

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



COUNCIL:
EDWARD GUINN
Mayor, Pro Tem
LANCE BERNARD
GLENN HARRIS
AMANZIE JENKINS
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

**February 11, 2020
Council Meeting
7:00 PM**

Present:

Mayor Barry Whitley
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn
Councilperson Deborah Williams (*Came in Late*)
Councilman Lance Bernard
Councilperson Glenn Harris
Councilperson Amanzie Jenkins
Vicki Wainwright

Media Present:

Taylor Co News

INVOCATION: Councilman Lance Bernard

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 Council Meeting was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a second was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous. (*Councilwoman Williams was absent*)

NEW BUSINESS:

2018/2019 Budget Amendment: City Clerk Vicki Wainwright presented the Mayor and Council with the budget amendment to the 2018/2019 budget as determined by the City Auditors. She asked for a motion to approve the recommended amendments as presented. A motion to approve the budget



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amendments for the 2018/2019 budget was made by Councilman Lance Bernard and a second was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous. (*Councilwoman Williams was absent*)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Works Director David Windham informed the Mayor and Council that the Oak Street/ Delta Lane resurfacing project is complete except for the striping, which will be completed as soon as weather permits.

Assistant Police Chief Matthew Woodard told the Mayor and Council that for the month of January the Butler Police Department responded to 285 incidents, with 149 of those being traffic stops. They issued 79 citations, had two traffic accidents, and answered 11 domestic violence calls.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the Mayor and Council continue to hear good things about the Butler Police Department. He said that they appreciate that, and they appreciate the good job that they are doing.

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Butler Fire Department responded to a total of 9 calls in January. There were 2 structure fires, 1 propane leak, 1 vehicle accident, 1 stove fire, 2 grass fires, 1 false call and 1 call with smoke inside residence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ronald McCooley appeared before the Mayor and Council with a complaint regarding dump trucks on Edgewood Drive. He stated that he lives on the corner of Marshall Street and Edgewood Drive in Butler and said that when he purchased his home many years ago there was a "NO TRUCKS" sign on Edgewood but shortly after he moved there the sign disappeared. He also saw that at the Bobby Poole residence that there were dump trucks there. He said that he asked Mr. Poole about the sign and Mr. Poole stated jokingly that he (Mr. Poole) took the sign. He also jokingly said that he worked with the G-DOT and that he knew how to get around the law.



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Mr. McCooley said that since then he has been declared to be legally blind and he is concerned about safety, not only for himself but for every driver and pedestrian on or near Edgewood Drive. He stated that there are just too many trucks on Edgewood Drive. He said that he is referring not only to Mr. Poole's four dump trucks, but every 18-wheeler or any size commercial vehicle that you can think of. He said that he has had to repair damage to his yard three times due to commercial vehicles. He went on to say that Edgewood Drive has become a dangerous situation and he has witnessed many illegal and unsafe practices and drivers on Edgewood Drive. He said that you will now find four dump trucks at Mr. Poole's residence, one of those being the larger kind of dump truck. He said that from where he lives, he can hear the trucks coming and going as early at 5:30 AM and as late as 10:30 PM seven days a week. He said that he hears every sound that one would hear from a commercial trucking company. He hears the back-up alarms, air horn, the hitting of metal with a sledgehammer, and especially when the tail gate slams shut. He hears all these things.

He also stated that since he had been declared legally blind four years ago, he has been trying to downsize because of his handicap. He said that he had contacted a realtor in Warner Robins to help him sell his house on Edgewood Drive and was told by his realtor that on two occasions that there were potential buyers who were very interested in his home but once they came to Butler and realized that a commercial trucking company was located not even two hundred yards from his home they changed their minds.

In closing he asked that the stolen sign "No Trucks" be put back up at the end of Edgewood at Highway 19. That way any truck driver coming down Highway 19 would see the sign and not come down Edgewood Drive.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn informed Mr. McCooley that Assistant Chief Woodard would collect any proof that he has that the sign was stolen. Mr. McCooley stated that the only proof he had was Mr. Poole's word.

Mayor Whitley asked David Windham if there were any "No Trucks" sign on Edgewood. He was informed that there is a "No Thru Trucks" sign on the west end of Edgewood across from Terry



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Davis' home and on the east end in front of Mr. Rogers' home. Mr. McCooley said that once you turn onto Edgewood in any size truck you are committed because there is no place to turn

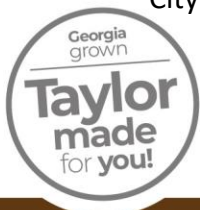
around or maneuver. You are forced to continue down the street. Mr. Windham also said that as far as any knowledge that he has, he is not aware of any sign being stolen.

Mayor Whitley informed Mr. McCooley that it is not illegal for Mr. Poole to drive or park the dump trucks at his place of residence. He said that understood that it may be noisy but from his home he can hear the big truck brakes and horns coming from off the by-pass.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that the City of Butler Council cannot inhibit commerce and that his request is very unreasonable. That would mean shutting down Fed-Ex, UPS, Partner's Propane, etc. Mr. Guinn further stated that Mr. Poole is not breaking the law or violating any City Ordinance. Mayor Whitley said that the stolen sign would be investigated. Mr. Windham said that a "No Thru Trucks" sign is to impede trucks from using the road to get from Highway 19 to Oak Street, but ultimately if a truck accidentally turns onto Edgewood they would be committed to follow it through. Mayor Whitley said they would keep an eye out for anything illegal regarding this issue, but it is not illegal for Mr. Poole to have the trucks on his property.

Willie Searcy came before the Mayor and Council to discuss littering and dilapidated houses. He said that his house may not be the best in Butler, but he does his best to keep it up. He said that it is frustrating when you try to keep your place up, but the place next door is run down. When it comes to getting your home appraised that brings down the value.

He also mentioned littering and said that the streets are full of litter. He said that he noticed that the City of Reynolds has a City Cleanup Day and would like to see the City of Butler do the same. He would like to see "No Littering" signs placed around the City and see people fined for littering so that maybe it will stop or cut down on the littering. He said that having people from out of town coming through Butler seeing the littering will give people a bad impression of our City.



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Mayor Whitley said that the City has been working on the dilapidated housing issue but there are legal hoops that must be dealt with before anything can be done, as well as associated costs. Public Works Director David Windham said that he would check into getting no littering signs placed around town. He also said that the Sheriff has been gracious enough to let inmates help City workers with picking up litter but unfortunately once you get a street cleaned up and move on to another, the street that you did yesterday has litter along the streets again. He said

that the City has had some internal discussions regarding a City wide clean up and hope to rent the big roll off dumpsters so that people can clean up and throw out furniture and big debris items. He said that he would like to work with the JROTC to possibly help with the clean-up. He said that it will take a team effort to make it successful. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that the City is also working on getting the abandoned vehicles and junk vehicles cleaned up, however one man's trash is another man's treasure and it is a very hard issue to deal with. He also said that the City will divide up into quadrants and provide hotdogs and drinks for a Spring City Wide Clean-up Day soon.

The Mayor and Council told Mr. Searcy that they appreciated him coming before them and voicing his concerns.

(Councilwoman Deborah Williams arrived at the meeting)

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL & PERSONNEL

A motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilman Lance Bernard. The vote was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION (Continued):

New City Attorney: After some discussion the Mayor and Council decided to terminate legal services with Joel Sherlock of Mincey and Sherlock, LLP and sign an agreement with John B. "Jack" Nichols of James, Bates, Brannan, Groover LLP to provide the City of Butler's legal



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services. A motion was made by Councilman Glenn Harris and a second was issued by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimous.

Appointments 2020: Yearly Appointments were delayed from the January Council Meeting to the February Council Meeting due to some issues that needed discussion. At this time the Mayor and Council made the following appointments for 2020:

Mayor Pro-Tem	Austin E. Guinn
Municipal Court Judge	Wayne Jernigan, SR.
City Attorney	Jack Nichols: James, Bates, Brannan, Groover LLP
Auditor	Abbott, Jordan & Koon, LLC
Election Superintendent	Vicki Wainwright
Public Works Director	David Windham
Fire Chief	David Windham
Police Chief	Kain Cobb
City Clerk/City Administrator	Vicki Wainwright
Fire Coordinator	Eddie Moulton

A motion to approve all appointments as stated was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

Department Oversight Appointments 2020:

The following appointments were made for departmental oversight:

Water/Wastewater:	Chair:	Deborah Williams
	Co-Chair:	Ed Guinn
Public Safety Department:	Chair:	Ed Guinn
	Co-Chair:	Lance Bernard



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Street Department:	Chair:	Amanzie Jenkins
	Co-Chair:	Glenn Harris
Administrative Department:	Chair:	Lance Bernard
	Co-Chair:	Deborah Williams
Buildings/Property:	Chair:	Glenn Harris
	Co-Chair:	Amanzie Jenkins
Interview Committee:		Deborah Williams
		Lance Bernard
		*Department Head(s)

A motion to approve the Department Oversight Appointments were made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a second was made by Councilman Lance Bernard. The vote was unanimous.

Air-Med Insurance: Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn had asked the Clerk to research providing all City of Butler personnel with AirMed Insurance. Documents detailing the coverage and the cost associated with providing City of Butler personnel with this insurance was given to the Mayor and Council for review. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the City of Butler would provide this insurance to the staff. A motion to do so was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a second was made by Councilman Lance Bernard. The vote was unanimous.



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ADJOURN:

With no other issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn from the Council Meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Whitley

Attest

