

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 October 17, 2017

Present

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

Media Present

Taylor County News
Flint Cable TV

Invocation: Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn

Old Business:

Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn to approve the minutes of the September 19th Regular Council Meeting and the September 26th Budget Adoption Meeting. The vote was unanimous.

New Business:

Taylor County Recreation Department: Chris James:

Taylor County Rec. Director Chris James presented the Mayor and Council with 2016 summary of the activities from the Taylor County Recreation Department. He stated that Councilman Harris had requested that he come before the Council to give an update on the Recreation Department. He stated that he appreciates the contributions that the City of Butler makes to the Taylor County Recreation Department. He said that in 2016 there were 589 children that participated in six sports. That was 46 teams and 129 coaches. He said that out of the 589 children, 336 (57%) had a 31006 zip code. There were 92 children that played basketball, 281 that played baseball/softball/tee-ball, 135 that played football/cheerleading, and 81 that played soccer. He stated that as far as contributions go, he has really been under the gun trying to meet his budget each year for the last few years. He further stated that that is mainly because of the budget cuts that he got from the City of Butler. He said that currently he is operating on an \$81,000 budget and that breaks down to 64% coming from the Taylor County Board of Commissioners (\$46,974.00), 22% from the City of Reynolds (\$15,999.00), 14% from the City of Butler (\$10,500.00) for a total of \$73, 473.00. He said that in his budget he has requirements to

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meet 30 sponsors at \$250.00 a sponsor, which comes up to \$7,500.00. He stated that if he did not get those sponsors he goes even further in the hole. He said that he had actually had to take money from his concession stand profits to help meet the budget. He asked that the City of Butler return their contribution to the Taylor County Recreation Department back to what it once was. He said that when he took the job in 2007/2008 that the City of Butler was contributing almost \$31,000. He said without it he could not make the ends meet. He further stated that the Taylor County Recreation Department brings in a lot of revenue, meaning that there are a lot of people at the Recreation Department every night, especially during baseball season. He guesses that there are more than 10,000 people there during the summer. He stated that on any given night there are 300-350 people there during baseball/softball games. He said that he states this because the Rec. Department brings people in that spend their money in Butler by purchasing gas and eating at the restaurants. This is not only local people, but also people from out of town. He stated that the various games of all seasons bring in visitors from out of town. With this being said, he asked that the funding for the future be reconsidered.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the City has increased the recreation budget in the current budget with plans to further increase it each budget cycle if funds are there. He said that the City of Butler is operated on less than 10 mils. He further stated that 1 mil only generates approximately \$20,000 and to be able to meet the budget like they really want to meet it, the millage rate could not be set high enough. He said that the City of Butler recognizes the importance of the Recreation Department, but not only did the recreation budget get cut, but other line items were as well. With that being said, he said that the City intends to try to increase the recreation budget in the future.

Councilman Harris stated that the City will try to increase it a little each year.

Mr. James said that anything that the City could do is greatly appreciated.

Department Head Reports:

Public Works Director David Windham said that the GEFA project is well underway with the infrastructure upgrade at the head of the wastewater treatment plant, as well as the lift station upgrade on Oak Street. One wet well has been installed and the other will be installed by the end of the week.

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He said that there will be a meeting on Thursday with the Carter and Sloope to discuss the 2017 CDBG project, which is in the NE quadrant of the City around Mason Lane, Ridge Street, and Judge Street. It is to discuss the preliminary drawings for the project.

He also said that within the next few weeks the City will begin getting the Christmas decorations up.

He informed them that on Friday, November 10th the City offices will be closed due to Veterans Day.

Assistant Chief Ed McCrary said that the Police Department had 225 incidents in September. Of those, 72 were traffic stops, 34 domestics, 2 registration checks, 12 assist motorists, 1 burglary/theft, 5 alarm calls, and 10 accidents. There were 46 citations written.

Fire Administrator Eddie Moulton said that the Fire Department responded to 13 calls last month. He also informed the Council that the AFG Grant had been denied. He invited everyone to participate in the annual 5K that the Fire Department has each year. It will be November 18th.

David Windham thanked everyone that supported the Firemen and the Spradley family in the loss of TJ Spradley on October 3rd. He gave a huge thanks to Sumter County Fire for coming up and manning the station during the funeral detail. He further stated that Sumter County had to respond to a structure fire in the County during that time. He stated that they were thankful to have that resource in times of need.

Mayor Whitley stated that the City greatly appreciated Sumter County's help and that it was very generous.

Public Comments:

Kathy Lowe asked if this was where she came for assistance on a road. She stated that she lives on Mockingbird Lane, which runs into Cardinal Way, which is in the City. She stated that when she and her husband bought the property there were no houses there and no children that attended school. She said that the City came out and did some up-grades on the road and stated that once there were children living in that area that they would come back out and finish the road. She stated that she is here tonight to ask for assistance in upgrading the road so that the school bus can come around.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if the road was currently dirt, and was told that asphalt milling was currently on the road. Ms. Lowe stated that the road needs to be paved.

David Windham stated that he believes that road is a private drive. Ms. Lowe agreed that it is. She further stated that when she purchased the property that the City Council came around and told her that they would finish the road is it came up to a certain point. She said that she would like them to follow through with what they had said. Mr. Windham stated that he would have to check to see if the City had easement right of ways. Mayor Whitley asked Mr. Windham to check in to this issue.

Mr. Windham said that if there is an issue with the school bus having problems he thinks that the proper procedure is for the bus driver to let Bus Superintendent Gary James know so that he can turn in a work order to either the County or the City. He further stated that as far as he knew, no such work order had been turned in to the City.

Executive Session:

Mayor Whitley stated that there were personnel issues that needed to be discussed in Executive Session. A motion to enter in to Executive Session was made by Council Chas Gassett and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

Regular Meeting Continued:

Mayor Whitley stated that interviews for Police Chief were held the previous week and three potential candidates were interviewed. He stated that the Council interviewed Ed McCrary, Kain Cobb and Wally Carpenter for the position. He further stated that he and the Council appreciated everyone that applied.

New Police Chief:

Councilman Chas Gassett made a motion to hire Kain Cobb as the Police Chief for the City of Butler. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn issued a second. The Yes votes were made by Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn, Councilman Harris, and Councilman Gassett. The vote carried, with Councilwoman Williams and Councilman Jenkins not voting. Kain Cobb was hired as Police Chief.

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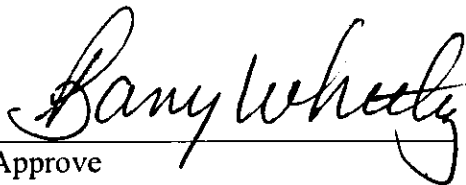
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Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn from the October 17th meeting was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a 2nd was issued by Councilman Chas Gasset. The vote was unanimous.


Approve


Attest