

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

**September 16, 2025**  
**Council Meeting & Final Budget Hearing**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

**PRESENT**

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

**MEDIA PRESENT**

TC NEWS

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Barry Whitley

**OPENING STATEMENT:** Vicki Wainwright read the opening statement and the rules of decorum to explain the conduct expected during a council meeting, as well as the deadline to contact the Clerk to be put on the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of August 12th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve August 12th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Minutes by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Office Closing:** City Clerk/City Administrator Vicki Wainwright informed the Mayor and Council that City Hall will need to be closed on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> for the City to switch their accounting software over to the cloud from the city's server. She said that the transfer would be done in the morning hours, and the afternoon hours would have the staff working through the kinks that may arise from the swap over. She said that the staff would come in late morning of that day. A motion to approve closing City Hall on October 7<sup>th</sup> was made by



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Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn and seconded by Councilperson Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

### PFAS Contract:

Attorney Jack Nichols reminded the Mayor and Council that the PFAS resolution and contract was discussed last month, but there were some grammatical changes that he wanted to change. They have been presented with the updated contract for legal services with the outside council (Caruthers and Mitchell), with the needed changes. It was noted that Public Works Director David Windham's phone number is incorrect on the updated contract. A motion to authorize the mayor to sign the contract once Mr. Windham's phone number is corrected was made by Councilperson Deborah Williams and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

### Budget 25/26 Adoption:

City Administrator/City Clerk Vicki Wainwright said that the 2025-2026 Budget had been given to the Mayor and Council last month, and two other budget hearings had been held on September 4<sup>th</sup>. There was no citizen attendance at either public hearing. The budget is as follows:

<b>General Government</b>	<b>\$386,665.00</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>\$965,335.00</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>\$338,500.00</b>
<b>Public Library</b>	<b>\$ 34,000.00</b>
<b>T-SPLOST</b>	<b>\$196,000.00</b>
<b>SPLOST</b>	<b>\$375,000.00</b>

Councilperson Jacob Hopkins asked what line item the income from the FLOCK cameras would be in and was told that it would be included in the fines and fees portion of the police budget in public safety.



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A motion to adopt the 2025/2026 Budget was made by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

### **Waterline Rehab Low Bid Award:**

Public Works Director David Windham told the Mayor and Council that on Monday, September 15th the City had the bid opening for the waterline rehab project for approximately 15,000 linear feet of 6-, 8-, and 12-inch watermains coming from Industrial Park toward Hillcrest Circle area. He said there were ten bids turned in, but one was disqualified due to no bid bond being included in their package. The low bid that was submitted was by Gordy Construction for \$2,466,400. All bid tabulations have been done, and Gordy is recommended by Carter & Sloope. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if the old lines would be abandoned after the new lines are operational and was told "Yes". This project was part of the USDA project originally. A motion was made to accept the low bid by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and seconded by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

**Fireworks Ordinance Amendment Resolution:** An ordinance amendment to the existing City of Butler fireworks ordinance is necessary to bring the city's fireworks ordinance into compliance with the State of Georgia's law. The city's current ordinance bans fireworks. Attorney Nichols said that in Section A, he will remove the first fireworks definition before next month. He also said that there are certain times that the city cannot prohibit fireworks from being used, such as January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day, July 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day and New Years Eve. He said otherwise fireworks are also allowed to be shot unless it interrupts or impedes any noise ordinances that the city may have, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 11:59 PM. Those hours do not apply to the noted holidays. This is the first reading and the resolution to amend the fireworks ordinance will be adopted at the October council meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if the State Fire Marshall can override this, in the event of a severe drought, etc. Attorney Nichols stated that he did not believe so unless some sort of mandate comes down from the State level. He said that there are certain areas where it is prohibited to shoot



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fireworks, such as near a water treatment plant, hospitals and nursing homes, electric plants, close to airports, and equine facilities.

He said the ordinance also covers people who want to sell fireworks within the city. They would have to come to City Hall to get a permit, and they must comply with all the state standards.

### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Public Works Director David Windham** informed the Mayor and Council that the streetscape project is nearly 65% complete. He said that the Streetscape project is mostly grant funded and he reminds everyone that those funds can only be spent on certain things. He said he is very grateful for the Taylor County Commissioners' help on this project, and we are all excited to have this work done in the downtown area. He feels that they are still on track for the November deadline. He said that the memorial bricks are now down and there are 160 on the East side and 160 on the West side of the Courthouse.

He reminded everyone that the Taylor County Fall Festival will be held on the square this year on November 8<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that the City of Butler will recognize Trick or Treating on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> this year from 5:30 to 8:00, along with the City of Reynolds. This change is due to the final Viking Football game that will be on the 31<sup>st</sup> in Macon County. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the Vikings. He said that the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Butler Fire Department:** Fire Coordinator Brandon Maddox said that the Butler Fire Department ran 12 calls last month. Those were one traffic accident with entrapment, four traffic accidents with injuries, one structure fire, one vehicle fire, one trouble unknown, two fire alarms, one electrocution, and one wires down. He also said that the Standards and Training Audit for year 2024 was done last month at the fire department and everything was in tip top shape.

Fire Chief David Windham said that if anyone read the newspaper last week, the County unfortunately had to close three of their fire stations due to staffing. The Butler Fire Department



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is holding a Firefighter 1 class, and currently there is one recruit from Taylor County Fire in the class. The City of Butler has five recruits in the class. He said this is about a three-and-a-half-month class. These recruits will have their FF1 state certification after this class, if they pass the written and skills portion of the class. All the training is done in-house, and they have had a great pass rate thanks to some great instructors. He said that Butler Fire will help out the County Fire as best they can until the county gets back on their feet.

Mr. Windham said he wants to thank Nicole Acree and the Taylor County Chamber of Commerce for the outstanding work they do throughout this community. He said that Ms. Acree put together a great 9 11 memorial program on the courthouse lawn on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked the garden club and the UDC for the presentation of the shadowbox of buttons from uniforms of some of the first responders who lost their lives that day. He said he appreciated everyone that attended the ceremony that day.

**Police Chief Matthew Woodard** was out of town at the Chief's Conference. His report is in the Council Packet.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

**C. Brandon Miller:** Did not speak

**Mandy Miller:** Did not speak

**Amanda Davis:** Ms. David presented the Clerk with a "Freedom of Information Request". Ms. David stated that she was present regarding the video that is going around on Facebook/Tik Tok/X of Assistant Chief Chris Parker. She said the video is disgusting and everyone in town is talking about it. She said anyone who supported it or was part of the cover-up needs to be terminated. She said if they condone that then they are a sick individual. She said she doesn't know how anyone can expect a female to stop for any City of Butler Police Officer, not knowing if it will be that pervert or someone who condoned it. She stated that she would not stop



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for them and they could just follow her to the Sheriff's Department. She stated that she and others do not feel safe with the City of Butler Police Department. She said Matt Woodard does nothing to make them feel safe, and he has not from day one. She stated that they know the officers have body and car cameras, but they also know that they can be turned off. She said that evidence can disappear. She told the council to think about their grandkids because she thinks about hers and does not want them to be stopped by this pervert. She stated that if they haven't seen the video, then they need to watch it because this man does not need to be a police officer. She said that she doesn't care if it happened two years ago, two days ago, or two hours ago. She said that the Chief needs to be terminated because he failed to do his job of supporting them, protecting them and informing them. She said you can never reach him, and you never see him. She said that when you do, he is arrogant and not helpful at all. She said that there are good people in the city but if we continue to allow this type of thing to go on, we will not have a city. She stated that she was born and raised in Butler and Taylor County and has always been proud to be here, but not so much any longer. She is ashamed that people know what our police department is.

Michael McDowell: Did not speak

Anthony Norton: Mr. Norton thanked the Mayor and Council for listening to everyone. He stated he has three concerns. He said that he knows the Mayor and Council's hands are tied, but he feels this is a POST thing and only the Chief can turn the situation into POST and let them decide if this is behavior unbecoming an officer. He said as citizens they should be kept in the loop. He said if POST feels Parker is an outstanding gentleman, then so be it, that's what they are for.

His next concern is that DOT is spraying along West Main Street. They are supposed to be spraying the curb but his home and the rest of the street have three feet of dead grass in their yards. He said if we are beautifying the city why are we killing the grass on the side of the road.

His third concern is the waterline. He hopes the city will use due diligence and not kill 200-year-old trees to run the waterline. He wants to know how the citizens will be kept updated on how the waterline is going to go. He said information is hard to find in this town. Public Works Director David Windham told Mr. Norton he can drop by City Hall anytime to view the plans,



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but the waterline will be on the right of way on the opposite side of the road from Mr. Norton's home. He also informed him that the city has no control over GDOT's spraying.

Cassandra Woodard: Did Not Speak

Manny Guterrez: Mr. Guterrez thanked the Mayor and Council for hearing them. He stated that he is not a city resident, but he is county resident and that video is everywhere. He said that the video is very concerning, and as a former police officer, that type of conduct would have gotten him fired. He said people that have kids, daughters, would not feel comfortable being pulled over by someone like that. He said that he understood this video was years ago, but for the people that delayed taking action regarding the video, it looks bad on the department. He stated that after seeing the video he is disgusted. He wants to know what is going to be done about it. After receiving no answer from the Mayor and Council, he asked if they had seen the video and if they wanted him to show it to them. Mayor Whitley stated that he did not care to see it again, and Mr. Guterrez said that it is something that needs to be looked at. Mayor Whitley said they are taking steps to handle the situation and that they appreciate the concern. Mr. Gutierrez said that termination would be best before it backfires on the city and the department. Something needs to be done before it tears down the culture and the morale of the department.

Colin Eubanks: Did Not Speak

Kristin Knowlton: Did not speak

With no other citizen signed up to speak, Mayor Whitley thanked everyone for attending and expressing their concerns. He read a statement prepared by Attorney Jack Nichols that stated:

*This incident happened in 2022. It was handled appropriately at that time. The Officer was disciplined, he accepted the discipline in a responsible and mature manner, and he has performed his job well with no incidents since that time. The city considers this matter closed.*



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Gabe White stated that they may consider this matter closed but it is not. Community wise it is not closed. He said that you all should know that and if you haven't watched the video, you should. He stated that it is absolutely disgusting. He said that anybody that thinks like that should not be anywhere near a badge.

Jason Guy said that they are all from here, from this town and they all saw the reactions when she talked about that. He said that when you smirk at something like that it makes them all think that they think it is a joke. He said that when they all leave here that y'all will just sweep it all under the rug like it is a joke. He said what's the smirks about. He said just like the other police officer that Butler had, he was messing with little girls and y'all are up there smirking. What's the smirks about? There is nothing to smirk about.

\*\* (Neither Mr. White nor Mr. Guy signed the Rules of Decorum Statement to be called to speak)

**ADJOURN**

With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by Councilperson Deborah Williams to adjourn and a second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimous.

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ATTEST

