



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall May 4, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox

Members Absent:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III

Public Hearing Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell opened the public hearing to amend the City's Zoning Ordinance. The amendment will delete section 19 C (11) subsection 3 entitled Variable Message Signs and inserting a new Section 19.3.C (11) Variable message signs shall be allowed only in CGN zoning districts, and shall conform to (A) Signs that flash, blink, show animation or video and/or display any effect that has the appearance of motion including moving text shall be prohibited. (B) The sign shall display static messages only and static copy shall change no more frequently than once every twenty (20) seconds. (C) Variable message signs shall only be allowed within a monument sign, except as may be otherwise provided in the City Code. (D) No variable message sign may operate at a brightness level as measured at a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet. The sign owner shall provide a certificate of lumens to the City demonstration compliance. Each variable message sign must contain a light sensing device that will adjust the brightness of the display to conform to this ordinance as the natural ambient light conditions change. City Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated the Planning Board has approved the changes. There were no public comments. Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell closed the public hearing.

Agenda Reviewed

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Tramell reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on agenda Item

There were no public comments.

New Business

- **Virginia Cook Building**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell stated the Virginia Cook Building guidelines are in their packet for the Council to review and make suggestions. He asked if there were any further discussion. Councilmember Sandra Thornton suggested the name should include Nora Potts and Ollie Winston. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter suggested naming two of the main entry rooms in their honor but leaving the name of the building Virginia Cook and changing Day Care Center to Activity Center. The guidelines and naming of the building will be on the May 8th business meeting for consideration.

The current guidelines for:

Weekend Rate (Friday, Saturday or Sunday)

- \$500 8am – 12pm (All times EST)
- \$250 8am – 6pm
- Use of full facility rooms A,B & C and kitchen facility
- Use of tables and chairs
- Permission to use building the evening before to decorate, beginning at 6:00 pm
- Refundable damage4 deposit of \$100 required
- 2-day rental discount for Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday, \$750

Weekend Rate for Birthday Party 12 and Under

- \$75 4-hours (no later than 8pm)
- Use of A&B rooms and kitchen facility
- Use of tables and chairs
- Refundable damage deposit of \$50 required

Weekend Rate for Baby Shower, Wedding Shower or Dinner

- \$125 11 am – 8pm
- Use of A & B rooms and kitchen facility
- Use of tables and chairs
- Refundable damage deposit of \$50 required

Weekdays (Monday – Thursday)

- \$200 full-day meeting 8am – 5pm
- \$100 luncheon meeting 10:00 am – 3:00pm
- Use A & B rooms and kitchen facility

- Use of tables and chairs
- Refundable damage deposit of \$50 required

Weekday Rate for Birthday party 12 and Under

- \$50 4 hours (no later than 8pm)
- Use of A&B rooms and kitchen facility
- Use of tables and chairs
- Refundable damage deposit of \$50 required

Weekday Rate for Baby Shower, Wedding Shower or Dinner

- \$125 11 am – 8pm
- Use of A & B rooms and kitchen facility
- Use of tables and chairs
- Refundable damage deposit of \$50 required

Weeknights (Monday – Thursday)

- \$100 5pm – 9pm
- Use of A & B rooms and kitchen facility
- Use of tables and chairs
- Refundable damage deposit of \$50 required – no deposit for non-profits

Building is not limited to aforementioned events! All events not listed must be approved by City.

Non-Profit only!!! No use for paid admissions!!!

- **Active Life Center**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell sated Troup County has requested the Senior Citizen Center be renamed the Active Life Center. All the other Senior Citizen Centers in the County is named Active Life Centers. The name change will make West Point Center conformed with the others. The request will also be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Transportation Project**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell there were no changes from the last work session the State has additional LMIG funds for paving. The grant is a 70% grant of \$210,000. The funds will have to be used for safety purposes. The letter submitted included 3rd Avenue where the road transition from urban downtown to two lane rural road. One fatality occurred there over the past 20 years. 3rd Avenue and West 11th Street on street parking is dangerous for vehicles entering on West 11th and there is no pedestrian crossing for a sidewalk. The

funds will help protect the on-street parking and calm traffic. The project will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **SPLOST V**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell stated there were no changes from the last work session. The Troup County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Five (SPLOST V) will be on the November 2017 Ballot. If passed the collection will begin in January 2019. The City of West Point will receive 1.5 million for the City and the County will allow 1.5 million of their portion to the City of West Point toward recreation. The County is responsible for recreation in the City. Other projects for the SPLOST will include street paving and sidewalks. The SPLOST tax will continue to be on agendas for further discussion.

- **Wireless Communication Service Agreement**

Mayor Pro-Tem stated there were no changes from the last work session. A service agreement with Metropolitan Communications will be on the next business agenda for consideration. The City of West Point currently has five sirens that require maintenance. The agreement will be between the City of LaGrange, Troup County, and the City of West Point. The cost is \$756 per siren unit per year with a maximum rate increase of 1.5% per year. Fire Chief Milton and Police Chief Tony Bailey took part in the agreement.

- **Library Contract**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell stated there were no changes from the last work session both library boards, the West Point Library Association contract for services of \$2,083.33 per month and the Chambers County Library Board of \$1,250.00 per month are in agreement to continue with the current contract. There was no further discussion. The contracts will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **White Chimneys**

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Tramell stated he has personal interest in the next items on the agenda and if there were further discussion he would excuse himself from the meeting until after the discussions. There was no further discussion. The item was “White Chimney” which is the property located at 1200 2nd Avenue formally McCarthy Funeral Home. The property is currently zoned for Commercial Use and the City Ordinance requires Council approval to allow ground level residential use in Central Business Districts. The purposed project would add twenty-two rooms to the current structure and would comply with all other regulations including the Historic Preservation requirements. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **City Property 1st Avenue**

There were no changes from the last work session. The City of West Point own the property map number 1050 000 217 which runs behind the 1200 2nd Avenue property and is listed as 1st Avenue. Photos from 1993 and 2016 showed how much the property has eroded. The recommendation is to sub-divide the property and sale the property to the adjacent property owners. City Attorney Jeffrey Todd stated the adjacent property owner would have the first option to purchase the property. The City would retain easements for any utility lines and the levy that is on the property.

- **Amend Sign Ordinance**

City Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated a resolution to amend the City of West Point sign ordinance changing Variable message signs to be allowed in CGN, CHV, I-1, and I-2 zones. The amendment includes deleting section 19 C (11) subsection 3 entitled Variable Message Signs and inserting a new Section 19.3.C (11) Variable message signs shall be allowed only in CGN zoning districts, and shall conform to (A) Signs that flash, blink, show animation or video and/or display any effect that has the appearance of motion including moving text shall be prohibited. (B) The sign shall display static messages only and static copy shall change no more frequently than once every twenty (20) seconds. (C) Variable message signs shall only be allowed within a monument sign, except as may be otherwise provided in the City Code. (D) No variable message sign may operate at a brightness level as measured at a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet. The sign owner shall provide a certificate of lumens to the City demonstration compliance. Each variable message sign must contain a light sensing device that will adjust the brightness of the display to conform to this ordinance as the natural ambient light conditions change. The amendment will be on the next business agenda for further discussion.

Consider Items for Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell reviewed the items on the next business agenda.

Mayor, Council, and other Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Tramell stated the Hike Bike Run and the River Festival events will be Saturday, May 6th. He encouraged the Councilmembers and community to support the events.

There were no further comments.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter. **Passed unanimously**. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.