



March 3, 2025
Common Council

Present:

Mike Hartman, Mayor
Tracey Hawkins, Council District 1 and Council President
Kristie Laub, Council District 2
Darren Alloway, Council District 3
Bill White, Council at Large
Angela Eck, Clerk-Treasurer
Gavyn Aden, Wastewater Superintendent
Mark Cline, Street Superintendent
Braxton Minkey, IT Specialist
Stuart Mutzfeld, Code Enforcement
Andrew Provines, City Planner
Cory Rowe, Assistant Police Chief
Donald Stuckey, City Attorney

Absent

Gale Ryan, Council District 4
Ron Mausteller, Fire Chief
Matt Traster, Police Chief

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 February 17th meeting were presented. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve the minutes and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed **Revision 1 to Ordinance 1797, Revision to Fire Department Clothing Allowance**, was presented for first reading. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Revision 1 and Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Revision 1 on its second reading by title and Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to suspend the rules and Council Member Alloway seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve Revision



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1 on its third reading by title and Council Member Laub seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

A proposed **Ordinance to Re-Establish the Cumulative Capital Development Fund** was presented for its first reading. There was discussion. Council Member Hawkins made a motion to approve the Ordinance to Re-Establish the Cumulative Capital Development Fund on its first reading with Council Member Alloway seconding. The motion passed with all in favor.

A proposed **Ordinance to Re-Establish the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund** was presented for its first reading. Council Member Alloway made a motion to approve the Ordinance to Re-Establish the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund on its first reading and Council Member Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck asked the Council if they would like to consider the proposed Resolution against SB 1 at this meeting. There was discussion. They would like time to look over the changes and have it presented for reading at the next meeting on March 17th.

City Planner Andrew Provines reported that he and Mayor Hartman attended the DeKalb County Commissioners Meeting on Monday to ask them if they would consider updating the interlocal agreement with the planning department so that it included software. They were in favor of the request and asked that the County Attorney start to work on the revision to the agreement.

Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Mutzfeld presented a list of ordinances that need to be corrected or to start enforcing. Attachment 1. He also reported that he has about 60 letters to be sent to specific addresses that are currently in violation of various ordinances. He stated that the goal is to raise the quality of living for everyone in Butler. He also reported that he is receiving multiple questions about chickens within the City Limits.

Street Superintendent Mark Cline reported that his department picked up brush today and that they may need to do it again later this week because of the high winds. He also reported that they are working on filling in potholes.

IT Specialist Braxton Minkey reported that he is progressing with the new city website through Townweb. He and Andrew are planning on the new website being up and running in April. He is also working on fixing a lot of equipment that isn't working properly.

Wastewater Superintendent Gavyn Aden reported that Surf bored through a sewer lateral at 101 West Green. This did cause a backup in the home. He is assisting the homeowner on working with Surf to get all of the costs and damage paid by Surf.

City Attorney Don Stuckey reported that he was asked to look into the water and wastewater utilities to see if anything can be done so that the amount of bad debt is reduced. He reported that there isn't much that can be done, other than increasing the deposit amounts. The Clerk-



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Treasurer's office is filing liens on wastewater when possible and using small claims to collect is not efficient. The State of Indiana does not allow liens to be filed for water usage.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck also stated that if the utility accounts are in the name of renters, if they skip out, the City is unable to force the landlord to pay the water charges. The State changed that law a couple of years ago to protect the landlords.

Mr. Stuckey reported that he has looked over the current Facebook Policy and that is it excellent. He would not change anything on it.

Mr. Provines stated that he just needs to turn off comments on Facebook then. The new website will have several different forms for different types of complaints. He does think the community needs to be informed that the comments are going to be turned off and that we are working on other ways for them to reach the City.

Clerk-Treasurer Eck reported that she has completed all of the Annual Reporting and should have a full summary for the Council at the next meeting.

Council Member Laub asked if anything could be done about the Jake brakes that large trucks use to slow down inside the city limits. Mr. Stucky stated that the City would need to invest in various sound monitoring equipment and then find the driver to give them a ticket. Clerk-Treasurer Eck stated that the State of Indiana decided that laws that prohibit the use of Jake Brakes are not safe. Assistant Chief Rowe then reported that INDOT did remove the no Jake Brake signs several years ago.

Council Member Alloway made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm and Council Member White seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.



Mayor



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Clerk-Treasurer