



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 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 May 26, 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 Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick

Members Absent:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall

Review Agenda

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

Public Comment on Any Items

No Public Comment

New Business

- **Natural Gas Liaison Update**

Utility Director Sammy Inman distributed materials to the Mayor and Council and presented an update on Natural Gas Service for the Public Service Commission (PSC) Pipeline Safety Program. He explained that the Natural Gas Liaison serves as the point of contact between the utility company, local government, customers, contractors, and regulatory agencies regarding natural gas service and infrastructure matters. Responsibilities include working with the Georgia Public Service Commission on regulatory matters, explaining PSC rules and safety requirements, addressing compliance issues, and coordinating inspections, permits, and emergency response communication. Municipalities are required to complete this training every two years.

- **Historic Preservation Commission**

City Attorney Alex Dixon presented Georgia law concerning the residency requirement for membership on an Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). **OCGA Sec 44-10-24 specifically requires that all members of an historic preservation commission shall reside within the jurisdiction they are serving.** So, members of the HPC must be residents of the City of West Point. Out of state residents certainly would not qualify, but not even residents of Troup or Harris County if not residents within the city. The city council will need to act to rescind the new ordinance voted on May 11, 2026 and reinstate the old ordinance. The non-resident members are automatically disqualified. We will also need to take whatever action the Mayor and Council decide for appointment of new members to the HPC. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council business meeting for consideration.

- **Homestead Exemption Referendum**

City Attorney Alex Dixon presented that legislation, HB 1067, was signed by Gov. Brian Kemp on May 11, 2026. The legislation provides a homestead exemption from City of West Point ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for qualifying residents of the city. The exemption will appear on 2027 tax notices if approved by voters. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated he will prepare a resolution and referendum for City Council consideration at the next business meeting. The Troup County Board of Elections and Harris County Board of Elections superintendents will need the resolution and referendum by June 8 in order to the measure on the November 3, 2026, election ballot. Residents of West Point in both Troup and Harris counties will cast their votes on the referendum during the November election.

Other

Councilmember Sandra Thornton announced Juneteenth Celebration will include a Freedom Walk on May 31st. Starting at John Hoggs Park and ending at Lanett City Hall.

There also will be a Gospel Fest on June 14th and Community Festival on June 19th.

Councilmember Kevin Patrick announced Push That Firetruck event at 10:00 AM on June 6th and kickball game will be held on June 6 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM held at the West Point Recreation field, between Police and Fire/EMS. Community welcome to join.

The next Business Meeting, June 8, 2026 5:30p.m.

- Retirement Proclamation for Jim Outman, Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Historic Preservation Commission Resolution & Appointment
- Homestead Exemption Resolution & Referendum

ADJOURN

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Sandra Thornton made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Joel B. Finaly; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.