

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
RODRICK FLOWERS
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

March 8, 2022
Council Meeting @7:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

Mayor Barry Whitley
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn
Councilperson Jacob Hopkins
Councilperson Rodrick Flowers
Councilperson Glenn Harris
Vicki Wainwright
Jack Nichols, Attorney
(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent)

MEDIA PRESENT

Taylor County News

INVOCATION: Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the February 15th, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and Work Session Minutes:

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 15th Regular Session Minutes and Work Session Minutes was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris and a second was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent)*



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RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LEASE SUPPLEMENT GMA:

City Clerk Vicki Wainwright asked for Council's approval on a resolution to authorize and direct the Mayor to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease under the GMA direct leasing program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes to purchase an F350 service truck for the public works department. This purchase will be made yearly for four years out of the water and sewer budget. A motion to approve the resolution as stated was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The motion was unanimous. *(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent)*

SPLOST PURCHASE:

Public Works Director David Windham stated that as discussed during a work session last month, the City has moved forward with the purchase of two new patrol vehicles for the Police Department. He asked for an approval from Mayor and Council to do the purchase out of SPLOST funds in the amount of \$72,290. A motion to approve the request was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and was seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent)*

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director David Windham informed the Mayor and Council that it has mostly been day to day operations as usual. He said that over the past couple of weeks the City has repaired some streets that had various pot holds, etc. He said that the City has been working with the engineers on the 2021 CDBG, and it should go to bid by the third quarter of 2022. He also said that the City is working with the engineers on a USDA project, but currently has no updates on it.

Police Chief Matthew Woodard said that the Police Department responded to 160 calls last month and issued 116 citations. Everything can be found on the report that he handed to Mayor and Council.



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Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Butler Fire Department responded to 20 calls in February. Those calls were 2 cancelled in route calls, 6 vehicle accidents, 9 grass fires, 1 powerline down, 1 false alarm, and 1 landing zone. He said that he wanted to caution everyone regarding grassfires/wild fires. The last couple of weeks have been bad as far as wildland fires around the county. He also said that the Butler Fire Department would have a training class on Saturday, March 12th.

Councilperson Glenn Harris asked Attorney Jack Nichols what the City can do regarding the various burned homes around the City that have not been cleaned up. Attorney Nichols said this subject has come up many times, and Mr. Harris stated that we keep raking it under instead of doing anything about it. Mr. Nichols said that the City can cite the owners of those homes, and he thought that the City had already done so. Mrs. Wainwright stated that the City had cited a few citizens for "junk". Chief Woodard said that the City had been told by Judge Jernigan that the City needs to identify what "junk" is, because what one person may consider junk does not mean that is someone else's definition of junk. The City's definition of junk should be clearly stated in the City's ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that it sounds like the City should get a new Municipal Judge. Councilperson Harris said that he wasn't talking about junk when he was talking about burned out properties. Mr. Nichols stated that he would have to go back and see what options the City would have to address the issue. Mrs. Wainwright stated that the biggest issue is that people expect the City to just clean it up and that costs money that the City doesn't have. Councilperson Harris asked couldn't the City just take the property? He said that Macon-Bibb does this all the time. Mr. Nichols said that you can go through a process of foreclosure to condemn the homes, but he feels that what Mrs. Wainwright is getting at is that it will ultimately fall on the City to clean the property up and that will be expensive. He said that the issue that there are many fiscal concerns and the decision has to be made if the City does want to take on that expense, not knowing if they would ever recoup the funds that they have sunk into cleaning up the property. Ms. Wainwright stated that just going through the legal expense, before the City even gets to the point of cleaning the property up, is a big concern as well. Councilperson Harris said that the City has to do something. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked at what point does it become more expensive to just do nothing and let it go? He said he could not accept the fact that the City can just let it go. He said there is an answer. If the City has to



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spend the money, then it just has to spend the money. Mr. Nichols stated that he would look into the City's options. If the City considers a Blight Tax Option, that is something that the City would have to pass via Ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the City needs to figure out what to do to make it hard enough on the property owner for them to proceed with cleaning the property up. The City has to get tough on this issue. The discussion mostly centered around a property on Pine Street but David Windham stated that there are other properties that have been burned longer than that particular property that should be addressed also. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if we could get it out of Municipal Court and send it to Superior Court? Chief Woodard stated that this is a City Ordinance. Mr. Nichols said that any condemnation issues would certainly go through Superior Court. Mr. Nichols will do some research and get back with the Mayor and Council via Ms. Wainwright.

ADJOURN: With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent)*

(Work Session to Immediately Follow)

Mayor Barry Whitley

ATTEST

