

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

January 13, 2026
Council Meeting @6:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

MEDIA PRESENT

TC NEWS

INVOCATION: Mayor Barry Whitley

OPENING STATEMENT:

OLD BUSINESS:

Swearing-In of Council for new term: Judge Jennifer Williams was present to officially give the Oath of Office to Councilpersons Glenn Harris, Jacob Hopkins, and Rodrick Flowers as they begin their term in office.

Judge Williams also said that she would like to thank the City of Butler and David Windham and all others involved for all the work done around the Courthouse. She said it looks phenomenal. She stated that she was skeptical at first when the trees were removed, but the end result is absolutely beautiful.

Approval of the December 9th, 2025 Regular Council Meeting and Work Session Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the December 9th Regular Council Meeting and Work Session Minutes by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilperson Williams was absent)*



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NEW BUSINESS:

2026 Appointments:

The 2026 appointments were made as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Mayor Pro Tem | Ed Guinn |
| • Municipal Court Judge | Wayne Jernigan |
| • City Attorney | James Bates Brannan Groover LLP |
| • Auditor | Mauldin & Jenkins |
| • Election Superintendent | Vicki Wainwright |
| • Fire Chief | David Windham |
| • Police Chief | Matthew Woodard |
| • City Clerk/City Administrator | Vicki Wainwright |
| • Public Works Director | David Windham |
| • Fire Coordinator | Brandon Maddox |

A motion to accept and approve the appointments was made by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimously approved.

(Councilperson Williams was absent)

2026 Department Oversight Appointments:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Water/Waste Water: | Chair: Jacob Hopkins |
| | Co-Chair: Ed Guinn |
| • Public Safety Department: | Chair: Deborah Williams |
| | Co-Chair: Rodrick Flowers |
| • Street Department: | Chair: Glenn Harris |
| | Co-Chair: Jacob Hopkins |



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- Administrative Department: Chair: Rodrick Flowers
Co-Chair: Deborah Williams
- Buildings/Property: Chair: Ed Guinn
Co-Chair: Glenn Harris
- Interview Committee: Deborah Williams, Jacob Hopkins & *Department Head*

A motion to accept and approve the appointments was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimously approved.
(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent)

Stray Animals: Councilperson Jacob Hopkins said that he had asked the Clerk to put stray animals on the agenda because he knows there have been a lot of concerns in the community regarding this issue. He said that he has spoken with several people regarding their concerns, including a young mother who has said that she is concerned about her children playing outside due to aggressive dogs.

Public Works Director David Windham stated that the City has been looking into different options. He said that River Valley Regional Commission has reached out to the Clerk about having a roundtable discussion with Macon County and Schley County to see if a regional solution could be found to work on this issue. He asked if the Council could enter into a work session after the meeting to discuss what direction the city needs to take.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that the rumor mill going around is that the three dogs that the City of Butler had picked up after the dog attack in November were taken to Macon County and those dogs are the ones who attacked and killed a man there. He would like it to be on the record saying that is not the case. Chief Woodard said no, the incidents are unrelated. The dogs did not even resemble the one from the Macon County attack.



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Attorney Jack Nichols was asked to review the city's current animal ordinance.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police Matthew Woodard reminded the Mayor and Council that the monthly report is in their packet. He introduced Officer James McCoy, Officer Malia Harden and Officer Christopher Sherwood to the Mayor and Council. These three officers graduated mandated training in December and are now currently in FTO, which is a three-month program that teaches them about the City of Butler, the area, the streets, and the policies as they ride with and work with the seasoned officers.

Public Works Director David Windham said that the streetscape project is moving along with the seal coating and temporary striping done. They will soon be working on the thermo striping, but weather dictates when that can be done. He said that the handrails have been measured and ordered, but he doesn't have a date as to when they will be installed.

The Lead Service Line is also moving along. There are some meters that the contractors were unable to find so they are having to go back to those to determine what material the lines are made of. He hopes that the project will be completed by the end of February.

The waterline project is well underway but are waiting on DOT permitting before they can move on to the west side of town.

Mr. Windham said that Monday, January 19th is MLK, JR. Day and the office will be closed for that holiday. He also said that the annual Chamber Banquet will be held on Thursday, February 12th and that the Clerk would get with everyone to see who plans to attend.

Mr. Windham informed the Council that regarding the issue of where the streetscape project stops on the east side of North Poplar, and Mr. Sonny Edwards concern because the sidewalk project stops before the Amedysis building, he said that the engineers are working on a cost estimate and checking on GDOT requirements before we proceed any further.



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Mr. Edwards was present at the meeting and stated that he appreciates that because the employees that work in the Amedysis building are very unsatisfied because the sidewalk does not go in front of the building. He said that they have a lease renewal coming up and he would hate to see them move out because of that. Mr. Edwards reminded the Council that there are very few buildings that are occupied around the courthouse and he doesn't understand why his building was left out of having the sidewalk project in front of it. Mr. Windham reminded him that all projects have a starting point and an ending point. He also reminded Mr. Edwards that two town hall meetings were held for the public to see the scope of the project and to address any concerns with the project. The project is fund-based, so if the funds are not there then there is no money to expand the project.

Councilperson Jacob Hopkins asked Mr. Edwards if he owned the buildings across the street from Amedysis, and if so and if Amedysis may not renew the lease because they are unsatisfied since they didn't get the sidewalk in front of their building, why didn't he just relocate them to one of his buildings across the street. Mr. Edwards replied "That's not my question. It just does not look good for the city to stop in the middle of the sidewalk." Mr. Windham reminded Mr. Edwards that he had come to City Hall previously and at that time he said that he didn't care about the bricks but he wanted the sidewalk done so the employees would not park at the door of the building. Mr. Edwards stated that he did not say that.

Mayor Whitley told Mr. Edwards that they heard his complaints, and once the engineers get back with some numbers the city will see what, if anything, it can do in that area. Mr. Edwards stated that he is a pretty good taxpayer in Butler who spends money on his buildings, most of which are not occupied. He said Amedysis employs twenty people here in the city and he doesn't think the Council wants to see them leave either.

Fire Coordinator Brandon Maddox said that the Butler Fire Department ran 19 calls last month. There was one call for a person stabbed, one traffic accident with entrapment, three traffic accidents with injuries, one call for a pedestrian struck, two structure fires, six wildland fires, one trouble unknown, one fire alarm, two illegal or controlled burns, and one service call. He said that the Butler Fire Department ran 244 calls in 2025.



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ADJOURN

With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn to adjourn and a second was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous. Mayor Whitley stated that the council would go into a short work session. *(Councilperson Deborah Williams was absent.)*

Mayor Barry Whitley

ATTEST

