

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

## February 14, 2023 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 was absent*

### MEDIA PRESENT

TC NEWS

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn

**OPENING STATEMENT:** Vicki Wainwright

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Approval of the January 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting:**

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes was made by Councilmember Jacob Hopkins and a second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimous. *\*Councilmember Glenn Harris was absent.*

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Building Permit (Piggly Wiggly):** Ashley Lawhorn presented the Mayor and Council a drawing and building permit application for the Piggly Wiggly in Butler to add a convenience store and gas pumps to the existing Piggly Wiggly location. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if they (Piggly Wiggly) had mentioned anything about upgrading the current facility. Mr. Guinn addressed the representatives of the Piggly Wiggly stating that the Council receives a lot of complaints about the quality of the produce and meat, along with a bad smell in the store. He said that there is not a single piece of produce in the store that you can buy that is fresh. Jeremy Crosby with Jones Petroleum stated that he could not speak to that issue as he handles all of the construction. He said that he does not handle the operations but he would take the comments back to the operation folks.



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Mr. Guinn asked if the Lt. Gov had any ownership in the company and was told that his father owns it. Mr. Guinn said that he receives many complaints about the Piggly Wiggly and it just is not fair to the citizens that can not go out of town to purchase their groceries. He said that the ones that can not go outside of the area to shop need a place to shop that is affordable and where they can at least purchase products of quality. He further stated that he would vote to approve the building permit, however he is reluctant to approve the permit if they are just going to add on to something that is not improved. He said that he knows they did not come to hear the complaints but he was just being honest and relaying the complaints that he has heard.

Mayor Whitley asked Ms. Lawhorn if there were any issues with approving the permit and was told that Saunders Engineering and the Building Inspector were fine with it going forward. Council Member Rodrick Flowers asked if there would be any improvements to the parking lot and was told there would be as they plan to expand the parking lot and will also overlay the existing parking lot. Councilmember Hopkins asked if this would affect the Family Dollar, and was told that the Family Dollar is a tenant of Jones Petroleum, the owners of the Piggly Wiggly.

With no other discussion regarding the building permit, Mayor Whitley called for a motion to approve the building permit. A motion was made by Council Member Rodrick Flowers and a second was made by Council Member Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

*\*Council Member Glenn Harris was absent.*

**Water Rates:** \*\*\*The discussion regarding the water rates was tabled until a later date to be determined.

**SPLOST:** Public Works Director David Windham came before the Mayor and Council with requests for approval to purchase several things using SPLOST funds.

1. Employee Time Keeping: The City would like to move forward with a new time keeping option using Time and Attendance powered by Executime through Tyle Technologies. This system would allow employees to log into a site to clock in and out in some



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departments. This system will allow for a biometric reader for the Police Department, which allows employees to clock in using their fingerprint. The system automatically

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sends the payroll numbers to Incode Payroll. The upfront cost would be paid for with Admin SPLOST. The upfront cost is \$14,745 with a recurring cost to be paid from the budget in the amount of approximately \$4,850.00 per year.

A motion to approve the SPLOST purchase was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Council Member Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

*\*Council Member Glenn Harris was absent*

2. SPLOST Well #4: Mr. Windham asked for \$8500.00 to replace the piping coming out of the well in the Industrial Park. Work has already started on the electrical on this well also. Some of this stems from recommendations from the EPD from the last audit and is mostly due to the age of the well. This price also includes a new master meter to be installed. A motion to approve the SPLOST purchase from water/sewer SPLOST was made by Council Member Deborah Williams and a second was made by Council Person Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.  
*\*Council Person Glenn Harris was absent*

3. SPLOST Purchase Fencing and Gates at Fire Department and Land Application System: Eddie Moulton asked for \$6000.00 from Water/Sewer SPLOST to replace some fencing and gates. This will occur at the Fire Department in the area where the Water/Sewer Department has their equipment shed, and also at the Land Application System (LAS). Eventually the City has plans to move to electronic gates but that is a future project. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Council Member Jacob Hopkins and a second was given by Council Member Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous.  
*\*Council Person Glenn Harris was absent*

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Public Works Director David Windham** said that they were starting on the last well that needs electrical upgrades. This is being funded by ARPA funds. The upgrades are recommended by EPD. Two other wells have already been completed. This project has taken up a lot of the staff's time.



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**Police Chief Matthew Woodard** stated that he had already passed out the breakout sheet with the stats from the Police Department activity. He also said that they had all been emailed a copy of the new updated policies that he would like them to review before next months council meeting.

Chief Woodard introduced Officer Tyrique Ridley, who has moved up from part-time to full time. He was formally with the City of Americus Police Department. He also introduced Officer Ryan Ragsdale, who is part time. He is a certified K-9 officer as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn wants to let everyone know to be diligent of their neighborhood and surrounding area, as he has seen person's that he feels could be vagrants, or homeless individuals in the area lately.

**Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton** said that the Fire Department ran fourteen calls last month, those being one vehicle fire, five vehicle accidents, three calls cancelled in route, one wires down call, two structure fires, one landing zone and one grass fire. He said that on February 20<sup>th</sup> they would hold Block B testing for the firefighters that are in training.

David Windham announced that he would be starting the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meetings back up and the first one will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 PM at the Butler Fire Department. Lunch will be served. Everyone that wishes to attend will be welcome.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Shavonda Hill, Deputy District Director** with Congressman Sanford Bishops Office, stopped by. She stated that she has attended the LEPC meetings several times and since they had stopped she just wanted to reach out and show her face. She stated that she would be attending the LEPC meeting the following week.



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**ADJOURN:** With no other issues to discuss in the regular council meeting the Mayor called for a motion to adjourn, and stated that there would be a brief work session immediately following adjournment. A motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting was made by Council Member Jacob Hopkins and a second was made by Council Member Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

*\*Council Member Glenn Harris was absent*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Barry Whitley

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ATTEST

