CITY OF BUTLER

BUTLER, GEORGIA 31006 (478) 862-5435 • FAX (478) 862-5083 TDD/TTY Dial 711 or 1-800-255-0056 • 1-800-255-0135 COUNCIL:
EDWARD GUINN,
MAYOR, PRO-TEM
CHAS GASSETT
GLENN HARRIS
AMANZIE JENKINS
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Council Meeting August 9, 2016

Present

Media Present

Mayor Barry Whitley Amanzie Jenkins Taylor County News Flint Cable TV

Glenn Harris

Chas Gassett (came in after Invocation)

Deborah Williams

Vicki Wainwright

(Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn was absent)

Invocation – Mayor Barry Whitley

Old Business:

Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Glenn Harris and a 2nd was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2016 Council Meeting.

New Business:

Reschedule September and October Council Meetings:

City Clerk Vicki Wainwright informed the Mayor and Council that the week of the regularly scheduled September meeting that she and Zoning Administrator Ashley Lawhorn will be at a Clerk's Conference in Athens. She requested that the September Council Meeting be re-scheduled for September 20th. She also told them that the October meeting falls within the week of Fall Break for the Taylor County School System. She requested that the meeting for October be rescheduled for October 18th. Councilman Glenn Harris stated that he may not be in town that week. A motion to change the meeting to the suggested dates was made by Councilman Chas Gassett. A 2nd was issued by Councilwoman Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

Library Board Appointment:

City Clerk Wainwright told the Mayor and Council that Anna Shows has chosen to not continue to be on the Library Board. Ms. Wainwright asked the Mayor and Council to appoint Wilamena Neisler to the Library Board to replace Ms. Shows. Councilman Amanzie Jenkins made a motion to appoint Ms. Neisler and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

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Fire Department Remodel:

Fire Administrator Eddie Moulton reminded the Council that the fire department remodel had been discussed during a previous meeting and during a work session. It had been decided to pay for the remodel using SPLOST funds but that an official vote was needed. The original vote was done via phone. A motion to pay for the fire department remodel was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a 2nd was made by Councilman Chas Gassett. All votes were "Yes" except Councilman Harris, who abstained. The motion carried.

Department Head Reports:

Public Works Director David Windham told the Mayor and Council that the County has been awarded Supplemental LMIG funds such as what the City has been awarded. Engineer Rick Saunders has suggested bidding the contract for the work as one project but with 2 contracts. He feels that with the City and County bidding it out together the cost of the projects may be lower since the scope of the work would be larger. Attorney David Mincey stated that as long as you can identify the City work and the County work, then he does not see any problems with doing the project this way. Mayor Whitley stated that he did not see any problem with it if there is a chance to save the City money. A motion to combine the bids into one project with two contracts was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. A 2nd was issued by Councilwoman Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

Police Chief Jimmy Towns told the Mayor and Council that the Police Department ran 390 calls last month with 121 being traffic citations. He said that on Friday, August 5th, Sargent Crystal Houseweart was released from the hospital. She came home to Butler via a formal police escort. He wanted to formally thank all the first responders, law enforcement, and staff for all of their support toward Sargent Houseweart throughout her accident and hospital stay. He said that she has a long way to go in her recovery and asked for continued prayers.

He said that over the past few days there has been several dog bite incidents, two on Oak Street and one on East Main Street. On Oak Street a pregnant woman was bit and when an officer responded, he was bit as well. Tri-County Animal Control was called and quarantined the dog. On East Main Street, a gentleman was on a bicycle and was bitten. He had to be transported to the hospital.

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He also told them that the City of Butler Police Department has switched to a new system and are also using EZCOURT PAY to collect payments on citations. He stated that the system was in the cars if anyone would like to see how it works.

He would like to thank the young ladies of the Montessori School for bringing biscuits to the officers one morning to show their appreciation for law enforcement. He said that the biscuits were very much appreciated and enjoyed by the officers on duty.

Councilwoman Deborah Williams said that she wanted to thank the City employees and the Police Officers for their support that they have been showing Officer Houseweart since her accident. She said that he heart is full just thinking of all of the support that has been shown.

Mayor Whitley said he would like to mention that an trust for Officer Houseweart and her children has been opened at Ameris Bank for anyone who would like to donate. All checks must be made out to "The Houseweart Trust".

<u>Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton</u> said the fire department ran 10 calls last month. They had 1 vehicle accident, 1 structure fire, 1 vehicle fire, 5 grass fires, 1 smoke inside building, and 1 call to land a helicopter. He also said that the fire house renovation is going good and they are on schedule at this time.

Executive Session:

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilwoman Deborah Williams and a 2^{nd} was issued by Councilman Chas Gassett. The vote was unanimous.

Regular Session:

The situation with the dog bites was discussed again. City Clerk Vicki Wainwright stated that the City does have a leash law that requires citizens to keep their dogs under restraint. Attorney Mincey said that the animal does have to stay on the citizen's property. He stated that fines need to be issued and implemented. As far as stray dogs, Tri-County Animal Control should be called to pick those animals up. Chief Towns asked if they want the strays picked up. The Council said that if they are strays they need to be picked up. Councilman Gassett asked if a dog comes in to his yard and growls or chases his children, can he do something about it. Attorney Mincey stated that he has the right to protect himself or his family.

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Adjourn:

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Chas Gassett and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

Approve

Attest