



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall April 9, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor A. Drew Ferguson IV presiding.

Members Present:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox
Councilmember Judy L. Wilkinson

Members Absent:

Mayor Ferguson called Dr. Randy B. Kelley, Pastor Goodsell United Methodist Church, for opening prayer.

Mayor Ferguson called the meeting of the Mayor and City Council to order and welcomed everyone.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Kelvin Tucker, Mr. Demarcus Heard, Mr. Gelvin Polen, Ms. Monica Gunsby and Ms. Christy Henderson appeared before the Mayor and Council representing around 100 citizens concerned about the actions of some of the City of West Point's Police Officers. They stated their children are being told not to run because running will make them suspect, two or three people standing on the front porch will cause the resident to be accused of running an unruly house, their neighborhood is being targeted because of their race, and a Policeman referred to them as uneducated and ignorant. Mr. Heard stated he represented the 100 Black Men of West Point and that he has been stop seven times in the last few months. He stated he didn't think the City of West Point should have tasers because he doesn't believe they would use them properly. Ms. Henderson stated one of the Officers made a statement that she considered inappropriate to her eleven year old daughter relating to her appearance and age. She stated they feel the police actions are racial profiling and it should be stopped. They have over 400 names on a petition representing citizens who share their belief that there is a problem. She stated they are standing as one and united as one and that they are willing to work with the Mayor and Council to solve these problems.

Mayor Ferguson thanked them for their comments and asked for a copy of the petition. He stated the Mayor and Council will look into their concerns and they are also willing to work with them to find solutions. Councilmember Judy Wilkinson suggested leaders from their group meet with some of the Council members to find ways to address the concerns. It was the consensus of the Group and the Council that the meeting will be a starting point to address the citizens concerns.

MINUTES

Minutes from the March 12, 2012 regular meeting of the City Council were **approved without change.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilmember Judy Wilkinson presented the March financial report with the April cash position and forecast and made a motion to accept the report; motion seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III **passed unanimously.**

PROCLAMATION FOR PATE HUGULEY, WEST POINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Ferguson read and presented a proclamation to Mr. Pate Huguley thanking him for his years of service on the West Point Development Authority Board. Mr. Huguley served on the board from 2007 until 2012. He was named Chairman of the West Point Development Authority in 2009. He also served on the Executive Committee for Valley Partnership Board. Mayor Ferguson thanked Mr. Huguley for his devoted service to the citizens of West Point.

POVERTY INITIATIVE PRESENTATION BY TROUP COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICKY WOLFE

Troup County Commissioner, Ricky Wolfe gave a presentation on a program called Move the Mountain. The model has been implemented in Albany Georgia. The program is design to help move people out of poverty by providing them with the tools they need to move them from the poverty rolls. 30% of the citizens in Troup County are living in poverty which includes over 5,000 children. He stated his belief is that 5% of people are in poverty because of their choosing and 95% is because they lack the tools they need to get them out whether it is education through a GED, Training, or Financial advice. The County and the cities of Hogansville, LaGrange, and West Point working together could have a huge impact on lifting people out of poverty. He stated there are three phases to the plan the Recovery Plan is identifying and candidates, Resident Allies are people working with the candidates, and when the process is finish, the candidates then become Residents allies. He stated that there is no particular dollar amount currently being asked but asked for the Mayor and Council for their support with this project.

PROCLAMATION FOR VALLEY HAVEN SCHOOL

Mayor Ferguson read a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 29st through May 5th as Hike / Bike / Run week in the City of West Point. Mr. Donald Cleveland accepted the proclamation on behalf of Valley Haven. Donald Cleveland thanked everyone for their support of Valley Haven. He gave a special thanks to Councilmember Sandra Thornton for being one of the top fund raisers for Valley Haven.

PROCLAMATION FOR PHILLIP WENDELL TEAGUE, WEST POINT POLICE ASSISTANCE

Mayor Ferguson presented Mr. Phillip Wendell Teague a proclamation thanking him for his assistance and cooperation in assisting with the arrest and successful prosecutions of offenders while working closely with the West Point Police Department.

PLOCLAMATION FOR KEEP TROUP BEAUTIFUL

Mayor Ferguson read a proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Keep Troup Beautiful month in the City of West Point. Mr. Thomas Scott accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Keep Troup Beautiful Committee and invited everyone to join in the clean up on Saturday, April 21st. Mayor Ferguson asked the members of the 100 Black Men of West Point for their support in this event.

RESOLUTION FOR COMMUNITY GARDENING IRRIGATION

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter read a resolution in a form of a motion to approve the support of community gardens by the City of West Point providing water at no charge as long as the garden is operated in an orderly, neat and sustainable manner. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III seconded the motion and **passed unanimously**.

AWARD TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PHASE II PROJECT TO CONTRACTOR

Councilmember Sandra Thornton read a resolution in a form of a motion to award the Streetscape-Phase II Project which includes improvements in downtown West Point on West 8th Street between U.S. Highway 29 (10th Street) and 4th Avenue to Georgia Development Partners, LLC. Georgia Development Partners, LLC bid of \$355,745.75 was the lowest bid. The City of West Point secured a Transportation Enhancement Grant of \$350,000 for the project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III. During the discussion Councilmember Judy Wilkinson emphasized when the City receives grant monies, the monies have to be spent for the specific projects only. The statement was in reference to a citizens stating the monies could be used for other purposes. The motion **passed unanimously**.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox made a motion to amend Chapter 12 “Offenses” and Chapter 20 “Traffic” of the City of West Point Code of Ordinances stating the Mayor and Council have determine that the changes (per attached) would be in the best interest of the residents, property owners and citizens of the City to adopt and amend these chapters. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter seconded the motion **passed unanimously**.

OTHER

City Manager Ed Moon stated there will be a called Mayor and Council meeting on April 12th at 5:00 for the Council to adopt the Bonds for the Recreation Project. There will be a Work Session on April 21 and that all work sessions are open to the public. He also stated there will be two meeting open to the public to discuss TASERS.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Richard McCoy
City Clerk

A. Drew Ferguson IV
Mayor