

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 December 13, 2016

Present

Barry Whitley, Mayor
Ed Guinn
Chas Gassett
Amanzie Jenkins
Glenn Harris
Vicki Wainwright

Media Present

Flint Cable Television
Taylor County News

Invocation – Mayor Barry Whitley

Old Business:

Minutes:

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn, seconded by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins to approve the minutes of the November 8th, 2016 council meeting and the December 5th, Variance Hearing and Called Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

New Business:

Police Department Certificates of Appreciation:

Chief Jimmy Towns told the Mayor and Council that a couple of months ago he and a few others cleaned up the West End Cemetery on Tower Street. He stated that he did not realize how much work went into maintaining a cemetery. He presented three Certificates of Appreciation to the gentlemen that helped in the clean-up. The certificates went to Marshall Lockhart, Sonny Chatman, and David (Cooter) Rogers. He expressed his appreciation of their efforts to help keep the City of Butler clean.

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Community Marketing:

Amanda Haynie, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Julie Kent, the Director of the Development Authority, came before the Mayor and Council to inform them about a potential county-wide marketing strategy. They would like the City of Butler, the City of Reynolds, Taylor County Commissioners, Taylor County Development Authority, and Taylor County Chamber of Commerce to partner together to come up with a marketing plan and to share their dollars to be able to make this possible. There have been meetings with a marketing company called 365 Marketing to come up with a new brand, community wide website, electronic communication, and social media platform, all while generating a strong market awareness of Taylor County's brand identity State and Nationwide as well as Internationally. The Community Partner Marketing Plan will have four phases and the end goal will be to have a unified look for all the community partners that will make Taylor County and all of its entities unique but complement each other well. They are looking to have one website for anyone that would want to know anything about Taylor County that they could go to and have a link to each partner's website. During one of the preliminary meetings Commissioner Jerry Weldon had asked to get prices from other marketing companies. The prices were received and 365 Marketing had the lowest price. If this project is split evenly among the partners, the price for the City of Butler will be \$6400.00. For this price the City would receive a new Logo, a new brand, a new tag line, a website homepage, and a marketing campaign to use, as well as a brand identity guide for all City branding and marketing projects and a chance to work with the Taylor County community to make us a better place to live, work and do business. Ms. Haynie stated that they are ready to move forward and would like to have a buy-in from the City of Butler by February 1st, 2017. She stated that 365 Marketing is based out of St. Simons Island and have recently completed marketing jobs for Peach County, Coweta County, Douglas/Coffee County, and Dawson, Georgia. She said that the process could take five to eight months to complete the plan. She also said that the Council to go to Lincoln County, Wayne County, Metter or Polk and look at their sites that were done by 365 Marketing to see what Taylor County could have. Ms. Kent stated that there could be links to pay utility bills, the latest information on what is happening in the community, as well as interactive maps for visitors.

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Ms. Haynie said that a Region 8 project manager for Presidential Pathways will be working with a group from Taylor County in reference to tourism. Vicki Wainwright will be on this team. An assessment will be done to see what Taylor County has and does not have. They will assess the strengths and weaknesses in tourism. The goal is to implement some of the ideas and hopefully draw more people to our County and our City's. This would bring more revenue in as well.

Alton Allen/Zohee Allen: Stray Dogs:

Alton Allen came before the Mayor and Council to inform them that on November 10th his dog, which was in a fenced in yard, was killed by a pack of stray dogs that jumped over the fence and attacked it. He stated that though the City has adopted an ordinance in regards to stray or dangerous dogs, it must be enforced. He said that the dogs that killed his dog has no owner as he has followed dogs home but no one states that they are the owner, so he would like to know who should get the ticket. He said the pack of dogs has killed or hurt many pets in his neighborhood. Mr. Allen quoted *Sec 4-064 states that a dangerous dog is any dog that, according to the records of an appropriate authority, inflicts a severe injury on another animal without provocation on public or private property.* He also quoted *Sec 4-016: Number of Dogs and Cats per residential lot: It is unlawful for there to be more than five dogs and/or five cats on any residential lot.* He stated that the pack he is referring to is about 6 or 8 dogs. He told the Mayor and Council that the main code that he is here about is the *Sec 4-002: Designation of animal control officer: The Mayor of the City shall designate an individual or department to carry out the duties of the animal control officer as provided in this chapter.* He said the use of the term "shall" means "mandatory" that the Mayor appoint an animal control officer. Mr. Allen said that it is going to take someone to pick up all of the stray dogs. He said he understands that the City has reviewed the cost of animal control and have been short on funds but he feels that the stray dogs have gotten out of hand and that there is a problem.

Mayor Whitley agreed that there is a problem with the strays and that Chief Towns has been working with Tri-County Animal Control to come up with a solution. He said that the Council would not be aware of these issues if citizens didn't step up to let them know. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn stated that he agreed with Mr. Allen and he is thankful that no children have been bit. Mr. Allen stated that the dogs come from the trailer park and lay around in the yards of all the houses in his neighborhood.

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Citation Fee Increase:

Chief Towns said that in August the Police Department went with a new system and their fees for the system have increased recently.

Chief Towns told the Mayor and Council that he needs their approval to increase the charges on the citations by \$5.00 in order to pass the increase on to the offender so that the City does not have to take on the expense.

A motion to increase the cost of the citation by the amount of the increase was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Chas Gasset. The vote was unanimous.

Department Head Reports:

Chief Jimmy Towns told the Mayor and Council that the Police Department had 257 calls last month with 100 of those being traffic stops. 75 citations were issued.

Chief Towns expressed his thanks to the community for their support for law enforcement. In the past week two Americus officers were killed in the line of duty and that brings home the danger that law enforcement face each and every day.

He said he would like to thank Zion Hill Baptist Church and Mt. Pisgah church for their appreciation and recognition that they have given the local law enforcement and public safety officials. He said that Zion Hill recognized Officer Houseweart with a certificate and a donation due to the injuries she sustained in the July 2016 car accident.

He also said that some of the ladies at the school had given him a "Back the Blue" sign and he expressed his gratitude to them for their thoughtfulness and appreciation.

He expressed his thanks to the Mayor and Council for their support.

Public Works Director David Windham opened by saying he was glad to finally see some rain. He also said he would like to thank his staff and City of Butler as a whole, along with Councilman Amanzie Jenkins for their help with the 2016 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. He said that it went very well and was another successful event, and he thanked everyone for attending.

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He said that there will be a bid opening for the Supplemental LMIG project that was bid out jointly with the County. The bid opening will be Thursday, December 15th at 2:00 at the Taylor County Annex.

Friday, December 16th at 12:00 the City will have their annual employee Christmas Lunch for all City of Butler employees.

The bid opening for the GEFA project that was scheduled for December 22nd has been rescheduled. At this time it will either be December 29th or January 5th, and an addendum will be run in the paper to notify of this.

The Council was given a printout of the Holiday Schedule. The City offices will be closed Thursday, December 22 through Monday, December 26th for the Christmas Holidays and Friday, December 30th through Monday, January 2nd for the New Year Holiday. Employees will take personal leave time for the 22nd and the 30th. He said that the trash pick-up schedule will be as normal due to the way the holidays fall. Trash pick-up is normally on Friday and will still be picked up on Friday through the holidays. This has been in the paper as well. He also said the roll-off dumpsters that the City has placed around town during the Christmas holidays will be delivered on Wednesday, December 21st for excess trash.

He said that over the next few weeks the City will be working on the 2017 CDBG application. At this time he is not sure where the target area will be for this. The City has been turned down the past two years on the current target area. He said that DCA has increased the amount of funds available from \$500,000 to \$750,000. He will have more information on this in January.

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the fire department ran 13 calls last month. There were 8 grass fires, 2 structure fires, 2 alarm calls, and 1 vehicle accident with extrication. The fire department will have a Fire Fighter 1 Class starting up sometime in January. The City employees will have a Defensive Driving Class on January 7th. The Fire Department is also planning an extrication class but a date has not been determined. He said there will be a lot of training in the next year.

He informed the Mayor and Council that the City has a 2007 Police Car that has been taken out of service and he needs approval from them to surplus the vehicle. A motion to

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surplus the 2007 police vehicle was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

David Windham reminded everyone to keep an eye on the elderly, especially as the temperatures start dropping and throughout the holidays.

Mayor Whitley said that from the City of Butler he would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He said this would be the last meeting of the year and next year will be a fresh start. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that having such fine citizens and employees makes their jobs easier.

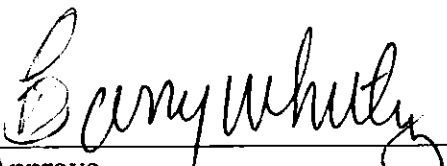
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Whitley said that they have business to take care of in Executive Session. A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilman Chas Gasset and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION (continued)

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.



Approve



Attest