

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

August 13, 2024
Re-Zoning Hearing @5.45 PM
Council Meeting @6:00 PM
Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

MEDIA PRESENT

INVOCATION: Mayor Barry Whitley

OPENING STATEMENT: Vicki Wainwright

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements were made that City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. It was also announced that the 2024-2025 budget has been presented to the Mayor and Council and that a budget hearing will be held at 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 5th and the final budget hearing will be held at 5:45 PM on Tuesday, September 10th, where the budget will be adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the July 9th Regular Council Meeting and Work Session Minutes:

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the July 9th, 2024 Regular Council Meeting and Work Session Minutes was made by Councilmember Glenn Harris and a second was made by Councilmember Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.



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NEW BUSINESS:

Re-Zoning of B53D 082A:

Zoning Administrator Ashley Lawhorn came before the Mayor and Council to inform them that Ronnie Bunkley has requested to re-zone the parcel B53D 082A from Single Family Residential to Single Family Residential Duplex. His property is actually zoned as SFR in the front and SFRD in the rear, and in order to move a smaller mobile home onto the property he would like to re-zone the entire property as SFRD. Some of the property adjacent to his is already zoned as such. A motion to approve the re-zoning of the property was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

1st Reading: Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance:

Due to previous discussion and concerns regarding the noise that emits from potential Cryptocurrency and/or Data Mining operations, the Mayor and Council determined that it is smart to be pro-active in the event that a potential data mining operation comes to Butler and requested that Attorney Nichols draft an ordinance that would address it. Attorney Nichols went through the ordinance and answered questions from Mayor and Council. It was noted that a few reference points in the ordinance would be changed before the next final reading next month. It was also reinforced that any potential operation of this caliber would have to come before the Mayor and Council for approval as this type of business would only be permitted as a conditional use in a heavy commercial manufacturing or in light manufacturing, therefore the Council could place conditions as needed before approval. The Council wants to stress that they are not trying to prevent commerce from coming to Butler, they just want to be pro-active.

1st Reading: Amendment to Sec 10-050 of Business and Business Regulations Ordinance:

Following concerns brought to the Mayor and Council from the City Clerk regarding businesses operating within the City Limits that have not purchased a business license, an amendment to the current ordinance is needed. This amendment allows penalties to be applied for late or non-purchasers, up to being able to cite the business owner and bring them before the municipal court.



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Promotion: Brandon Maddox

As discussed in previous council meetings, Eddie Moulton will be retiring at the end of the year and has recommended that the city fill his position with Brandon Maddox. He has been working closely with Brandon for some months and feels that he would be a great fit. Mr. Maddox is already employed by the City of Butler within the Public Works Department so this move would just be a promotion to a new position and department. City Clerk Vicki Wainwright stated that this promotion would go into effect in October. A motion to promote Brandon Maddox to Fire Coordinator was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Maddox will move over to Fire payroll in October and will become Fire Coordinator upon Mr. Moulton's retirement.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director David Windham said that the public works department has been busy fixing water lines that have been cut by the contractors coming through the city installing fiber. He stated that there will be some stout over-time due to this.

The waterline rehab and hydrant project has begun on Oak Lane, Delta Lane, Marshall St., Rebecca Bergen areas.

Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if Mathews Orchard Hill event venue has ample water and was told that they are on a well. Concerns were addressed that there is no fire protection at this venue since the buildings on this property were built many years ago and they were never made to be connected to the city's water supply. Concerns were also raised regarding public safety at this location as well as the fact that the business does not hold a business license with the city of Butler.

The downtown streetscape project is moving forward as scheduled. The City did run into a couple of bumps with Ga Power and GDOT, but all parties have met, and he feels positive that those parties will work with the city to move things forward.



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He reminded the Mayor and Council that garbage pick-up the week of the Labor Day holiday will run on Saturday, September 7th instead of the normally scheduled Friday due to the holiday.

He invited them to come to downtown Butler on Friday, September 27th for "Friday Night Lights" from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the courthouse square.

SPLOST approval: Mr. Windham requested to be able to purchase a ground penetrating radar system with mapping capabilities from Consolidated Pipe for \$35,000. He said that he has been demoing one and it has really come in handy with all the digging that the fiber contractors are doing. A motion to approve the \$35,000 purchase from old SPLOST funds was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Glenn Harris. It was unanimously approved.

Chief of Police Matthew Woodard informed the council that they have the stats from last month in their packet. He said that the Police Department held their 2nd Annual Motorcycle ride from the Butler Fire Department to the Harley Davidson store in Macon on Saturday, July 13th. There were 91 paid riders that participated in the ride. They raised \$1805.00, which was used to purchase bookbags and school supplies for school children which were given out during the Reynolds Community Day held on August 3rd.

Chief Woodard gave the Mayor and Council a quote and information on the FLOCK camera system. The Council requested that a salesperson from FLOCK come before them to give them more information.

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Butler Fire Department ran 21 calls last month. He also said that the Fire Fighter 1 class was done, and six firefighters passed the test. He also said four firefighters took an evaluator class.

Mr. Moulton asked to use \$16,000 from SPLOST to replace the floor at the fire department with epoxy flooring. The funds will also cover new paint and trim work. A motion to approve the use of SPLOST funds was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.



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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 Barry Whitley

ATTEST

