

Butler council to delay new ordinance policies

■City holds work session to discuss changes to ordinances

By Colin Merritt
Sun-Advocate Reporter

BUTLER – The Butler City Council held a special work session last Thursday morning aimed at updating city ordinances and discussing the hiring of a separate officer to handle enforcing the updated codes.

All council members and Mayor Mike Williams were in attendance at the nearly three-hour session, with City Prosecutor Perry Newton, City Judge Blane Dolbare, and Director of Public Safety Jimmy Huckeba joining the meeting to advise and answer questions during the process.

“To start with, we have a great town,” began Huckeba, noting the general need for the work session. “I would love to see our ordinances get stiff enough that we can start right here in the middle and really clean this town up. For instance, if you have junk vehicles or if you don’t cut your grass, lets take care of it. Some of our warnings now take 14 days or more to take effect. By the time we warn you, issue you another citation, and then check back on the issue, your grass, for example, might only end up being cut a couple of times during the summer. We need these ordinance to work so that we can take care of these issues quicker.”

The council agreed, citing other examples of violations like dilapidated buildings, as well as properties that do not keep up with grass cutting and those that contain

old tires, appliances, old cars, and other unsightly items. The council also discussed the issue of golf carts, side-by-sides, and other ATV’s being used on city streets, especially with the recent closure of schools due to the COVID-19 virus quarantine. Having just written a new ordinance for the City of Gilbertown - which has been experiencing the same problem - Newton showed the council the code as an example of an up-to-date, effective ordinance.

“We want to be fair about things, but we also want codes that are perfectly clear,” said council member Ron Mason, surmising the session’s ultimate goal of updating ordinances so that they can be effective tools in ultimately keeping Butler not only clean, but safe too. “These codes need to start with a warning so that we can give people proper notice, then we can move to different fines to take care of problems. They need to be solid, enforceable, and easy to understand. This is for the good of the town, the codes need to be effective for all involved...and, above all, fair.”

“From my standpoint, I think you guys need to just go through and figure out the exact codes you want,” advised Dolbare. “That way Perry (Newton) and I can go and look at the codes in Alabama and figure out what we can and can’t do. And then we can sit down and build these ordinances. But, in my opinion, I think it’s important that you do have an ordinance enforcement officer.”

The council agreed, adding that it has not been effective to have codes and ordinances enforced by current city policemen, which has been the norm for years.

“All of these codes are only as good as your enforcement,” Dolbare added. “The more times you have some-

one contacting people that are not in compliance, the better chance you have to get that situation taken care of. Also, the officer can keep records to help keep track of each issue.”

Dolbare then explained that the city could levee financial punishments for violators, noting that in Alabama fines can range from \$5-\$500. Dolbare said that it was up to the city on how to schedule the citation plan and the fine structure. He also added that as long as the new codes were found to be in line with state laws, he, as city judge, and Newton, as city prosecutor, would uphold the codes in city court.

At the conclusion of the work session, the council agreed to postpone any new hires or new enforcement policy until the end of this current Covid-19 virus quarantine. They agreed that the community did not need to be hit with anything that might hurt businesses that are likely already feeling the effects of the current pandemic.

Butler’s current city codes and ordinances can be viewed by visiting www.municipalcode.com.

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Obituaries

James Edward ‘Crook’ Watkins

James Edward ‘Crook’ Watkins, age 77, of York, Alabama, born January 25, 1943 in Sumter County to the union of the late Mamie Jamison Thomas and Bill Watkins. Jimmy entered into eternal rest March 16, 2020 in Sumter Health and Rehabilitation. Graveside Service of Memory is slated for Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Elmwood Memorial Gardens, Highway 11 East, York, Alabama. (In case of inclement weather, the services are to be in the Weatherly Chapel.) Rev. Robert Burton, pastor of Greater Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church, Boyd, will deliver the eulogy and offer words of comfort and consolation. Visitation for family and friends is scheduled Friday evening (March 20th) from 3-6:00 p.m. also in the Weatherly Chapel.



James E. Watkins

He was united in Holy Matrimony to Viola Fortner on July 31, 1964 and to this union one son Marvin DeWayne Watkins was born.

James Edward confessed faith in Christ at an early age and united with the Greater Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church, Boyd, Alabama under the leadership of Rev. R. B. Davis. He reunited with Greater Mt. Olive and attended and served faithfully until his health began to fail. He retired from the The New York State Developmental Disabilities Service after 23 years of service.

Preceding him in death are his wife Viola, his parents, two sisters, Lolita and Leonia; three brothers, Eugene, Herman and Peter.

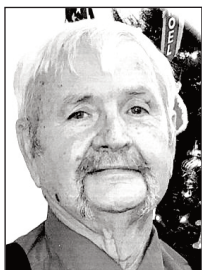
Those who remain to cherish precious memories of Crook are: his son, Marvin DeWayne Watkins and one granddaughter Zandra Watkins, both of East St. Louis, Illinois; two brothers, Calvin Thomas, Sr. Hephzibar, Ga., J.

T. Thomas, Chattanooga, Tn; four sisters, Bessie Walker, Staten Island, N. Y., Judy Daymond, Tuscaloosa, AL., Pauline Slayton and Loria Thomas of York, Alabama; one sister-in-law, Modine Walton, Livingston, Alabama, many nieces, nephews, cousins and numerous other relatives and friends who will surely miss him.

Bobby L. Norris

Mr. Bobby L. Norris, 74, of Toxey passed away Thursday, March 19, 2020, at UAB Medical Center in Birmingham. He was born November 23, 1945, in Thomasville, Alabama.

He is survived by his wife Virginia Norris of Toxey; children, Tony Norris (Sandy) of Gilbertown; Jo Anne Norris of Nicholson, GA; Angie McDevitt (Mack) of Nicholson, GA; Angela Harvison of Needham; Sarah Lynn Carter of Silas; and Allen Clanahan (Erica) of Lavaca; sister-in-law, Pauline Norris of Thomasville; 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.



Bobby L. Norris

Mr. Norris was preceded in death by his parents, William Whig Norris and Vollie Pearl Boulter Norris; daughter, Terri Turner; brothers, Elmo Norris and Chester Norris and his wife Earlene.

Due to the mandate from the Governor of Alabama on March 19th that all gatherings of 25 persons or more are prohibited to gather in any room or space at the same time, the family is holding a private graveside service at Red Springs Baptist Cemetery on Saturday, March 21, 2020. The family would like to thank you for your prayers during this difficult time.

Pallbearers: Chris Norris, Jonathan Adams, Tyler Harris, and Charles Moffett. Visit bumpersfuneralhome.com to sign the

online register and post condolences to the family. Arrangements by Bumpers Funeral Home of Butler.

Mary Martha Young Long

Graveside services for Ms. Mary Martha Young Long, age 79, of Needham, AL were held at 12:00 noon, Saturday, March 21, 2020 at Brightwater Cemetery in Needham, AL with Reverend Fred Wiley officiating.

Ms. Long was born May 12, 1940 in Sweetwater, AL. She passed away Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in Needham, AL. She was an avid Alabama football fan and loved gardening.

She is survived by her son, Danny Long (Sue) of Toxey, AL; daughter, Charlotte Hatcher of Toxey, AL; grandchildren, Matthew Long, Angel Burford, and Suzanne Conway; and great grandchildren, Dawson Hand, Canaan Long, Maddox Burford, and Marileese Ralls. She preceded in death by her parents, Dempsey Maten Young, Sr. and Ola Lee Etheridge Young; brothers, Dempsey Maten Young, Jr., Jack Maurice Young, and Norman Rayburn Young, Sr. and sister, Barbara Loretta Fauver.

Serving as pallbearers were Matthew Long, Dawson Hand, Hilton Pardue, Quinton Pardue, Timmy Glosson, and Dustin Holt.

Expressions of condolence may be offered at www.phillips-funeral-home.com. Arrangements provided by Phillips Funeral Home, 116 West Main Street, Gilbertown, AL 36908.

Send OBITUARIES to choctawsun@millry.net



Mary M. Long

February First Responders Activity Log

| Department | Forest Fire | Forest Fire Acres | Structure Fires | Vehicle Fires | Assisting Other Depts | Water Rescues | Tree Removal | Missing Person | Assist with Traffic Incidents |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Butler | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Cromwell / Halsell | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| Gilbertown | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Lisman | | | | | | | | | |
| Lusk | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| Melvin | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Needham / Land | | | | | | | | | |
| New Hope | | | | | | | | | |
| Pennington | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| Pleasant Hill | | | | | | | | | |
| Scott Mountain | | | | | | | | | |
| Toxey | | | | | | | | | |
| Yantley | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| Silas | 1 | 1.5 | | | | | | | |
| Choctaw Co Rescue Squad | | | | | | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Choctaw County Landfill will be accepting applications for a **Landfill Operations Manager** until Friday, March 27, 2020 at 4 p.m. Applicants must possess a high school diploma, be a certified landfill operator, and have current working knowledge of ADEM and EPA rules and regulations concerning landfill operations. **Application and Job Description may be picked up at the Choctaw County Commission Office, 117 S. Mulberry Ave., Suite 9, Butler, AL 36904, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

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