

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

**October 8, 2024**  
**Budget Hearing (Final) @5.45 PM**  
**Millage Rate Hearing (Final) @ 6:00 PM**  
**Council Meeting @6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

**PRESENT**

Mayor Barry Whitley  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn  
Councilperson Deborah Williams (late @ 6:07)  
Councilperson Jacob Hopkins  
Councilperson Rodrick Flowers  
Councilperson Glenn Harris

**MEDIA PRESENT**

TC NEWS

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn

**OPENING STATEMENT:** Vicki Wainwright

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Announcements were made that City Hall will be closed on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Columbus Day.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of the August 13th Regular Council Meeting Minutes:**

A motion to accept and approve the minutes of the August 13th, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes (*September Council Meeting was cancelled*) was made by Councilmember Jacob Hopkins and a second was made by Councilmember Jacob Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimous. (*Councilmember Deborah Williams was running late and was not in attendance to vote on this item*)



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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2024 Millage Rate:**

City Clerk Vicki Wainwright stated that the Mayor and Council has opted to not do the "roll back" of the millage rate but will keep the millage rate the same as the past two years. The millage rate will be 8.786 for 2024. The assessed values of property have increased, so this will show an increase in tax funds of a little less than one mill. A motion to approve the millage rate of 8.786 mills was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a seconded by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilmember Deborah Williams was running late and was not in attendance to vote on this item) \*\*After the meeting it was determined that three more millage rate hearings were needed due to the time frame between past meetings did not meet the seven (7) day requirement between meetings\*\**

**2024-2025 Budget and Budget Ordinance Adoption:**

The budget for 2024-2025 had been submitted to Mayor and Council in August 2024 and budget hearings were held for the public. City Clerk Vicki Wainwright asked for a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 budget as presented:

General Government:	\$391,062.00
Public Safety:	\$1,054,413.00
Public Works:	\$320,825.00
Public Library:	\$34,000.00
T-SPLOST:	\$178,505.00
SPLOST:	\$336,000.00

A motion to adopt the 2024-2025 budget and budget ordinance was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.



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**2<sup>nd</sup>/FINAL Reading: Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance:**

The final reading of the proposed Cryptocurrency and Date Mining Ordinance was presented to Mayor and Council for adoption. The only change from the original document is that the distance from an occupied residential structure must be 1000 feet. (Formerly 100 feet) A motion to adopt the Cryptocurrency and Date Mining Ordinance as presented was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Glenn Harris. The vote was unanimous.

**2<sup>nd</sup>/Final Reading: Amendment to Sec 10-050 of Business and Business Regulations Ordinance:**

The final reading of the amendment to the Business and Regulations Ordinance was presented to Mayor and Council. The purpose of this amendment was to include penalties and interest on late business license purchases and to enact a fine upon conviction of a judge for operating a business within the city limits without obtaining a business license. A motion to adopt the ordinance as presented was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and seconded by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The vote was unanimous.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Ordinance:**

The Mayor and Council was presented with a Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Ordinance to review and have the first reading. Attorney Jack Nichols informed the Mayor and Council that the city wants to have such an ordinance in place should this type of establishment wish to set up a business within Butler. The ordinance requires the establishment to apply for a permit from the City of Butler, a permit from the Board of Health, have a site plan approval, must maintain a general public liability policy, and consent to a background check, including fingerprinting, among other guidelines as outlined in the ordinance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn expressed concern about neon signs/lights in the downtown area. The zoning ordinance will be reviewed and amended if necessary concerning this.



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**MOU between the City of Butler and Taylor County Board of Commissioners: Purchase of New Fire Truck:**

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that City Attorney Jack Nichols had been asked to draft an MOU covering the City and the County as they purchase a new fire truck together. He said that doing this now is crucial, as prices continue to go up and a price can not be locked in until a PO is issued. The County has agreed to pay one-half of the purchase price. He also said that it will be eighteen to twenty-four months before the truck is ready. The Council asked if an addendum to the MOU should be added to outline where the truck will be housed and who will maintain it? Mr. Nichols stated that an addendum could certainly be added if necessary or needed. A motion to give the Mayor approval to sign the MOU was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilperson Jacob Hopkins. The motion was unanimous. (Taylor County Board of Commissioners had signed the MOU on October 1<sup>st</sup>)

**MOU between the City of Butler and the Taylor County Board of Commissioners: Improving Neighborhood Outcomes Downtown Streetscape Improvements:**

Public Works Director David Windham asked for approval from the Council for the Mayor to sign an MOU regarding the new streetscape project around the square. He said that the County has agreed to pay for the sidewalks on the interior of the square and in front of the TC Board of Elections Office and the TC Tax Assessors/Tax Commissioners offices. That is approximately 19.2% of the project and will be about \$375,000. The City of Butler will have oversight on the project. This project will go to bid within the next couple of weeks, however construction will not begin until after the first of the year. Mr. Windham also said that the City will hold a couple of townhall meetings to inform the business owners and citizens of when and what to expect during this project. A motion to allow the Mayor to sign the Streetscape MOU was made by Councilperson Glenn Harris and seconded by Councilperson Rodrick Flowers. The vote was unanimously approved. (The TC Board of Commissioners signed the MOU on October 1<sup>st</sup>)



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**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Public Works Director David Windham** said that the waterline rehab project is going well, and that Oak Lane and Delta Lane is almost complete besides clean up and driveway repair. They are currently working in the Brown Drive area. He said that the construction crew is easy to work with.

He informed them that EPD has come out with a new Lead and Copper project, which will be done in stages. The first stage is identifying all the utilities and submit them by the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. Carter and Sloope is working with the city on this project and the city was able to get some funding through GEFA to help with the cost of this project. Once all of this project is done the city will have a GIS map of all of the meters. Before the end of the year the city will have to send out letters to every utility customer that it has notifying them that the city will begin the process of identifying what type of material (plastic, copper, lead, etc) is on both sides of the meter. The city will have about a year to do this.

He informed them that the Christmas tree lighting had been planned for Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, but due to a scheduling conflict with Santa the Christmas tree lighting program will be held on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> on the courthouse square.

Mr. Windham stated that Taylor County dodged a bullet with Hurricane Helene changing paths and missing us. The original path was expected to come right up Highway 19. He said that he appreciated everyone pulling together to get prepared for the storm.

**Chief Matthew Woodard** informed the Mayor and Council that his monthly report is in their folder.



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He said that in September it was reported by an individual that he had just been robbed at gunpoint for \$15,000 and that has been investigated and found to potentially be some type of drug transaction gone bad. Three people were identified, and warrants were taken out, with two of the suspects being arrested. The individual who was the suspected victim went back to the house where he was allegedly robbed and he along with three of his friends decided to shoot up the house. Four warrants were taken out for those individuals, and three suspects have been arrested.

He said that over the weekend there were a couple of car burglaries reported and of those it was admitted that all had left their doors unlocked. He said that he wanted to encourage everyone to lock their vehicles when they exit them, which will help deter that crime. He said that entering an automobile is a crime of opportunity and that the juveniles that have been known to do this get out late at night and roam and if they try a door and it is locked, they are more likely to just move on to the next opportunity. Councilperson Hopkins asked what could be done to a juvenile and was told that with the juvenile justice system it is a process to have something done with them. Councilperson Hopkins and Williams stated that they are worried that a juvenile involved in these activities could get shot by someone that they were trying to burglarize. Chief Woodard stated it was a concern of the department as well.

Chief Woodard brought up the school threat from a few weeks ago. He said that since school has started the Butler Police Department has been more visible within the school. Even though they are in the schools the department has no jurisdiction there, as the school has their own police department and is also located in the county. He wants to work with the City Attorney and Superintendent Albritton to create some type of agreement between Butler Police Department and the Taylor County School System giving Butler police officers authority to do their job if the need comes up while on the school campus.



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**Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton** said that the Butler Fire Department ran 19 calls last month. He said that he greatly appreciated the community as the fire department was able to take a trailer full of supplies to South Georgia last week. He said it is a mess down there and everyone was so appreciative of the goods. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said that every little bit helps, as those folks need so much due to storm damage from Hurricane Helene. Mr. Moulton said that as soon as they get another load they will go back.

Mr. Moulton said that they have six new state certified fire fighters that recently tested.

He announced that Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training out of Forsyth come do an audit/inspection of the fire station every year and the Butler Fire Department passed their inspection.

**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

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ATTEST

