

CITY OF BUCHANAN
Minutes of Work Session
September 21st, 2026

Mayor: Steve Holcombe

Council Members: Angie Hood, Sterling Moore, Ron Moser, and Matt Cook were present.

Department Heads: City Clerk Sherry Taylor, Assistant Police Chief Blane Cochran, and Public Works Director Horatio Bell.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe called the work session to order.

Jana Gentry: Mrs. Gentry was not present. Mrs. Taylor handed out the library update for the council to review.

David Wooten: Mr. Wooten was not present.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe stated that he serves on the Haralson County Water Authority Board and invited Mr. Smith to attend the meeting to provide the Council with an update on the Water Authority, the countywide water system, and other related matters. Mr. Holcombe moved Mr. Smith's presentation to follow the departmental updates.

Departmental Updates

Horatio Bell, Public Works Director: Mr. Bell provided the Council with an update on activities within his department. The department has repaired four main water leaks and continues to address several leaks along Westmoreland Road. The existing service line is approximately 26 years old. Mr. Bell is obtaining a quote to replace approximately 1,000 feet of the service line on Westmoreland Road. Mr. Bell reported that the annual Fried Pie Festival was held this past Saturday. The Department collected approximately 46 cans of trash from around the square, totaling approximately two tons. The Department also purchased approximately \$500 in mulch for the square and refreshed the entrance to Addie Jane Lane with mulch. The department's dump truck recently broke down and required repairs. Mr. Bell reported that the truck has been repaired and is back in service. Mr. Bell reported that the Griffin Court subdivision is approximately 75% complete with sewer lines. Storm drainage will be completed next, followed by the water lines and remaining infrastructure. The department will need to purchase one-way signs and a stop sign for East Head Avenue and Van Wert Street. The City Attorney advised that the purchase of these signs will require Council approval during the regular session. Mr. Bell also informed the council that the sewer department has treated approximately 1,894,000 since the last council meeting.

Blane Cochran, Assistant Police Chief: Mr. Cochran updated the council on crimes and statistics. The department issued 54 citations, resulting in approximately \$11,940 in finalized fines. The department also received four new computers for the patrol vehicles. A partial grant was received from Carroll EMC, with the remaining funds raised locally.

Sherry Taylor, City Clerk: Mrs. Taylor provided an update on the City Clerk's Department. The Clerk's Office set up a tent at the Fried Pie Festival for the City. The department has also been working on updates and revisions to the Unified Development Code (UDC), with numerous changes and communications taking place throughout the month. Mrs. Glore has begun her Certified Public Manager Training program, which will take approximately nine months to complete.

Shyanne Streetman, Events Coordinator: At the Fried Pie Festival, the Mayor announced that Gene Fields will be the grand Marshall for the Light Up the Night parade. Our Annual Pumkin Caper will be October 27th at 5 pm and the Light Up the Night event will be November 28th.

Chad Smith: Mr. Smith, with the Haralson County Water Authority, provided an update regarding current water supply, usage, and system capacity. It was reported that Buchanan has historically utilized the amount of water needed each month rather than purchasing its full "take-or-pay" allocation. The city is also beginning to flush portions of the system to improve water quality without creating additional costs. The water plant is permitted to withdraw and produce up to 3.75 million gallons per day, and the plant has recently been operating at that capacity to help meet countywide demand. Bremen is currently experiencing limitations with its water system due to a damaged line at its Asa Cash Road lake, requiring additional water to be supplied from the county system. The Authority recently supplied water to fill the Southwire fire suppression tank at the Waco facility. Discussion was also held regarding the significant cost of extending water and sewer lines beneath Interstate 20 to serve the Waco area. The Authority reported that the Sims wells currently provide approximately 150,000 gallons per day. A new well and filter plant are under construction near Five Points Road, with the new well expected to produce approximately 1 million gallons per day. A recently installed booster station on Allred Road will provide additional ability to move water to the Hilltop tank and other portions of the system. The Five Points well is expected to provide additional redundancy and reliability for the Hilltop tank in the event of system failures or unexpected water loss. Construction is anticipated to be completed in the spring, with the system expected to be operational by next summer. The Authority also maintains a 200,000-gallon-per-day take-or-pay agreement with Alabama and has the ability to obtain approximately 500,000 to 800,000 gallons per day from Alabama during periods of increased demand, depending on Cleburne County's usage. The Authority stated that, despite ongoing concerns regarding the county's water supply, current production capacity, groundwater projects, and access to supplemental water provide multiple sources to meet demand. The Authority will continue investigating additional groundwater sites and is working with a geologist to identify potential locations for future wells. Mr. Smith also stated that they have a working relationship with all of the cities and the authority is ready to help as needed.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe thanks Mr. Smith for providing an update.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn

CITY OF BUCHANAN
Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
September 21st, 2026

Mayor: Steve Holcombe.

Council Members: Angie Hood, Ron Moser, Sterling Moore, and Matt Cook were present.

Department Heads: City Clerk Sherry Taylor, Assistant Police Chief Blane Cochran, and Public Works Director Horatio Bell.

Mayor Holcombe: Calls the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Holcombe, and the innovation was led by Matt Cook.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of approving the purchase of road signs. Ron Moser made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Sterling Moore seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe asked for a motion to approve the minutes for August 17th, 2026, with a correction to reflect "DOT concrete" instead of "asphalt." Ron Moser made a motion to approve the minutes for August 17th, 2026, with the correction. Sterling Moore seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Development Agreement with Frank Norment Homes, LLC: Mr. Holcombe asked for a motion to approve the development agreement with Frank Norment Homes, LLC. Ron Moser made a motion to approve the development agreement with Frank Norment Homes, LLC. Matt Cook seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Proposed Unified Development Code: The attorney stated that he had some corrections that were mainly typos. He stated Section 2.04 needs to be marked as "reserved" and the language of that code section needs to be removed and Section 2.08 cross references the wrong section numbers. It should refer to Section 2.06(7) and 2.06(3). The changes that Mr. Johnson made are fine and the proposed code is ready for adoption. Mayor Holcombe asked for a motion to approve the proposed Unified Development Code with those changes. Angie Hood made a motion to approve the proposed Unified Development Code with those changes. Sterling Moore seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

2027 Paving Priority List: Mr. Bell presented the proposed paving list and provided an update on the condition of several streets. West Head Avenue was identified as the City's top priority. Holly Street was also discussed, particularly the middle section of the street. This area has required repeated patching and experiences significant traffic from garbage trucks and school buses. It was identified as a priority is limited paving funds are available. Infra-Metals Way was discussed as another paving project. The roadway

has curb and gutter and an existing base, but the area continues to experience heavy construction traffic. It was recommended that paving be delayed until additional construction in the area is completed. The county Chairman requested approximately six months to determine whether additional development and funding arrangements may affect the project. Mr. Holcombe noted that the City has limited TSPLOST funds. Angie Hood made a motion to approve the proposed paving projects as funding becomes available. Sterling Moore seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Purchase of Road Signs: Mr. Bell presented several proposed traffic and signage changes to improve traffic flow and safety. East Head Avenue is a two-way street, and it becomes a problem when school traffic is busier. Mr. Bell is requesting that East Head Avenue be changed to a one-way street. One-way signage will be installed, along with a Do Not Enter sign for opposing traffic. He is also requesting that a stop sign be placed at the end of Van Wert Street near One Church Parking Lot to improve pedestrian safety. Morgan Street is already a one-way street near Depot Street; however additional signage will improve the flow of traffic during school hours. Matt Cook made a motion to approve the proposed traffic changes and signage. Ron Moser seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Comment: Mr. Holcombe opened the meeting to any public comments. Hal Grayson asked if there was a schedule for paving Infra-metals Way. Mr. Holcombe stated that it has been discussed that the county and city would work together to complete that paving project. The city will get more information within the next 6 months.

Mayor Holcombe: Mr. Holcombe asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sterling Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angie Hood seconds the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn

Tree Ordinance Training Notes

- Always ask for physical and electronic plans
- Sec 9.03 Landscaping and Buffers
 - Trees along the street
 - Planting around parking lot
 - Screen of plants between different land uses (buffer)
 - Trees and shrubs in each front yard
- Sec 9.04 Tree Conservation
 - Tree Survey before Land Disturbance Permit (LDP)
 - The big trees that need special permission (specimen trees)
 - The fencing that protects the roots
 - What Happens when too much woodland is cleared. Can clear up to 70%
- Plans only accepted by ...
 - Landscape Architect
 - Tree Arborist
- Need engineer scale (buy at staples)
- Even if they are not clearing over 70%, they still need to submit a tree survey before a land disturbance permit is given.
- Individual lots does not need permission to cut trees down on their property
- ONLY developments need tree surveys