

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

August 9, 2022
Council Meeting @7:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

MEDIA PRESENT

TC NEWS

INVOCATION: Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the July 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting:

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 Regular Session Minutes was made by Council Person Deborah Williams and a second was made by Councilperson Jake Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Zoning Amendment Discussion:

City Clerk Vicki Wainwright informed the Mayor and Council that the City would be advertising to amend the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to replace the areas currently zoned as "Light Manufacturing" and make them "General Commercial". Currently there is only a small portion along Ash Street that is zoned as Light Manufacturing. By re-zoning these areas to General Commercial it will allow a more diverse selection of businesses to be located in these areas if desired. The ordinance will continue to have the category of "light manufacturing" included should that ever be a need for land use in the future.



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Redistricting (Election): City Attorney Jack Nichols reminded the Council that several months back it had been discussed that due to the most recent (2020) census counts, the City of Butler needs to redistrict in order to keep the two districts more closely equal. In order to do this, it has been recommended to the City of Butler by the State of Georgia to have two posts in District 1, two posts in District 2, and one at-large council seat. (At-Large means that the candidate would be voted on from the entire City, and also could have opposition from anyone in either District) During the previous discussion, Councilman Jacob Hopkins had volunteered to hold the "at-large" seat. Attorney Nichols stated that basically he will need a motion from the Council to have Councilman Hopkins as the one to hold the at-large seat so that it is documented that all are in agreement. The rest of the process will take place at a later date, as it must be advertised, etc. and also it must go before legislation at the beginning of 2023. The changes will take place in time for the 2023 City of Butler election. At that time, Councilman Hopkins would have to run for his new "at-large" post as the incumbent. A motion for Councilman Jacob Hopkins to hold the "at-large" seat was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn, and a second was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Whitley told Councilman Hopkins that he commended him for volunteering for this position.

Blighted Property Discussion: Attorney Nichols explained that Chief Woodard has been out of town on Reserve Duty, but since he has been back he has completed the inspection check list that Mr. Nichols had asked to be completed to start the process of settling the three properties that have been chosen on the Dilapidated House List. He said that the Clerk has sent those checks list to him, and now the next step will be for him (Attorney) to look over the lists and put together a complaint that will be filed against each one of the properties. That complaint will be filed in municipal court, and a hearing will be set between fifteen and forty five days from the date the complaint is served to the property owner. The complaint will basically say that the City has looked at the property and according to the city ordinances, said property is considered to be blighted and needs to be cleaned up. When the Attorney is in front of the court, the request to the court will be to order them to clean up the property. If the Judge grants that then the owner will have a certain amount of time to clean up or demolish the property. (Probably 90 Days). If the owner does not do that, then the City now would have the right to based on the court order to



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go in and clean the property up themselves. (Within 270 days) The City can then add the amount of the clean-up as a lien against the property. Mr. Nichols said for the first three properties he would appear in court and speak with the Judge, with the hope that the Chief would see how it was done and be able to handle it himself during the next list of blighted properties.

Public Works Director David Windham said that the engineers are finishing up the design process of the CDBG project in the Venus Street area for storm water drainage. They are also finished with the water main rehab in that area. These are two separate projects that will go out to bid at the same time. That should happen within the next few weeks. He said that three of the four new welcome to Butler signs have been installed, and the fourth will be installed soon. The City is looking into lighting and aesthetics around the signage to make them more appealing and noticeable. He mentioned that the City has received a few complaints regarding the local trailer park driveway areas being in bad shape and causing ambulances, etc to get stuck. He said that those are actually private drives, but that the city may have to reach out to the property owners about maintaining the roads in order for utility companies and public safety can access the area.

Chief Matthew Woodard said that the Butler Police Department had 166 answered calls and wrote 101 citations.

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Butler Fire Department responded to twenty-one Fire Calls in July. Those were three cancelled in route calls, three structure fire, one dumpster fire, one grass fire, five vehicle accidents, two downed airplanes, two EMS assists, one water rescue, one vehicle fire and two electrical lines down. He said that there were seventy-nine people that attended the City's Family Day Event, with twenty-nine of those being children. It was a huge success and everyone enjoyed their day. He also said that in September or October the Butler Fire Department plans on beginning a new recruit class. He reminded everyone that America's National Night Out will be hosted in Reynolds on Thursday, August 11th. He thanked Macon State Prison for their assistance and Peach County for their tankers during the structure fire at 96/Pebble Rd last month. Fire Chief David Windham stated that from the time the tone dropped until water started spraying was about 11 ½ minutes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that he appreciates all of the Fire and first responder personnel for their professionalism during these stressful events. Councilwoman Deborah Williams said that it is always appreciated and that the Family Day Event was wonderful.



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MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilman Glenn Harris, and a second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn to enter into an Executive Session to discuss personnel. The vote was unanimous.

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

Mayor Barry Whitley

ATTEST

