

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

July 8, 2025
Council Meeting @6:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

MEDIA PRESENT

TC NEWS

INVOCATION: Councilperson Deborah Williams

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the June 10th, 2025 Regular & Work Session Council Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the June 10th, 2025 Regular & Work Session Council Meeting Minutes by Councilperson Deborah Williams and seconded by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous. (Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn was absent)

NEW BUSINESS:

Lisa and Donnie Beavers- Drainage Issue:

Donnie Beavers spoke with the Mayor and Council about a serious issue that they have regarding their yard flooding when it rains due to excessive run-off that comes from the retention pond at the new school. He said they never had any issues until the school was built. The retention pond at the school was not built up or made deeper when the school was built, as the pond was already there. Since there is quite a lot of paving at the school the pond fills fast and then overflows, where it rushes through the woods into their yard. This has knocked down their fence and removed all the topsoil from their yard as it rushes through. They say it then rushes down the street, where it is obvious that the rushing water has created a void under the street. He said that



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he and his wife have spoken with Ms. Jennifer Albritton on several occasions regarding this matter. They were initially told that a 100-year survey was done and the school project's engineer said that the pond as it is originally would do the job. The school board has paid them for their fence being damaged and the topsoil, but the flooding issue has not been resolved. Last week he was told that the school may or may not make the pond deeper, and if they didn't like that they could get an attorney. He then said that just today he received a call to inform him that they are going to build up the pond and make it deeper. He said he wasn't sure if this was because word had got out that they were coming to a city council meeting to speak about the issues.

The Council asked if he has been to a school board meeting regarding this issue, and Mr. Beavers stated that he wanted to come before the City Council first and then they plan to go to the school board. Councilperson Hopkins said that they should go to the school board meeting as a community and share their concerns.

Mr. Rusty Youngblood stated that he lives next door to the Beavers, and the water has started to run into his yard and goes under his air conditioning unit. He has some concerns that the pilings under his home could be washed out.

Gary and Louann Moulton lives up the street from the Beavers and said that the water rushes down the street so deep that a low vehicle would not make it through the water.

Public Works Director David Windham said that he has drone footage of the water rushing from the pond down through the Beavers yard and into the street. He said there is a definite problem with the pond. He then stated that he had been told just today that the school is going to fix the pond, and it should be 95% completed by the end of the week.

The Beaver's stated that Mr. Windham has been a great help to them regarding these issues.

The Council thanked the citizens for coming and making them aware of the situation. They stated they would be monitoring the issue and would do what they could to help.



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Rescheduling September 9th Council Meeting to September 16th:

City Administrator/City Clerk Vicki Wainwright informed the Mayor and Council that she and Ashley Lawhorn would be in Athens attending Clerk's training on September 9th and requested that the regularly scheduled meeting on September 9th be moved to Tuesday, September 16th. A motion to move the September meeting was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris and seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous. *(Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn was absent)*

Coin-Operated Devices- Amended Ordinance: (2nd Reading)

Attorney Jack Nichols said that during last month's council meeting an amended coin operated device ordinance was presented to the Mayor and Council. This amended ordinance simply updates the old ordinance to bring it into compliance with the State of Georgia's rules. The old ordinance banned coin operated devices all together, but that is not allowed by the State. Coin operated machines are governed by the Georgia State Lottery, and businesses that have them must comply with the rules of that entity. A motion to adopt the amended Coin Operated Devices Ordinance was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous. *(Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn was absent)*

Curfew Ordinance:

Attorney Jack Nichols stated that the Chief of Police has requested a curfew ordinance to help with the issues of what he feels is minors roaming the city streets in the middle of the night. The curfew ordinance was presented to the Council at last month's meeting. The curfew bans minors from being on the streets of the City of Butler as follows:

- For Children ages 15 and under, between the hours of 10:30 PM on any day and 6:00 AM on the following day: and
- For Children ages 16 and 17, between the hours of 12:00 AM midnight on any day and 6:00 AM of the following day.

Exceptions are as follows:



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- If the child is accompanied by their parent, guardian or other adult having the lawful care and custody of the child;
- Upon an emergency errand directed by their parent or guardian or other person having the lawful care and custody of a child;
- Returning directly home by the most direct and efficient route, from a school activity, entertainment, recreational activity or dance;
- Returning directly home by the most direct and efficient route, from lawful employment;
- On the sidewalk abutting a child's residence or abutting the residence of a next door neighbor if the neighbor does not complain about the child's presence;

****COMPLETE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST****

The first time a minor is caught after curfew they will be taken home with a warning, which will be maintained in the City of Butler's system. The second violation will result in the parent or guardian being fined and having to appear in Municipal Court.

A motion to adopt the curfew ordinance was made by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers and a second was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous. *(Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn was absent)*

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director David Windham said that 29 lamp posts have been installed around the square and that the curbing and sidewalks should be nearly complete on the north side of the square. He said that the parking around the square must follow ADA guidelines and that all parking spaces belong to GDOT and not any specific business. He said that handicapped van access takes up three parking spaces and handicapped ramps will be installed where GDOT states they must be installed. Overall, the downtown sidewalk project is going well but is slower than expected.



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Police Chief Matthew Woodard said that the FLOCK cameras are finally being installed, with the first one going up on Oak Street. It is currently in the testing phase.

He said that all officers will be trained on the Curfew Ordinance and will proceed with enforcing it with zero tolerance.

Chief Woodard requested an emergency work session following the Council Meeting.

Fire Coordinator Brandon Maddox said that the Butler Fire Department ran twenty-three calls last month. Those were three traffic accidents with entrapment, five traffic accidents with injuries, four structure fire calls, two vehicle fires, one wildland fire, one trouble unknown, one fire alarm, one lift assist, two service calls, one unconscious person call, and two wires down calls.

He said that the Fire Department hosted an EV (Electric Vehicle) Burn on Saturday, June 28th. The Fire Department had fourteen sign their training roster for that class.

Councilperson Jacob Hopkins said that he would like to see a Splash Pad in the County. He said that he has been thinking about this for a while and feels like the citizens deserve something like this so that they would not have to travel. He said that he would love to head up a plan to make this happen.

ADJOURN

With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins to adjourn and a second was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous. *(Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn was absent)*

Work Session to Immediately Follow

Mayor Barry Whitley

ATTEST

