



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
West Point Council Chambers

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall on April 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joel B. Finlay
Councilmember Gerald E. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick

Members Absent:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III

Review Agenda

Mayor Steve Tramell called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Kevin Patrick made said motion. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

Public Comment on Any Items

No Public Comment

New Business

• **Proclamation for Senior Hunger Awareness**

Mayor Steve Tramell presented and read a proclamation recognizing Senior Hunger Awareness, highlighting the importance of addressing food insecurity among older adults and encouraging community support to meet their nutritional needs.

• **Troup County Hazard Mitigation Plan & Resolution**

Elizabeth Brock, Deputy Director of the Troup County EMA, presented the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes a review of the community's strategy for evaluating hazards, identifying resources and capabilities, selecting appropriate actions, and developing and implementing mitigation measures aimed at reducing or eliminating future damage. The plan is designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community's residents. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that every county and municipality maintain a pre-disaster mitigation plan and adopt such a plan to remain eligible for certain disaster assistance programs and mitigation grant opportunities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan and associated resolution will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council business meeting for consideration.

- **Veteran’s Day City Holiday**

City Manager Ed Moon presented a proposal to add Veteran’s Day as an official city holiday. The city currently recognizes ten designated holidays, which aligns with the average range of most municipalities, typically between ten and fourteen holidays annually. Veteran’s Day is observed each year on November 11 and serves as a tribute to all veterans for their service and sacrifice. If approved, all non-essential city facilities and operations, including plan review services, will be closed in observance of the holiday. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council business meeting for consideration.

- **Employee Incentive Pay Policy**

City Manager Ed Moon presented a proposal to add an Employee Incentive Pay Policy. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines under which the City may award employee incentive pay to recognize exceptional performance, promote employee retention, support organizational goals, and address special circumstances, while ensuring compliance with Georgia law, City ordinances, and budgetary constraints. Incentive pay is intended to be prospective in nature and tied to defined performance objectives or retention needs and should not be construed as a gratuity for past services. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council business meeting for consideration.

- **Sale of City Property**

City Manager Ed Moon presented the proposed sale of a 0.4-acre parcel of city-owned property located between 3rd and 4th Avenue. The property has been abandoned and is no longer in use. City staff has contacted all abutting property owners regarding the sale. The City will cover the cost of the survey and all closing expenses. The plat and deed will establish necessary easements to ensure access for adjacent property owners, as well as provide for city utility easements. After accounting for survey and closing costs, the City is expected to generate approximately \$4,500 in revenue from the sale. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council business meeting for consideration.

- **Historic Preservation Commission Resolution and Appointment**

City Manager Ed Moon presented that Section 2-43(c) of the City Code currently requires all members of the Historic Preservation Commission to be residents of the city. As written, this provision disqualifies any non-resident members from continuing to serve. City Attorney Alex Dixon recommended that the City Council consider amending the ordinance to allow non-residents to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. For a city the size of West Point, limiting membership exclusively to residents may unnecessarily restrict the pool of qualified candidates. Expertise in historic preservation, architecture, planning, and related fields is essential to the Commission’s effectiveness and should be a key consideration. The current members of the Commission have had many years of experience, have completed Historic Preservation Commission training, and have consistently applied the West Point HPC Guidelines in a fair and uniform manner. If the ordinance is amended, four applications to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission have been included in your packet: Jane Fuller (incumbent), Joe Thompson (incumbent), Debra Robertson (incumbent), and Jason Richardson. The City Attorney will prepare a resolution for consideration at the next City Council business meeting.

- **Resolution in support of City of Milton, Georgia**

City Attorney Alex Dixon presented a strong, Georgia-wide resolution in support of the City of Milton’s position. Across Georgia, numerous cities adopted resolutions supporting City of Milton v. Chang and joined amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs advocating for reversal of the lower court ruling. These resolutions generally

recognized that the case raised significant statewide concerns about municipal liability, particularly the risk of holding cities responsible for objects located outside normal travel lanes. Cities expressed concern that the prior ruling could create substantial financial burdens and force municipalities to alter or remove common infrastructure within public rights-of-way. As a result, dozens of Georgia cities—more than 50 in total—formally supported Milton’s position, emphasizing the need to preserve reasonable limits on liability and protect local governments’ ability to serve their communities effectively. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council business meeting for consideration.

Other

Mayor Steve Trammell announced the Hats & Heels event on May 2, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, in Downtown River Park.

Councilmember Sandra Thornton shared that the Betty LaGayle Foundation event was a success. During the event, a plaque was presented to her family in honor of former West Point Assistant City Clerk LaGayle Autrey, which will be displayed at West Point City Hall.

The next Business Meeting May 11, 2026 5:30p.m.

- Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution
- Veteran’s Day Holiday Designation
- Employee Incentive Pay Policy
- Disposal of 12th Street Surplus Right of Way
- Historic Preservation Commission Resolution and Appointment
- Resolution in Support of the City of Milton, Georgia

ADJOURN

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.