over 3 million dollars were spent repairing and rebuilding city streets. As we all know, the most common statement heard last year was "You can't get there from here". These repairs helped the city get somewhat caught up, so for the next two or three years we will not have to undertake any major street repairs.

Last year the City was still growing and changing. The Hampton Inn was built, along with the new parking garage downtown. M&I Bank moved into their new building. The new Department of Public works building was finished and the Street, Park and Water Departments are settling in.

This year the City will continue to work with companies and business that are looking to relocate or expand. As in the past we will carefully analyze the project and the costs involved to insure that the project is a good fit and that it does not exceed the City's capacity to provide the incentive.

Work will soon start on the 2012 Budget. We have received some preliminary numbers from the State, and have read the Budget Repair Bill. We are in the process of looking at the impact of the State's Budget on our budget. To assist the City we will be forming a Citizens Budget committee. The purpose of this Committee will be to develop a City Budget for 2012. The Citizens Budget will then be presented to the City Council to aid the Council in adopting a 2012 Budget.

I am confident that the 2012 Budget can be adopted with little or no change to City service. In addition the City will still be able compete and attract new companies to Burlington. I am still committed to keeping our City growing by working with retail and industrial businesses as well as developers to ensure that Burlington can remain a great place to live work and play.

**14. & 15. APPOINTMENT OF ALDERMANIC REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Jim Prailes to approve the appointments as presented. With all in favor, the following were appointed to various committees:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Airport Committee                       | Jim Prailes    |
| ChocolateFest Committee                 | Ed Johnson     |
| Community Development Authority         | Jeff Fischer   |
| Historic Preservation Committee         | Peter Hintz    |
| Library Board                           | Steve Rauch    |
| Park Board                              | Robert Prailes |
| Western Racine County Health Department | Katie Simenson |

|                   |                              |          |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Jim Spiegelhoff   | Board of Review              | 5/1/2014 |
| Ralph Heck        | Burlington Housing Authority | 5/1/2016 |
| Patricia Hoffman  | Library Board                | 5/1/2014 |
| Michael Kelly     | Library Board                | 5/1/2014 |
| Jon Schultz       | Park Board                   | 5/1/2014 |
| Kelly Kamlager    | Park Board                   | 5/1/2014 |
| Darrel Eisenhardt | Park Board                   | 5/1/2014 |
| Mike Deans        | Plan Commission              | 5/1/2014 |
| John Hotvedt      | Police & Fire Commission     | 5/1/2016 |
| Cheryl Mazmanian  | Health Officer               | 5/1/2012 |

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Rauch to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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