

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

CITY OF BUTLER
P.O. BOX 476
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
September 20, 2016

Present

Barry Whitley – Mayor
Ed Guinn – Mayor Pro-Tem
Chas Gassett
Deborah Williams
Glenn Harris
Amanzie Jenkins
Vicki Wainwright
Ashley Lawhorn

Media Present

Taylor County News

Invocation: Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn

Re-Zoning of 3 Oak Street: Zoning Administrator Ashley Lawhorn came before the Mayor and Council following a Public Hearing regarding re-zoning for the property at 3 Oak Street. The current owner, Ms. Liza Weed, is selling the lot that currently has a beauty salon on the property. This property is currently zoned R-1, however there has never been a residence on this property, there has only been businesses located on this site. Ms. Weed has requested that the property be re-zoned C-1 to reflect the commercial use of the property. With no public attendance and no other discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn made a motion to re-zone the property to C-1. Councilman Amanzie Jenkins issued a 2nd and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business:

Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and seconded by Councilman Chas Gassett to approve the minutes of the August 4th Work Session and the August 9th Regular Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous.

New Business:

Dilapidated Houses: Lewis Dixon Complaint:

Mr. Lewis Dixon of 5 Ogburn Street came before the Mayor and Council to complain about three (3) houses in his neighborhood that have been damaged/destroyed by fire and have yet to be cleaned up. He said that what is left is a mess and also dangerous. He

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

CITY OF BUTLER
P.O. BOX 476
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 September 20, 2016

stated that the houses need to be torn down and the property cleaned up. Weeds and high grass, along with abandoned property, contribute to animals and snakes moving in right next to where his grandchildren play. He asks the City of Butler to press the owners to get these properties cleaned up. He said that the home owners in the area keep their yards clean. Councilwoman Deborah Williams said that she has spoken with the owner of at least one of the properties who had assured her that they would get the property cleaned up but as of this time nothing has been done. The Mayor stated that the City would send letters to the property owners to inform them that they must clean their property up. He said that there is a procedure that must be followed, but the City would address this issue. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn stated that the Council is very concerned about blight throughout the entire city but it is a costly process that the city must go through to get action taken. Mr. Dixon said that he feels that the owners have received insurance money to clean it up but have chosen to just let the property stay dilapidated. He feels that whatever expense the City needs to have to address the issue would be worth it and that the City could charge the owners with that expense. He also informed the Mayor and Council that the fire that destroyed the home next to him also damaged his home and that a tree between the two properties caught fire and was damaged and that tree needs to be taken down as it will fall sooner or later. He stated that if it fell on his home he would be suing someone. He concluded by saying that he feels that if the City will get in behind the process of clearing up the damaged lots that something would be done. Mayor Whitley said that letters would be sent. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the City of Butler wants to help.

Animal Control Issue:

Mr. John Whitters addressed the Council regarding dogs in his neighborhood (Venus and Gloria Streets) that come around his chained dogs and are making them sick as well as eating the dog food. He said the Chief has already spoken to the owners but nothing has been done. He said that his neighbors let his dogs run free and do not keep them confined. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the City of Butler does have a leash law. Councilwoman Deborah Williams asked Chief Towns about this. Chief Towns stated that he would go see the owners one more time but if nothing happens he would ticket them. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the City really needs to get dog owners that are not keeping their dogs contained to come to court. Chief Towns said he has spoken with the owners twice already. Councilwoman Williams told Chief Towns that he needs to issue citations.

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

CITY OF BUTLER
P.O. BOX 476
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 September 20, 2016

12 Hour Police Schedule:

Chief Towns told the Mayor and Council that he and the City Clerk had come up with a new schedule for the Police Department. He would like the department to now work 12 hour shifts that follow the same schedule as the Sheriff's Department. He feels that this will allow the Officer's to have more time with their family as well as to be able to plan doctor's appointments, etc. He said that every three months day and night shift would swap. He would like to begin the new schedule on September 26, 2016. Mayor Whitley stated that he has spoken with the Clerk about this and felt that it would be a good move. Councilman Harris agreed that the new schedule would be good for the police department. A motion to approve the new schedule was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

FY 16-17 Budget Adoption:

City Clerk Vicki Wainwright told the Council that she had given them all a copy of the budget and given them all time to review it. The budget that is appropriated from the General Fund will be as follows:

- General Government: \$240,040.00
- Public Safety \$581,060.00
- Public Works \$230,400.00
- Recreation \$10,500.00
- Public Library \$37,000.00

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn stated that he would like to discuss it the budget in Executive Session.

Department Head Reports:

Public Works Director David Windham told the Mayor and Council that on Friday, September 23rd at 2:00 PM the bid opening for the LMIG Supplemental Project will be held at the Annex, as the City and County combined the project bids. This project will change the intersection at Mulberry and Oak Streets as well as some signage and striping in the areas of Edgewood, Pine, Forest, Rebecca Bergen, Marshal and streets in those areas.

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

CITY OF BUTLER
P.O. BOX 476
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 September 20, 2016

He also informed them that by the end of the year Georgia Power will be changing out some of the street lights to LED. He said that the wattage will be the same but the coverage may not, as LED lights will be straight down light instead of fanning out from the fixture.

He also stated that two weeks ago there was an inspection at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the City received a good report. He said that he would like to commend his staff as they are the ones who keep things kept up and maintained so well.

The GEFA upgrade at the head of the plant is still in progress but there are some land issues that must be resolved before things can get started.

He reminded everyone that on October 20th the Georgia Power Office in Butler will be closed permanently. Citizens must either pay on-line, make a phone payment, actually go to a physical office (the closest being Macon, Columbus, or Americus), or mail their payments to the Atlanta Office (the address is in the bill). The transition for the elderly may be difficult and he asks everyone to remember this and try to help them out if needed. H&J and D&D can accept payments through Western Union but that could take several days, so waiting until the last minute is not advised. He also said that the Georgia Power office had been in their present location since 1985 so he knows it will be a huge adjustment for some of the citizens.

Chief Jimmy Towns told the Mayor and the Council that the police department had 284 incidents last month. 134 of those incidents were traffic stops, 23 domestic calls, 6 registration checks, 9 calls to assist motorists, 5 burglary/theft calls, 11 alarm calls, 9 accidents and 87 other incidents. There were 89 citations issued last month.

He stated that it is getting to that time of year where people are breaking in to homes, sheds, cars etc. He asks that if anyone sees anything suspicious to please call 911 and report it immediately. He said there have been increased break-ins of the Dollar General stores and so he plans to have increased patrols.

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

CITY OF BUTLER
P.O. BOX 476
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 September 20, 2016

Chief Towns stated that according to reports from the DOT traffic deaths are increasing. He asks the citizens to please put their phones down, don't text and drive, wear your seatbelts and make sure all children are in their car seats.

He asked everyone to keep Officer Rick Wigand and Lundy Hinton in their prayers as they lost their 17 year old daughter last week. He also said that he had taken Officer Houseweart to the plastic surgeon and she is recovering nicely. Her casts should be removed soon so her recovery is going well. He stated that she would like to thank everyone for their support. He said that on Saturday, September 24th the police department will be having a fund raiser for Officer Houseweart.

Fire Administrator Eddie Moulton said that the Fire Department had nine calls last month. They were 2 fire alarm calls, 2 smoke in building calls, 1 gas spill, 2 vehicle fires, 1 dumpster fire and 1 vehicle accident. He also said that the renovations at the firehouse are on schedule.

Chief Towns informed the Mayor and Council that earlier in the day there had been a small rally/protest at the Board of Education office to protest the firing on School Superintendent Gary Gibson. He said that it was a very peaceful rally and everyone was well behaved.

Executive Session:

Mayor Whitley stated that there were issues that needed to be discussed in Executive Session. A motion to enter in to Executive Session was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a 2nd was issued by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. Vote was unanimous.

Regular Meeting Continued:

Budget (Continued):

After a short discussion a motion to adopt the FY 16-17 Budget was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a 2nd was issued by Councilwoman Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

The Clerk told the Council that she would like to have a breakdown of the number of children that participate at the Recreation Department that actually reside inside the City

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

CITY OF BUTLER
P.O. BOX 476
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

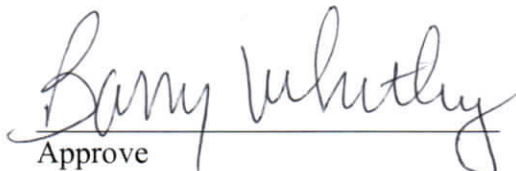
Council Meeting September 20, 2016

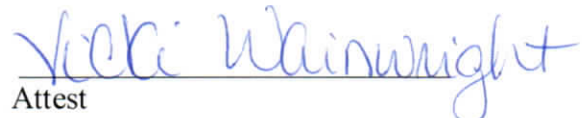
limits of Butler. Councilman Chas Gassett said that he would get with Mr. James to find out that number.

Councilwoman Deborah Williams asked the Clerk to look over the ordinances to see what could be done about burned out, abandoned houses. The Clerk stated that she would write the property owners a letter and Councilman Harris said that he would like pictures of the property to be included with the letters.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn from the regular September meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a 2nd was issued by Councilwoman Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.


Approve


Attest