



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall August 27, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor A. Drew Ferguson IV opening the session.

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:

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Agenda Reviewed in it's entirely before discussion

The Mayor reviewed the agenda and stated without objection from the council the meeting will precede with the outlined agenda.

- **Opportunity Zone Designation by the Bleakly Group**

Jonathan Gelber gave a presentation on the Opportunity Zone Designation. He stated Opportunity Zones allow Job Tax Credit from the State of Georgia up to \$3,500 per job created for ten years, the lowest job creation threshold of any job tax credit program is 2 jobs, and the designation provides businesses of any nature to qualify. He also stated Opportunity Zones Designation does not change any zoning in the city. If areas within the Opportunity Zone Designation are zoned residential and someone wants to have them changed to commercial, they will have to go through the regular process with the Mayor and Council to make the changes.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Opportunity Zone Plan**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the Opportunity Zone Plan will be on the next agenda for consideration by the Mayor and Council.

- **Urban Redevelopment Plan**

City Manager Ed Moon stated state law requires the Mayor and Council to approve an Urban Redevelopment Plan in order to qualify for the Tax Credits and Grants. The City will not be creating another “Plan” per say, the City of West Point met all the requirements for the Urban Redevelopment Plan when they adopted the 10th Street Redevelopment Plan.

- **2013 Street Paving**

City Manager Ed Moon stated Robinson Paving Company has agreed to remove and replace pavement on 3rd Avenue from 10th street to 15th Street (Patch with 4’ of 19 mm Binder), Overlay 3rd Avenue from 10th Street to previously paved section at 12th Street and restripe the traffic paint. (Overlay thickness to be 9.5mm placed at 1 ¼ inch thick) and remove and replace pavement with most severe failures on O.G. Skinner from SR29 to Park Lane. (Patch with 4” of 19mm Binder) for \$149,891.00. The contract will be on the next agenda for consideration.

- **Budget Calendar**

City Manager Ed Moon reviewed the City of West Point 2013 Budget Calendar. The process started on August 6, 2013 by distributing the budget request forms to Department Directors, Public Engagement Meeting on October 31, 2013 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., a Public hearing November 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., another Public hearing November 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. and Presentation for adoption at the December 9, 2013 Council 6:00 Mayor and Council meeting.

- **Downtown Parking**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the Downtown Parking concerns were not an action agenda item but one that needed to be discussed. Councilmember Benjamin Wilcox expressed some concerns from some downtown merchants that Point University Students are parking in front of businesses and leaving their vehicles all day, hindering customers from having access to their business. The Mayor and Council asked Mr. Moon to bring them recommendations that they could consider to address the merchants concerns.

- **CB&T Bank Request for Extension**

Sammy Osborne stated on behalf of CB&T he was requesting the zoning variance be continued for a structure on by CB&T on East 10th Street. They have a lease agreement with a healthcare provider that will bring new economic activity to West Point, and if allowed, they will convert some lobby space into clinical offices for the doctors, staff and patients. Representatives from West Georgia Health Physicians were present and asked the variance continue for five years. The Mayor and Council will have further discussion at the next work session.

- **Board Appointment Application**

City Manager Ed Moon reviewed the Mayor and Council Board Appointments. It was noted the Election Appointees were not on the listing. Mr. Moon stated if the procedure was adopted at the next meeting, the advertisement would be complete and they could make some appointments by November. This item will be on the next work session agenda.

- **Sherrie Dixon Retirement Resolution**

Mayor Ferguson stated Sherrie Dixon plans to retire at the end of the month and a resolution for her years of service will be on the next agenda.

- **Harold Lamar “Mossy” Cotton Retirement Resolution**

Mayor Ferguson stated Harold Cotton plans to retire at the end of the month also and a resolution for his years of service will be on the next agenda.

- **Consider Items for Business Meeting**

Mayor Ferguson stated all the new business items listed will be on the next work session meeting agenda.

Mayor & Council Comments

Council member Benjamin Wilcox asked whether the speed setting for the traffic light on 10th Street in front of Rodger’s BBQ be set to change at a faster pace. The City Manager will address it with the Utility Director. Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked if the Better Hometown program still in effect. City Manager Ed Moon stated the program is still in operation but the Program has been redefined and is called the Main Street Program.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned