

City of Butler

William B. Whitley,
Mayor
Joel V. Sherlock,
City Attorney
Vicki Wainwright,
Clerk

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Council:
Edward Guinn
Mayor, Pro-Tem,
Lance Bernard
Glenn Harris
Amanzie Jenkins
Deborah Williams

January 14, 2020 Council Meeting 7:00 PM

Present:

Mayor Barry Whitley
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn
Councilperson Deborah Williams
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 December 10, 2019, 2019 Regular Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Council Meeting was made by Councilman Glenn Harris and a second was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments: Tabled until the February 11th, 2020 Meeting

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Butler Wine and Spirits- 40 South Broad: Chief Kain Cobb stated that he originally received Mr. Patel's application on December 9th, but due to issues with formatting, etc. Chief Cobb requested that Mr. Patel complete a new version of the application and it was completed and signed on January 2, 2020. Chief Cobb requested that the Council acknowledge the original application date. The background checks on both Mr. Patel and his wife Jennifer have been completed and have come back fine. He stated that everything else with the application is in order. He is in compliance with everything regarding the location as well. Mr. Patel plans to open on March 1, 2020. Before he opens the Chief will inspect the facility to make sure that all requirements are met. Mayor Whitley said that since everything checks out he would need a vote on issuing the license to Butler Wine and Spirits. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that before they vote he wants to remind everyone that the citizens in the City of Butler have voted to allow the City Council to issue a license for the sale of liquor and the Council's job now is to make sure that the City's Ordinance and due diligence through the Chief of Police is done in accordance with the Georgia Code. He further stated that at this point the Council has no reason to not grant the license as all the requirements have been met.

Councilperson Deborah Williams made a motion that the beer, wine and spirits license be approved for Mr. Patel for the Butler Wine & Spirits at 40 South Broad Street in Butler. A second was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief Kain Cobb stated that for the month of December the Butler Police Department responded to 5 traffic accidents, conducted 122 traffic stops, issued 72 citations, conducted 1 burglary/financial crime investigation, had three drug related offenses, made one arrest, and investigated ten domestics with no injuries for a total of 220 incidents.

He said that regarding the Abandoned/Junk Car Ordinance he has some questions. He said that he has reached out to the Attorney to get some clarification but has not received a response yet. His questions are:

Who tows the vehicles?

Where will the vehicles be stored?

How does the City pay for the storage?

He said that he is afraid that if the City uses the wrecker companies to pick the vehicles up and store them on their lots that they will end up stuck with those vehicles. If the owners do not

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come to get those vehicles then the wrecker companies could be stuck with a lot of junk. To get rid of the vehicles if the owners do not retrieve them, they wrecker companies would have to file to be able to sale or destroy the vehicles and that is only after holding/storing the property for 90 days. He fears that this could cause issues between the City of Butler and the Wrecker Company. It could cause them to stop responding when they are called.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked what are the City's options? Chief Cobb responded that he did not know the answer. If the City were to store them then that would make the City liable for that property should something get stolen from or happen to the vehicles. He also said that the towing companies charge a daily amount per vehicle to store the vehicles. Chief Cobb stated that until he has some clarification from the City Attorney he does not want to proceed with this. Mr. Guinn asked about a recycling company that would come pick them up? He said that he does not want to back off on this issue.

Public Works Director David Windham said that he has been in contact with Carter and Sloope, as there are some erosion issues around Judge and Ridge Street areas from the CDBG 2017 Project. The Contractors are also aware of it, but the current rainy weather has them at a standstill. He also said that within the next couple of weeks there will start being some activity on Oak Street for the resurfacing project there. Mr. Windham stated that the work on the sidewalks that is currently being done is not a City of Butler project, but a GDOT project. He said that he has seen that clean-up for this issue has begun.

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Butler Fire Department responded to a total of 4 calls in December. Those calls were all accidents, two ATV accidents and two vehicle accidents. The Fire Department responded to a total of 168 calls in 2019, and approximately 20 service calls. The Butler Fire Department had eight in a Driving Simulator Class through GIRMA with GMA/ACCG. They are also planning a Rope Class in February.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that he had an opportunity to view the simulator and that is an great asset that GMA and ACCG has.

Mayor Whitley announced that City Clerk Vicki Wainwright has been selected to be Secretary of the Georgia Municipal Clerk's Association Executive Board and will be sworn in in February at

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the Winter GMCA Conference in Jekyll Island. He said that it is a great accomplishment and that she does a great job.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked Chief Cobb to bring the Council up to date on Officer Matthew Woodard's accomplishments. Chief Cobb stated that Officer Woodard is a Certified Training Instructor and starting this month the Police Department has started to have a monthly in-service training at their staff meeting. They are currently doing policy review. They are looking into getting Assistant Chief Woodard certified to be a taser instructor and a firearms instructor as well. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that the Mayor and Council appreciate his efforts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL & PROPERTY

A motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a second was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION (Continued):

A motion was made by Councilman Lance Bernard to go forward with the increase in the salaries of the patrol officers as discussed by Chief Cobb. A second was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN:

With no other issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn from the Council Meeting was made by Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and a second was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Whitley

Attest