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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall October 29, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor A. Drew Ferguson IV opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter  
Councilmember Sandra Thornton  
Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox

Members Absent:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III  
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall  
Councilmember Judy L. Wilkinson

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments

**Agenda Reviewed in it's entirety before discussion**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **CHIP Funds for Housing**

Ms. Amy Grantham, representative with CHIP Funds for Housing stated the City of West Point received the \$200,000 Grant for housing improvement for the 2013 session. The City of West Point application scored the highest in the state. Residents, who are 62 or older, own their home, occupy the home, and a household of two with an income up to 17,000, a household of four with income over \$20,000. She stated the amount an individual may received have increased to 35,000 per project and the years an owner has to live in the house after projects ends have been reduced from eleven years to five. The City may put out an RFP for program administrator and appoint an administrator and adopt a resolution for the matching funds at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- **2014 Draft Budget**

City Manager Ed Moon gave a brief presentation of the proposed 2014 City of West Point Budget. He highlighted the Forward Fund and other key areas such as a 2% increase in water and sewer rates, decrease in sales tax collections, and increase in property taxes. The increase in property taxes is mainly due to the state shifting the sales for vehicle tags from sales tax to property taxes. The total proposed operation budget is \$17,638,981 and the

overall total proposed 2014 Budget is \$20,380,268. Mr. Moon stated the entire proposed 2014 budget will be posted on the City's web-site tomorrow. October 30, 2013.

- **Annexation Request from Harris County**

City Planner Sammy Osborne stated Harris County wants to annex 12 acres of land off 103 Davidson Road into the City of West Point for future expansion of the Harris County Industrial Park. The application will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Mayor and City Council Board Appointments**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the application received for board appointments are included in the packets. Mr. Moon stated to disregard Mike Crook's name it was place on the list in error. He stated the Mayor and Council may go into executive session to discuss the appointments.

- **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**

Ms. Trudye Johnson asked the Mayor and Council to consider another date for the listening session for the budget that is set for Thursday, October 31, 2013 to allow more time for the public to review the material. Mayor Ferguson stated the session will be held on Thursday but will schedule another session if needed. There will also be two public hearings before the budget is set.

Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked the Mayor and Council to pray for the bereaved families of Mr. Harris Nader and Mr. John Hoggs. Mr. Nader a local businessman funeral was today October 29, 2013 and Mr. Hoggs a former City of West Point Councilmember will be tomorrow at 11:00 at Bethlehem Baptist Church.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned