



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 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 August 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Pro-Tem Joel B. Finlay opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter

Members Absent:

Mayor Steve Tramell

PUBLIC HEARING – 5:30 PM

- Millage Rate 2026 (Property Tax Increase)

This is a public hearing to receive comments from the citizens of West Point regarding the 2026 millage rate. Please note that this hearing is specifically for public comments on the millage rate and is not intended for questions or debate. If you have questions regarding the millage rate, contact information for all Councilmembers is available on the City's website. You may also contact City Hall staff for assistance. Thank you for attending this public hearing. At this time, is there anyone present who would like to make a public comment regarding the 2026 millage rate? Please limit your comments to five minutes.

No public comment.

Review Agenda

Mayor Pro-Tem Joel B. Finlay called the work session to order. He reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick made said motion. Councilmember Sandra Thornton seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

Public Comment on Any Items

No Public Comment

New Business

- **2027 Budget Calendar**

City Manager Ed Moon stated that the 2026 Budget Calendar was included in the Council packet. Department Directors have been asked to submit their proposed budgets by September 25, 2026. City Manager Ed Moon will meet with the Mayor and individual Council Members, as needed, from September 28 through October 26, 2026. At the Work Session scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2026, City Manager Ed Moon will present the assembled proposed budget to the Mayor and Council. Public hearings on the proposed budget will be held on November 9, 2026, and December 1, 2026. On December 14, 2026, the proposed budget will be presented to the Mayor and Council for adoption.

- **Resolution for Sale of Property at West 12th Street**

City Attorney Alex Dixon presented to the council a resolution authorizing the sale of an abandoned portion of West 12th Street that is no longer needed for municipal purposes. Other adjoining property owners were contacted but expressed no interest in purchasing any portion of the property. The property will be sold to West Point GA, LLC for its fair market value of \$6,349.50, plus \$750.00 for the cost of the survey, with the purchaser also responsible for all legal and closing costs. The property will be conveyed by quitclaim deed, with the City reserving a perpetual utility easement.

- **Mural Easement for West 8th Street**

Meghan Richardson, Economic Development Director, reported that the city was selected as one of five Georgia communities to participate in the Georgia Council for the Arts' Red Clay Creative Cohort. Through the program, the city received a \$20,000 grant, along with training and technical assistance. Ms. Richardson explained that the purpose of the program is to use creative placemaking to strengthen public spaces, foster community connections, and enhance quality of life. She also announced two free Creative Placemaking Workshops that will introduce the program and provide information about available funding opportunities. The workshops are scheduled for Saturday, August 1, at 9:30 a.m. at the West Point Depot and Tuesday, August 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Virginia Cook Activity Center.

- **2026 Proposed Millage Rate**

Mayor Pro-Tem Joel B. Finlay opened the floor for discussion regarding the proposed 2026 Millage Rate. The City completed the required three public hearings during the month of August, and no public comments or objections were received regarding the proposed rate. Council discussed the impact of the millage rate and expressed a desire to maintain the current rate rather than increase taxes. The consensus of Council was to keep the 2026 Millage Rate unchanged from the prior year at 7.852 mills.

Other

No Comment.

The next Business Meeting, September 14, 2026 5:30p.m.

- Resolution for Sale of Property at West 12th Street
- Mural Easement for West 8th Street

ADJOURN Work Session

Mayor Pro-Tem Joel B. Finlay asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

Business Meeting

- **2026 Millage Rate**

Mayor Pro-Tem Joel B. Finlay calls the business meeting to order. Do I hear a motion to approve the 2026 Millage Rate. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs made a motion to approve the 2026 Millage Rate at 7.852 mills. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Joel B. Finlay asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kristin Lester, City Clerk

Steven M. Tramell, Mayor