

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

May 10, 2022
Council Meeting @7:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

Mayor Barry Whitley
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn
Councilperson Jacob Hopkins
Councilperson Deborah Williams
Councilperson Glenn Harris
Councilperson Rodrick Flowers

MEDIA PRESENT

TC NEWS
PSTEL TV

INVOCATION: Mayor Barry Whitley

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the April 12th Regular Council Meeting:

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the April 12th, 2022 Regular Session Minutes was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Jake Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamation For Municipal Clerks Week:

Vicki Wainwright asked for a motion to give the Mayor approval to sign a Proclamation declaring May 1-7 as Municipal Clerks Week. A motion for approval was made by



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Councilperson Glenn Harris and a second was made before Councilperson Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

Blight:

City Attorney Jack Nichols shared with the Mayor and Council that there are several different ways that the City can choose to combat the issue with blight. He said that (1) the Council can choose a Judicial In-Rem Tax Sale, which is only done on properties where the taxes are in arrears by over one year. This would potentially get a new property owner and that new property owner would hopefully clean the property, or (2) Blight Tax, which the Council would have to create an ordinance and vote it in. You can add up to a 12% extra property tax on the blighted property, in the hopes that the property owner would clean up the property in order to have the increase taken away. Once that happens, the Council can give a property tax discount. This can not be done on a property that is someone's place of residence, or (3) Use the City of Butler's current (Sect 8) Nuisance Per Se Ordinance. This is the choice that the City Attorney recommends. City Chief of Police can identify the property as blighted and bring the property owner into Municipal Court. This can also be done by having five (5) citizens file a complaint against a property they feel is blighted. The City can acquire affidavits on the potential cost to repair/clean up property and a Judge can order the property owner to clean up the property within a certain time frame. If the time frame expires and nothing has been done, the City of Butler can clean up the property and the cost incurred can be added as a lien on the property.

A motion to proceed with identifying and cleaning up blighted properties pursuant to Section 8-021 thru Section 8-031 was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Jake Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

The first three properties chosen are:

3 Jessica Street
41 Oak Street
26 Pine Avenue



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DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director David Windham said that the city has complaints from a resident of Garward Circle requesting sod to be placed in washed out areas along that street. The city has previously hydro-seeded the area but there is too much canopy in the area and due to shade and lack of water, it did not grow. The City also feels that Sod will not live in this area due to the same issues. The only washed-out areas that the City sees is from issues near Walnut Street where eighteen wheelers are turning into the road. The Council's consensus is that though the city would love to help, there are worse areas in the city. The City Attorney recommends to the Mayor and Council to not place sod down on the right of ways.

Officer Chris Parker said that the Police Department has been more visible in the community. He also said that the Butler Police Department is accepting applications. He informed the Mayor and Council that the burglary rates have dropped over the last couple of months.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn said that he and neighbors have heard gun shots in their neighborhood during the night, and he would like the police department to keep a look out in the area. (Brown Drive, Carter Circle area)

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Butler Fire Department responded to 19 fire calls in April. Two were EMS assists, two grass fires, five alarm calls, one tree on fire, six vehicle accidents with two extrications, one structure fire, and one false alarm. He said that there will be a blood drive on May 26th at the Butler Fire House. He also informed them that the rescue truck is in the shop after a slight vehicle accident.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss property was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Jake Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.



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REGULAR SESSION (Continued)

Property:

After a brief discussion regarding property, Councilperson Deborah Williams made a motion to move forward with the acquisition of property pending that the soil samples come back as needed. A second was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN: With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Councilperson Glenn Harris and a second was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Barry Whitley

ATTEST

