



December 16, 2024
Common Council

Present:

Mike Hartman, Mayor
Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1 and Council President
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Darren Alloway, Council District 3
Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Braxton Minkey, IT Specialist
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Andrew Provines, City Planner
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney
Matt Traster, Police Chief

Absent

None

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

The minutes from the December 2nd meeting were presented. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve the minutes and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

City Attorney Don Stuckey handout out a new revision to the Garbage Collection ordinance. He will have the final draft of the revisions for the January 6th meeting.

Proposed Ordinance 1800, An Ordinance Repealing Sections 40.024 and 50.025 of Butler City Code, was presented for its first reading by title. This is just a cleanup ordinance, similar to what was done several months ago for the Wastewater Utility. This proposal is for the Water Utility. Council Member Ryan made a motion to approve Ordinance 1800 on its first reading and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



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Proposed **Resolution 24-658, Annual Banking Resolution**, was presented. This is an annual ordinance that states what banking institutions the Clerk-Treasurer will be using in the new year. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Resolution 24-658 and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Resolution 24-659, Transfer of Funds**, was presented. These are annual transfers to Home Ruled funds that are designated for specific projects. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Resolution 24-659 and Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Resolution 24-660, Declare a Fund Dormant**, was presented. There is no longer a need for Fund 2248, LOIT Special Distribution because those funds were used on this year's street project. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Resolution 24-660 and Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Resolution 24-661, Transfer of Appropriations**, was presented. This is just to balance out the year and is done every year. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Resolution 24-661 and Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Resolution 24-662, Additional Appropriations for Butler Public Library**, was presented. Butler Public Library Director Sarah Dempsey reported that the Library Board has already held a public hearing and approved passage of the resolution. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve Resolution 24-662 and Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Resolution 24-663, A Resolution to Encumber Funds**, was presented. This is for purchase orders that have been approved but won't be received or paid for until 2025. This is also an annual resolution. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Resolution 24-663 and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Fire Chief Ron Mausteller reported that the Fire Department expects to have 550 to 575 runs for the year. They held a work detail at the training center last week and accomplished quite a bit. He is also working on setting up some training with the Butler Police Department and the State Police.

City Planner Andrew Provines reported that he is waiting to purchase the permitting software. The Board of Works did approve the purchase of TownWeb as the new website provider.

IT Specialist Braxton Minkey reported on setting up a few backup pcs and has been doing some work to the phone system.

Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld reported that he is working with JAM Best One on a tire amnesty day. He is also continuing to work on the feral cat issues.



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Mr. Mutzfeld and Mr. Provines are also working on the Unsafe Building List. Mr. Mutzfeld sent out 6 violation letters to property owners about unkempt properties.

Mayor Hartman asked Mr. Mutzfeld about the status on the Butler Parks Trailer Court on East Willow. Mr. Mutzfeld reported seeing some work done in the past two days, but they are doing the least amount of work possible to take care of the issues.

Council Member Hawkins stated that Northcrest Trailer Park is beginning to develop the same issues with trash and general neglect. There was discussion as to whether or not Code Enforcement could drive back there. It was decided that he would be able to drive through.

Street Superintendent Mark Cline reported that the fall leaf collection is completed. They will be doing a special limb collection because of the recent high winds.

Mr. Cline has finally found an electrician to work on the City's street light problem. He has now fixed two of the three lights. The final light not working will either need a new bulb or a whole new fixture.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck requested permission for Mayor Hartman to sign Fire Protection Contracts with Stafford and Franklin Townships. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve the contracts and Council Member Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck presented the 2025 Public Meeting Schedule and the 2025 Holiday Schedule.

Council Member White asked if anything can be done about trucks with trailers parking on the former Butler Company Property, now City property. There was discussion. The police department will try to check the area more frequently and write citations if they catch someone.

Council Member Laub stated that she would like to amend the Clerk-Treasurer salary that is on Ordinance 1798 and to amend the minutes from October 21st. It is not the amount she intended it to be. She stated that Mayor Hartman called her as soon as he saw the revised ordinance because he knew it wasn't the amount Council Member Laub had intended. Council Member Laub stated that she told Mayor Hartman to not sign the ordinance until she could do some checking on it.

Council Member Laub continued that she had intended the amount to be around \$57,000 for 2025. She stated that AIM had informed her that it is permissible to lower an elected official's pay by removing certificate pay. She isn't sure where the \$61,000 for the clerk came from.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that Council Member Laub should have asked her how she came to the \$61,000 salary for 2025 and went through the calculation. Clerk-Treasurer Eck will make \$58,683.50 in 2024 and added the 4% growth to that, which comes out to \$61,030. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that this amount is probably still less than the average Clerk-Treasurer salary for this area.



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Mayor Hartman stated that \$57,000 is the amount that he came up with when he was researching what a full-time mayor should be paid. He also stated that AIM said that an elected official's pay could be reduced by taking away certificate pay.

There was discussion back and forth as to how increases were made or not made over the past few years.

City Attorney Don Stuckey stated that it is too late to revise minutes, especially after the Council has already approved them. He also stated that the minutes from October 21st meeting are correct. He had trouble understanding what Council Member Laub was trying to say during that meeting and actually summarized what she said during the meeting. That is what is reflected in the minutes.

Council Member Hawkins stated that she never intended to reduce the clerk-treasurer pay by removing certificate pay.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that it is illegal to reduce an elected official's pay from one year to the next. Unless it is a new official.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck asked Council Member Laub if she thought the value of the Clerk-Treasurer for Butler was less than the surrounding communities. Council Member Laub stated that is not what she is trying to do.

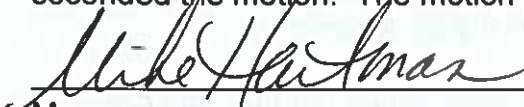
Council Member Hawkins asked Mayor Hartman for copies of his documents to verify what he is saying. There was heated discussion back and forth.

Council Member Hawkins stated that she is against lowering the Clerk-Treasurer's pay. She is tired of whatever is going on between the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer and it needs to stop.

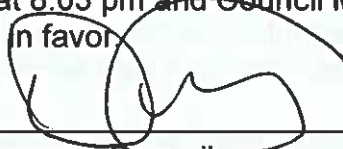
Council Member Hawkins made a motion to adjourn. The motion was not seconded.

Mayor Hartman reported that he did get a donation from New Millennium for steel siding to close in the Marshall Building. He is currently working on quotes for installation.

Council Member Ryan made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



Common Council



Clerk-Treasurer