

WILLIAM B. WHITLEY  
Mayor  
JOHN B. "JACK" NICHOLS  
City Attorney  
VICKI WAINWRIGHT  
Clerk / City Administrator



COUNCIL:  
EDWARD GUINN  
Mayor, Pro Tem  
JACOB HOPKINS  
GLENN HARRIS  
AMANZIE JENKINS  
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

**May 11, 2021**  
**Council Meeting @7:00 PM**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**

**PRESENT**

Mayor Barry Whitley  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn  
Councilperson Deborah Williams  
Councilperson Amanzie Jenkins  
Councilperson Jacob Hopkins  
Councilperson Glenn Harris  
Ashley Lawhorn

Herman Albritton  
Miller Edwards  
Jeff Kurtz

**MEDIA PRESENT**

Taylor County News

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Barry Whitley

**OPENING STATEMENT:** Ashley Lawhorn

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of the April 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and the April 22, 2021 Called Meeting Minutes:**

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting and the April 22, 2021 Called Meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.



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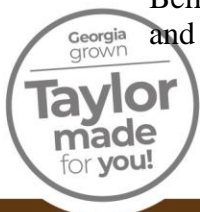
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### NEW BUSINESS:

**Appointment of Mauldin & Jenkins Auditors:** Miller Edwards with Mauldin and Jenkins stated that they currently serve about 550 local governments, including a lot of communities of the size of Butler. He said that all he does is serve local governments. He stated that there are 10 other partners with the firm that do the same thing. He also stated that he has been doing Taylor County's audit since 1993. He said that Abbott, Jordan and Koon has served Butler very well over the years but they are going through a lot of change currently due to retirements and health issues, and are unable to keep with the needs of all of their clients. Mauldin and Jenkins plan to work with Abbott, Jordan and Koon to help with the transition of services. Mr. Edwards stated that they plan to make the transition as seamless as possible, and they plan to adopt to the way the City of Butler works, as opposed to the City adopting to the way they work. Mayor Whitley said that Charlie Middlebrooks of AJK speaks highly of Mauldin and Jenkins. A motion to appoint Mauldin and Jenkins as the City of Butler's Auditors was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Council Person Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

**Potential Conflict of Interest 2021 CDBG:** Public Works Director David Windham informed the Mayor and Council that the City has applied for a CDBG in the area of Venus Street and Councilman Jenkins has an immediate family member that lives in the project area and it needs to be pointed out for DCA purposes that there is a potential conflict. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked what that means and was informed that for DCA purposes the City must inform the public that an immediate family member of a voting authority on the Council resides in the target area of the project, but that family member can be served. Councilperson Jenkins must abstain from any votes regarding this particular project.

**Resolution for submittal of 2021 CDBG Grant Application:** Public Works Director David Windham said that he needed an approval from the Council to allow the Mayor to sign the Resolution allowing the Mayor to sign the 2021 CDBG Grant Application so that it can be submitted to DCA. The application is being prepared by Grant Specialist of Georgia, Jeff and Sherry Kurtz. He said that the total project is one million dollars, with the City's match being \$128,000, which will come from SPLOST and LMIG funds. The project includes the Gloria St., Bell St., Venus St., Caroline St. area. This project will be a drainage project, road surface project and housing



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project. There will be 185 people assisted through this project, if approved. There will be four houses being replaced and one being rehabbed. A motion to was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous with Councilperson Amanzie Jenkins abstaining.

**Appointment to Library Board for Term 07/1/21-06/30/24: Dena Gunn:** Ashley Lawhorn said that the Library Board Appointment will be Dena Gunn, the owner of Split Acres Floral. Councilperson Glenn Harris made a motion to appoint Ms. Gunn, with a second being made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The motion was unanimous.

**Zoning Issue: Herman Albritton:** Herman Albritton came before the Mayor and Council to state that he once had a doublewide on property behind the former property of Ed Robinson, and he did so because the previous zoning official with the City had told him he could place it there if he had ½ acre cut out for the mobile home, which he did and he has the deed to that. He thinks this was in 2004. Currently he has a motorhome on that property, but he would like to place a tiny house on that spot. He said that Vicki (it was Ashley Lawhorn) said that that area is now zoned commercial and that he can not place a home there. The Mayor and Council asked Ashley Lawhorn what happened with the double wide? Ashley said that was in 2004 and she did not know. Mr. Albritton showed the Council the tiny home that he would like to place there. Mayor Whitley and Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked Ms. Lawhorn why the tiny home could not be put on the ½ acre that was cut out? Ms. Lawhorn informed them that the deed for that property has nothing to do with the zoning for that area, that the ½ acre is still zoned commercial and that he can not place a residential building in that area. She said that Mr. Albritton is already in violation because he is living in a motor home on the property. That is not allowed, but when his home on West Main Street burned he was given a temporary variance (6 month variance) to place a motor home/camper on that lot until he could find a permanent place to live. That was six years ago. Mr. Albritton said that he has had that land over forty years and there is nothing industrial in that area. Mayor Whitley stated that the City Attorney would review this information and the Council will let Mr. Albritton know something soon. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if the tiny house is portable, and was told that it is.



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**Surplus Equipment: Eddie Moulton:** Mr. Moulton said that the old phone system phones from City Hall and old equipment (Printers, misc. things) from the patrol cars at the Police Department and some BA brackets and misc. items from the Fire Department needs approval from the Council to be sold as surplus. These are all items that the City does not need or use any longer. A motion to surplus the items was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris and a second was made by Councilperson Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Public Works Director David Windham** said at the present time he was just trying to prepare for the 2021 CDBG, and still working on the 2019 CDBG, which is delayed due to waiting on materials. He said that once the 2019 CDBG project is complete the roads would be fixed, but presently they are just trying to keep rock in the holes.

**Interim Chief Matthew Woodard** said that he had presented everyone with a print-out of the police activities. He said on the sheet you can see what kind of calls the department responded to in April, and on the second sheet you can see a breakdown of those calls. He said in April the police responded to twenty-five domestic calls, made forty traffic stops, and issued thirty citations.

Councilperson Williams said that she had heard there was a drive by or shooting and was wondering if the City should utilize the FaceBook page to keep citizens informed. He said that has been discussed and if the citizens are kept informed, that means that the criminal is also informed. He also said that the more people that know of a situation, the more that get out to observe, etc, and while some are there to help, some are not. The City also does not want to place Citizens in harm's way, especially if the person (criminal) is desperate and could possibly use an innocent citizen as leverage to escape. Interim Chief Woodard said that along with Butler Police Department searching for the criminal, Butler Public Works, Butler Fire, Taylor County SO, Reynolds PD, GSP, and the Georgia Department of Corrections were searching, as well as some citizens. He said the help was much appreciated.

Councilperson Hopkins said that he likes the printout of the various calls.

**Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton** said that the Fire Department has eight calls last month. There was two grass fires, one landing of air-evac, two vehicle fires, one call cancelled in route, one structure fire and one vehicle accident. He informed the Mayor and Council that the City



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received notification last week that the ISO inspection is coming due on June 16<sup>th</sup>, so the City will be getting prepared for that.

Councilperson Jacob Hopkins asked if there is any updates on the search for the Chief's position and Ms. Lawhorn said that posting ends on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN:** With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Person Jacob Hopkins and a second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Barry Whitley

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ATTEST

