

WILLIAM B WHITLEY,
MAYOR
DAVID L. MINCEY, JR.,
CITY ATTORNEY
VICKI WAINWRIGHT, CLERK

CITY OF BUTLER
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COUNCIL:
EDWARD GUINN,
MAYOR, PRO-TEM
CHAS GASSETT
GLENN HARRIS
AMANZIE JENKINS
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Council Meeting
November 10, 2015

Present

Barry Whitley, Mayor
Ed Guinn, Mayor Pro-Tem
Glenn Harris
Amanzie Jenkins (came in after the vote on approval of minutes)
Deborah Williams
Chas Gassett
Vicki Wainwright

Media Present

Taylor Co News
Flint Cable TV

Invocation – Mayor Barry Whitley

Old Business: *(None)*

Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Chas Gassett to approve the minutes from October 20, 2015 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous

New Business:

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Works Director David Windham stated that the garbage pick-up schedule for the holidays will be in the paper in the upcoming weeks. The Christmas Tree Lighting for the City of Butler will be December 3, 2015 at 6:30. He told the Mayor and Council that the City will be working with the Taylor County Chamber of Commerce to help make the tree lighting event grow bigger and better. The Taylor County Upper Elementary Choir will be performing Christmas carols. The Youth Pastor from Bethel, Harley Gentry, will be the speaker. He also announced the dumpsters that the City puts out every year for the large amount of holiday trash over Christmas will be placed in the usual spots, as they are every year.

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Chief Jimmy Towns told the Mayor and Council that the Police Department had 414 calls last month, with 207 of those being traffic stops. 149 citations were issued during this time. He announced that all of the bullet proof vests are in and the officers are wearing them. The vests were purchased with a Department of Justice Grant, which pays for half the vests. The total costs of the vests were \$3175.00, with \$1550.05 being paid for with the grant funds. He also told them that the new patrol car was available for anyone that wanted to see it. He stated that he was very pleased with the car. He reminded everyone that the Countryside Festival would be held during the upcoming weekend, as it had been rescheduled from the previous weekend due to the inclement weather. He said that the ROTC would be holding a Veterans Day program at the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, November 11th and invited everyone to come to that program and support the local veterans. Officer Crystal Houseweart was present and Chief Towns stated that she had just completed a 40 hour course on drug identification. He stated that he encouraged all of his officers to attend training courses and feels that they should be recognized for their dedication and hard work.

He asked for everyone to be on the lookout for scammers that are calling the elderly citizens stating that they are the IRS and telling the unsuspecting person that they owe them money. He said that if anyone receives calls like that to report it immediately.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn said that the Mayor and Council would like to congratulate the Girls Competition Cheerleading Team on going to the State Championship on Saturday, November 14th in Columbus, GA.

Fire Administrator Eddie Moulton said that the Fire Department ran 3 calls last month. There was one vehicle accident, 1 structure fire, and 1 brush fire with a fatality. The GBI and Fire Marshall will be investigating the fatality.

He reminded everyone that cold weather is coming and everyone needs to make sure that their heaters are cleaned out before they start using them to eliminate the possibility of a fire.

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He told the Mayor and Council that the Fire Department is in need of new BA's and he has found a grant to apply for some help with that. He presented the Mayor and Council with a **Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application with the US Department of Agriculture/Rural Development, for a Community Facilities Loan/Grant Not to Exceed \$50,000.** He said that the grant is similar to the Patrol Car Grant, and he asked for a motion and approval for the Mayor to sign the resolution to complete the application. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn made the motion, and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Moulton also reminded everyone that November 21st will be the Butler Fire Department's annual 5K.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lula Mae Riley came before the Council and asked about the Millage Rate increase. She asked why Senior Citizens could not be exempt or given a discount. She asked why the taxes were going up. Mayor Whitley stated that the price of everything is going up, and in order for the City to operate the City sees no other option but to go up on the millage rate. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn replied that dilapidated houses makes the City's tax base go down, and when that happens the City doesn't get as much tax income coming in. The tax base is how the City operates. He also stated that the City is in dire need of some kind of industry to come in to the City limits. He said that 1 mil of taxes in the City of Butler only generates about \$20,000 to \$25,000 in revenue. When the budget was originally presented, the budget was upside down by \$250,000. After many, many cuts the City still felt they should raise the millage rate by at least 1 mil. He stated that the Council is aware that it is a struggle for everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

With no other business to discuss, the Mayor and Council adjourned into an Executive Session to discuss a property issue. A motion was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins, with a 2nd being issued by Councilman Chas Gasset to enter into Executive Session. The vote was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION (continued):

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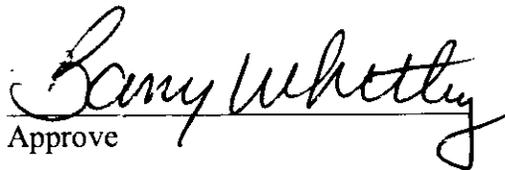
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ADJOURN:

With no other discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn to adjourn and a 2nd was made by Councilman Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.


Approve


Attest