City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, October 27, 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 October 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:
Mayor Pro-Tempore Joel B. Finlay
Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter

Members Absent:
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 Joel B. Finlay made said motion. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

Public Comment on Any Items

No public comment.

New Business

- **2027 Proposed City Budget**

City Manager Ed Moon presented the Proposed 2027 Budget, totaling $28,915,631.64 across all funds, reflecting a 10% increase from the previous year.
The proposed budget includes the following recommendations: Utility Rate Adjustments: A 4% increase in base rates for residential, commercial, and industrial water, sewer, and gas services. Garbage Service: No proposed increase. Credit Card Processing Fee: Effective January 1, 2027, a 3.25% transaction fee will be passed on to customers paying by credit card. Reconnect Fee: A $35.00 fee will be charged when service is restored following disconnection for nonpayment. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA): A 4% adjustment for employees. Salary and Benefits: Totaling $6,189,993.00. Projected capital projects for 2027 include improvements to the Water Plant, Water Intake, infrastructure improvements, and the Long Cane Creek Bridge.

- **Surplus City Vehicles and Equipment**

City Clerk Kristin Lester recommended to surplus city equipment that is no longer in service and to sell on Govdeals. Public Works Department has a 200-Gallon Commercial Gas Power Sprayer System, Serial#7046082H115Z20011, 1996 Ford F150 Truck, VIN#1FTDF17W8VNB78670, 2000 International 4700 4x2 T444E Street Sweeper, VIN#1HTSCABM51H338327, and a 1994

GM Kodiak Sway Car VIN#1GBP7H1J5SJ100029. The items will be on the next business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Memorandum of Understanding with Hyundai Transys Gerogia Powertrain**

Economic Development Director Meghan Richardson provided an overview of Project Hawkeye, Hyundai Transys Georgia Powertrain's planned expansion of its existing manufacturing operations in West Point. The expansion includes upgrades to two existing manufacturing facilities to support hybrid transmission production and construction of a third, state-of-the-art facility for hybrid transmission motor production. Key project details include Total Investment: $559,183,000, New Jobs: 323, Existing Jobs Retained: 1,258, Building/Real Property Investment: $156,638,000, Equipment/Personal Property Investment: $402,545,000, Average Annual Wage: $63,897 ($31.36 per hour). As part of the economic development incentive package, the property tax abatement schedule: First Year 100%, Years 2-5 65%, Years 6-20 50%. The Memorandum of Understanding was executed by the West Point Development Authority on October 8, 2026, and acknowledged by the Troup County Board of Tax Assessors on October 13, 2026. The expansion is expected to strengthen West Point's manufacturing base, support the growing hybrid vehicle industry, and provide additional employment opportunities throughout Troup County.

- **Christmas on the Hooch**

City Manager Ed Moon announced that Christmas on the Hooch is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the West Point Depot. This free community event attracts attendees from the surrounding communities and neighboring areas. Sponsorships are being requested to help offset the costs of major attractions, including a real snow play area, cookie decorating, reindeer food making, and other holiday activities. The Mayor and Council provided a $5,000 sponsorship for last year's event. This item will be placed on the upcoming Business Meeting agenda for Council's consideration.

Other

Councilmember Sandra Thornton announced that W. Lee Mortuary's Community Fall Festival will be held November 7, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, in the Downtown River Park.

The next Business Meeting, November 9, 2026 5:30p.m.

- Public Hearing for 2027 Proposed City Budget
- Surplus City Vehicles and Equipment
- Memorandum of Understanding with Hyundai Transys Georgia Powertrain
- Christmas on the Hooch

ADJOURN

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. 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.