



The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall May 14, 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 Sandra Thornton  
Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox  
Councilmember Judy L. Wilkinson

Members Absent:

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall

Mayor Ferguson called Rev. Frank Kennedy, Pastor Pilgrim Baptist Church, for opening prayer.

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

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the April 9, 2012 regular meeting and the April 12, 2012 called meeting of the City Council were **approved without change.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councilmember Judy Wilkinson presented the April financial report with the May cash position and forecast and made a motion to accept the report; motion seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter **passed unanimously.**

**ADDRESS COUNCIL EMORY PALMER**

Mr. Emory Palmer thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to introduce himself. He stated he was a candidate for Superior Court Judge for District 4 which includes West Point. If elected he promised to apply the law firmly and fairly and to treat everybody on the other side of the bench as he would want to be treated.

Mayor Ferguson thanked Mr. Palmer for his comments and wished him well with his campaign.

## **2011 AUDIT – J ROBYN UNDERWOOD**

J. Robyn Underwood, C.P.A., presented the audited 2011 City Financial Statements to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Underwood recited a general overview and pointed out certain highlights concerning the City's bookkeeping and financial condition. The 2011 Financial Statements were unqualified, meaning there were no major discrepancies in the City's financial records, which were in good order. Mayor Ferguson thanked Ms. Underwood for her presentation.

## **TASERS RESOLUTION**

Mayor Ferguson asked for a motion to pass a resolution to adopt a use of force Taser policy and to authorize the West Point Police to carry and use tasers. Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox made said motion. During the discussion Councilmember Sandra Thornton expressed her opposition to the resolution. She stated she was not against the Police and that she supports the Police and their effort to protect the city but the policy bothered her. She stated the taser issue has divided the community and the Police needs to work on community relationships. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III stated citizens had told him the Mayor and Council was not listening to them. Councilmember Downs referred to the adoption of the Citizens Review Board as an example that the Mayor and Council were listening. Councilmember Judy Wilkinson stated she attended a police department meeting and can confirm the department addresses every issue that is presented. Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked the Mayor for a roll call vote. Mayor Ferguson called for a roll call vote. The resolution **passed on a 4 to 1 vote Councilmember Sandra Thornton voted No.**

## **OTHER**

Mayor Ferguson reminded everyone of the West Point Golf Tournament Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in LaGrange at the Overlook Golf Course. He stated the committee has raised around \$50,000 to be used for youth services and other projects. He also stated the next work session will be Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Richard McCoy  
City Clerk

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A. Drew Ferguson IV  
Mayor