WILLIAM B. WHITLEY
Mayor

JOHN B. "JACK" NICHOLS
City Attorney

VICKI WAINWRIGHT
Clerk / City Administrator

BUTLER GEORGIA

COUNCIL:
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Mayor, Pro Tem
JACOB HOPKINS
GLENN HARRIS
RODRICK FLOWERS
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

September 8th, 2026
FY 26-27 Final Budget Hearing 5:45
Council Meeting 6:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn
Councilperson Meccia McCants
Councilperson Glenn Harris
Councilperson Deborah Williams

MEDIA PRESENT

TC News

AGENDA AMENDMENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn stated that an amendment to the agenda was needed to add a SPLOST purchase.

INVOCATION: Councilperson Deborah Williams led the meeting with prayer.

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

Oath of Office for Councilperson Meccia McCants: Judge Jennifer Williams gave the Oath of Office to newly appointed councilmember Meccia McCants. Mrs. McCants was appointed to fill the Council Post 1, District 1 council seat left vacant by Councilmember Rodrick Flowers. Mrs. McCants was welcomed by the Mayor Pro-Tem and Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of August 11th, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the July 14th Regular meeting minutes was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris and seconded by Councilperson Deborah Williams. The vote was unanimous.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Mandy Hand/GFWC: Resolution to recognize October 15th as Taylor County Day of Purple:

Mandy Hand came before the Mayor and Council representing GFWC Reynolds Women's Club as the chairman of the Domestic Violence Awareness Committee, a proud citizen of the community and a domestic violence survivor. She stated that there are over 40,000 family violence incidents reported each year, with more than a third of those involving children. In rural counties like Taylor County there are very limited resources, which makes things more difficult for families and local law enforcement. She said that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and the club wants to make sure that nobody in the community feels alone. They are here tonight to ask the City of Butler to partner with them by adopting the proclamation officially declaring Thursday, October 15th as Taylor County Day of Purple and help lead the way in bringing this issue out of the shadows. Secondly, they would like Butler's help in making this visible by the Mayor, Council, and staff wearing purple on October 15th and taking a group picture and asking them to post on social media and their website. She would also like to see them post crisis helpline numbers on that day as well. She said that the club will be making purple ribbons to sell and would love to see them placed all over town on doors and store fronts to show that Butler stands with survivors. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn presented the proclamation that he signed, and the Clerk has affixed her seal to, to Ms. Hand and the members of the women's club declaring Thursday, October 15th as a day of purple for the City of Butler.

Ms. Hand was asked if there were any activities or things planned for this day. Ms. Hand stated that she plans to educate people on this issue whether it be by way of social media or going out into the community. They have also talked about having cards with the crisis numbers on them placed around the community.

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Rescheduling November Council Meeting: Vicki Wainwright informed the Council that the November Council meeting that is scheduled for November 10th would need to be rescheduled for the following week on November 17th due to her attending the GICH conference that week. A motion to reschedule the November council meeting to the 17th of November was made by Councilmember Glenn Harris and seconded by Councilmember Meccia McCants. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Adoption for Fiscal Year 2026-2027: Vicki Wainwright brought the Council's attention to the budget that is in their packet and asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that the city has not received the tax digest yet, but the city still must adopt a budget to operate the city.

A motion to adopt the FY 26-27 budget as presented was made by Councilmember Deborah Williams and was seconded by Councilmember Meccia McCants. The vote was unanimous. The budget is as follows:

General Government	$ 444,926.00
Public Safety	$1,094,826.00
Public Works	$ 354,000.00
Public Library	$ 32,000.00
T-SPLOST	$ 62,400.00
SPLOST	$ 360,669.00

FLOCK Discussion: Assistant Chief Wally Carpenter informed the Mayor and Council that when he had taken over at the beginning of Chief Woodards absence it was brought to his attention to check on the status of the FLOCK cameras, as the city had ordered eight (8) but had only received four (4) cameras. He said he and the Clerk checked into it and found out that the DOT

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permit application for the remaining four cameras had not been signed. He immediately signed the documents, and Ms. Wainwright emailed them to FLOCK. The status of the installation of the remaining four cameras was repeatedly checked and every time the city was told that the DOT permits should drop on August 14th. When that date came, FLOCK sent another DOT permit to be signed, stating they did not have one with the department heads signature on it. When Ms. Wainwright questioned them, she was told that the previous signed permit had the mayor's signature on it and it had to be the head of the department (Chief) that signed the documents. Ms. Wainwright replied that the Interim Chief Wallace Carpenter had signed the documents. In the meantime, Public Works Director David Windham had reached out to the permitting department at GDOT and was told that the last documents they had received from FLOCK regarding the City of Butler was in December of 2025. Those documents were the ones with the mayor's signature on them instead of the Chiefs. Ms. Wainwright immediately sent an email to FLOCK and found out that the email with Assistant Chief Carpenters signature on the documents was "lost" in their junk email/spam folder. So, FLOCK had been misleading or untruthful every time they had been questioned from May through August about the status of the permits. It was also discussed that there has been no revenue brought into the city from the four FLOCK cameras that are installed. This could be from poor location. Assistant Chief Carpenter also stated that there has been a lot of controversy regarding FLOCK cameras lately, and that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has recently ordered that all FLOCK cameras on Florida state routes be removed. Texas has done the same. At this time, he is not sure which way Georgia may go, but typically Georgia has tended to take whatever stance Florida and Texas take and both of those states have removed FLOCK cameras from their state routes.
Ms. Wainwright said that she had sent a letter informing FLOCK that the city felt that it would be best to cut ties with them. She also said that $24000.00 had been paid at the beginning of the two-year contract for eight cameras. Another $12,000 was paid at the beginning of the year. She has informed FLOCK that since the city had only received four cameras that the $24000.00 should cover the two-year contract for the four camaras and that the city feels that FLOCK should refund the $12000.00. FLOCK has stated that they will refund the $12,000.

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Councilmember Deborah Williams asked why the cameras were not producing any revenue since Reynolds brings in quite a bit of revenue from their cameras. Location was discussed, as Butler only has a very small section of Highway 96 and Reynolds has a large portion of Highway 96. The current cameras are on city streets that are not major roadways with heavy traffic. She noted that it was discussed that the city would work with the county on placement of the cameras and asked what happened with that. Ms. Wainwright said that the discussion did occur, and an IGA was signed between Butler and Taylor County Sheriff's Office. She also said that the Sheriff had agreed that the city could place its cameras outside of the city boundaries, into the county space, but it seems that those locations were changed at some point because the cameras that are installed were not placed where it was discussed. Councilmember Williams said that she feels that the letter should not have been sent without the Council voting to discontinue FLOCK, since the Council voted to install FLOCK. Councilmember Williams also said that she feels that there are good benefits to having FLOCK, and questioned the process of accessibility, storage, and administrative rights of the officer's that would be using them. Assistant Chief Carpenter said that he would hate to install the other four cameras and have the Governor decide in a month or two to have them removed from state routes, but at this time he doesn't know what, if anything, will happen. It was decided to hold off on any decision until next month.

Hydro-Vac Discussion/SPLOST Purchase Approval: Public Works Director David Windham informed the Council that due to the Lead and Copper Grant, he is eligible to purchase certain equipment and be reimbursed 50% of the equipment cost. He would like approval to purchase a Hyrdro-Vac for $111,000. The city will be reimbursed for $55,500 of that price. He would like approval to purchase the Hydro-Vac using Water/Sewer SPLOST funds. A motion to approve the purchase as discussed was made by Councilmember Deborah Williams and seconded by Councilmember Meccia McCants. The vote was unanimous.

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SPLOST Purchase – Access Control/Security System: Mr. Windham stated that he has received quotes on installing access control and security in all three buildings (City Hall, Police Department and Fire Department). This would require all employees to have either a key-fob or card/badge to enter any of the buildings and to access certain areas. This system would include a security system and panic-buttons as well as a system that would show who entered the buildings, etc. There would be remote access available to certain employees as well. This system would eliminate the need for keys and thereby eliminate the potential for duplication. He would like approval to proceed with the installation of this system and to pay for this from 2017 SPLOST funds in the amount of $36000.00. A motion to approve this purchase was made by Councilmember Glenn Harris and seconded by Councilmember Meccia McCants. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director David Windham stated that the water rehab project is nearing an end, with only one major tie-in left to do. He said there are only a few services left to connect. The bacteria samples have not yet come back for the area around Ridge Street, so once those come back as clear samples, he will do those service tie-ins. He hopes to be done by the end of the month. Mr. Windham invited everyone to come to the Courthouse Square on Friday, September 11th at 10:00 AM for a short program in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of 9 11. He also reminded the Council of the BBQ that Carter and Sloope will be hosting for the City of Butler on Friday, September 18th at noon at the Butler Fire Department.

Assistant Chief Wally Carpenter said that the Butler Police Department responded to one person who was shot last month. That person is still recovering. The suspect did turn himself in and is currently in jail with no bond. He stated that they had five welfare check calls and two burglary calls. One is pending and they have two good suspects on the other. He said they had twelve domestic disturbance calls, two of those with injuries. There were nine suspicious persons and/or vehicle calls. He stated that the Butler Police Department can now unlock cars,

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and there were six of those type calls last month. The department had two traffic accidents last month. There was one reported rape, which was found to be un-prosecutable. There were two structure fire calls, six shop lifting calls, and forty-four traffic stops. In total the department worked two hundred and twenty-three incidents.

Fire Coordinator Brandon Maddox said that the Butler Fire Department ran nineteen calls in August. Those calls were one person shot, one traffic accident with no injuries, one traffic accident with entrapment, six traffic accidents with injuries, two structure fires, one vehicle fire, one wildland fire, one trouble unknown call, two fire alarm calls, one cardiovascular call, one drowning call, and one offroad accident.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn stated that everyone stays very busy. He thanked the audience for coming and informed them that the Council now had business to discuss in an Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: With no other business to discuss in regular session, Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn asked for a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. A motion to enter into an executive session was made by Councilmember Deborah Williams and a second was made by Councilman Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

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REGULAR SESSION: (continued)

ADJOURN

With no other business on the regular agenda a motion was made by Councilperson Deborah Williams to adjourn and a second was made by Councilperson Meccia McCants. The vote was unanimous.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Austin E. Guinn

ATTEST:

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Vicki Wainwright, Clerk

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