



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 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 September 29, 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 Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter

Members Absent:

Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick
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

Narfunda Ross, Team WHIP, presented information regarding the WHIP Community Walk and Health Fair, scheduled for October 4 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lanett Regional Airport. The event will celebrate eleven years of community engagement and awareness of breast cancer among both men and women.

New Business

- **Joint Development Authority Resolution**

Miss Kendrick, Development Authority of Columbus, presented information regarding a new resolution for the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority, which would bring surrounding counties together to collaborate on regional economic development efforts. Benefits of the partnership would include shared resources, job tax credits, a regional website presence, expanded demographic information for a larger region, marketing representation, a joint legislative delegation, coordinated grant requests, and reduced costs for certain services. There would be no cost to the City to participate. The City would appoint two representatives to participate in quarterly meetings, with a virtual attendance option available. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council Business Meeting for consideration.

- **New Audit Firm**

Ed Moon, City Manager, presented a recommendation to hire a new independent audit firm. Will Robinson, CPA, is transitioning his practice to audit preparation and consulting services and will assist the City with preparing its financial records. Because he will be assisting with audit

preparation, an independent firm is needed to perform the actual audits. Will Robinson recommended Williamson & Co. CPAs of Cartersville, Georgia. The firm performs financial, compliance, and Single Audits, with Christian Hatch, CPA, serving as the City's account manager. The goal is to complete the outstanding audits and return the City to full audit compliance during 2027. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next City Council Business Meeting for consideration.

- **2027 Budget Update**

Ed Moon, City Manager, provided an update on the 2027 City Budget. The budget is in the preliminary stages, with departmental requests received and revenues and expenditures under review. The draft budget is scheduled to be presented at the October 27 Work Session.

- **November Election Sample Ballet and Voting Schedule**

Alex Dixon, City Attorney, presented the November 3, 2026, Election Sample Ballots for Troup and Harris Counties to the City Council. The ballot includes the City of West Point Homestead Exemption, House Bill 1067, Act 535, which asks:

“Shall the Act be approved which provides a homestead exemption from City of West Point ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city?”

Early voting for Troup County voters will be available Saturday, October 24, and Monday, October 26, through Friday, October 30, at 1122 O.G. Skinner Drive, West Point. Early voting for Harris County voters will be available at the Harris County Election Office. On Election Day, November 3, 2026, voters will vote at their regular precincts.

Other

Councilmember Sandra Thornton announced that the Team WHIP Community Health Fair and Walk for Cancer will be held on October 4, 2026, at the Lanett Regional Airport. She also announced that the Betty/LaGayle Foundation Annual Walk for a Cure will be held on October 25, 2026, at the Downtown West Point Pavilion. Councilmember Thornton further announced that W. Lee Mortuary's Fall Festival will be held in November and is seeking sponsorships and volunteers.

The next Business Meeting, October 12, 2026 5:30p.m.

- Joint Development Authority Resolution
- New Audit Firm

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.