



September 3, 2024
Common Council

Present:

Mike Hartman, Mayor
Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1 and Council President
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Scott Lanning, Utility Superintendent
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Absent

Darren Alloway, Council District 3
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent

Mayor Hartman opened the regular session of the Common Council at 7:00 pm at 215 South Broadway.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hartman opened the **Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations**. He asked for comments or questions from the audience. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mayor Hartman asked for comments or questions from the audience pertaining to the agenda items. None

The minutes from the August 19th meeting were presented. Council Member Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Ordinance 1794, An Ordinance for Additional Appropriations**, was presented for its third reading by title. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 1794 on its third reading by title and Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Fire Chief Ron Mausteller reported that the new firefighters are out driving around a lot so that they can become more familiar with the area. They are also doing an inventory of existing fire hydrants



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and making a list of what connections they have on them. Chief Masteller will then present Scott with a list that need different connections put on them.

Police Chief Matt Traster reported that Jason Creech would be coming back to take the last open police officer position. He will be starting in a couple of weeks. Both he and Emily will be attending the Police Academy in January or February.

New Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld presented the Council with a log sheet of what addresses and concerns he has been working on. He enjoys talking with people and helping them come up with a solution to bring them back into compliance with City Ordinances.

Chief Traster confirmed that the fire damaged trailer on East Willow Street has been removed.

There was discussion on when large item pickup could be set out to the curb. Now that the pickup occurs on Wednesday, it doesn't give residents enough time to get items out. The Council agree that the weekend before large item will be acceptable.

Clerk-Treasurer Angela Eck went over the 2025 Proposed Budget Paperwork that she gave to everyone. This packet includes the following: 2025 Proposed Budget Notes, General Fund Budget, Other Funds Budget Sheets, the proposed employee salary ordinance for 2025 and the proposed elected and appointed official salaries for 2025. She stated that if something is highlighted in yellow on the salary ordinances, it is different from last year. She asked that if anyone had any questions to please contact her.

Council Member Hawkins stated that she had a constituent reach out to her with concerns about the Water Department. This constituent had heard that the City didn't have a licensed water operator. Council Member Hawkins contacted Clerk-Treasurer Eck to see what she could find out. It turns out that Mr. Lanning's provisional water license expired on May 31st this year. Council Member Hawkins asked where the City stands on that.

Mayor Hartman said that he will need to check into it because it is news to him. Mayor Hartman asked Council Member Hawkins when she found this out. She replied that it was over the weekend. Mayor Hartman then asked City Attorney Stuckey if that stuff is public record. He replied that it is. He wanted to make sure that nothing was leaving City Hall.

Council Member Hawkins said that Mr. Lanning hadn't even made any attempt to sign up for the training.

Mayor Hartman asked more questions about the timing of Clerk-Treasurer Eck and Council Member Hawkins find out this information. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that she was contacted by



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Council Member Hawkins on Thursday about this and then met with Council Member Hawkins over the weekend to discuss. Clerk-Treasurer Eck contacted IDEM on Thursday to confirm the information.

Mayor Hartman asked why Clerk-Treasurer Eck didn't mention this problem to him on Friday. She replied that this was Council Member Hawkins deal and that she wanted to handle it.

Mayor Hartman said that Clerk-Treasurer Eck and Council Member Hawkins needed to get their stories straight.

Council Member Hawkins asked if the constituent in the audience wanted to speak up. Vica Moore stood up and stated that she heard on Wednesday that the Butler water is being run by the state.

Mayor Hartman again said that Council Member Hawkins heard about it over the weekend but Clerk-Treasurer Eck found out about it on Thursday.

Mrs. Moore then asked if Scott runs the sewage department and has a license. Mayor Hartman said yes and that he runs the water department as well. Mrs. Moore asked if Scott does the water testing. Mr. Lanning has employees that do the water testing. She then asked if they have had training or are licensed to do the testing. Mr. Lanning replied that it isn't required. She then asked why the water smells like bleach. Mr. Lanning said this is the first he has heard about it. Mr. Lanning said that his office is always open and that she is welcome to call him about it. He requested that he be contacted about these concerns.

Mrs. Moore then asked Mr. Lanning why he hasn't gotten his water license. Mr. Lanning stated that he is a licensed wastewater operator and has a signed license. He even offered to show it to her. Mrs. Moore said that someone has their wires crossed.

There was discussion on where these IDEM documents can be found. IDEM Virtual File Cabinet.

Council Member Laub thanked Street Superintendent Cline for getting the problem alley in her district fixed the very next day. She then asked Clerk-Treasurer Eck why she was sending emails to non-city of butler email addresses. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that she does that when someone asks her to. Council Member Laub thinks that only City of Butler email addresses should be used.

Mayor Hartman stated that he had given everyone packets on making the mayor a full-time position a couple of weeks ago. He hasn't heard back from anyone about it yet.



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Dwight Myers of 300 Meadowmere reported that he has heard there are concerns about the campers that are parked on his property. Council Member Hawkins stated that some neighbors have reached out to her and wanted to know why they were there and hooked up. Mr. Myers stated that his daughter's camper is there while they are building a new house. He also said that he will occasionally sleep overnight in it with his grandsons.

City Attorney Don Stuckey stated that the issue may be that they are hooked into the water, sewer and electricity. He would need to look into it. There was discussion on what the ordinance actually states. Mrs. Teri Fritch stated that if the ordinance isn't going to be enforced, then the ordinance needs to be changed.

Venise Sebastian of Walnut Street asked about the status on Surf Internet. Mayor Hartman replied that there was a meeting a couple of weeks ago and that Surf would be starting soon.

Council Member Ryan handed out information on the camping ordinance that he had asked Clerk-Treasurer Eck for. He suggested that Mr. Myers request a variance.

Council Member Ryan made a motion to adjourn at 7:41 PM and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



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Clerk-Treasurer