



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall December 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox

Members Absent:

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall

Agenda Reviewed

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Tramell reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on agenda Item

Coleman Reeves, representing the Downtown West Point Development Authority stated the Authority has been working on purchasing the property on 2nd Avenue currently the Woodyard and has reach an agreement with the owner. The property is approximately 12.3 acres and will be used for commercial, parking and greenspace. He asked the Mayor and Council to consider supporting the purchase with \$350,000 from the Forward Fund.

New Business

- **2018 Budget Proposed Budget**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. He reviewed elements of the 2018 Budget which include 2% COLA. Total operating budget will be \$20,367,802. Copies of the proposed budget are available at City Hall and the budget is posted on the City's web-site. The Budget will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

- **10th Street Property Exchange**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The City of West Point has worked out an agreement for property exchange with Bethlehem Baptist Church. Bethlehem own 0.36 acre, more or less east of part of tract 44

with a building. The City owns 0.607 acre, more or less of the west part of tract 44. Subject to the City's completion of the conditions set forth in O.C.G.A. 36-37-6, which if satisfied, will result in an affirmative vote of the Mayor and Council to conclude the transaction, Bethlehem agrees to exchange, swap and convey the Bethlehem Parcel for the City Parcel. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

- **West Point Development Authority Funding Agreement**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The City of West Point and the West Point Development Authority have a joint interest in the economic development of the City. The City agrees to the extent necessary to dedicate funds from its ad valorem tax receipts to support the payments authority. The City and the Authority have determined that such payments will achieve valid public purposes and will promote and expand trade, commerce and public good and welfare of the City of West Point and its citizens. The City shall pay to the Authority \$120,000.00 per year for ten (10) years. The Authority shall use such funds to further its powers and duties as authorized under the constitutional amendment creating the West Point Development Authority, as may be amended from time to time, and pursuant to Georgia law. Each party will have 21 days to review. The city will run advertisement in the newspaper four times prior to the exchange. The item will be on the next business agenda for further consideration.

- **Downtown West Point Development Authority Forward Fund Application**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The City has received a Forward Fund Application from the Downtown West Point Development Authority (DWPDA). The application is complete and is being presented to the City Council. Key elements of the application are

- Purchase 12.3 acres of land known as the 2nd Avenue Woodyard
- Total Project Cost \$600,000
- Request Forward Fund amount \$350,000
- DWPDA has received a commitment of \$200,000 from WPDA
- Property to be developed for residential, retail or commercial
- Property is within the 10th Street Area Redevelopment Plan

The city has funds available for this project. The application will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

- **Georgia Firefighter's Cancer Benefit Program**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. In 2017, Representative Micah Gravley and Senator John Albers efforts help HB 146 passed out of the General Assembly Firefighters' Cancer Insurance Benefits. The HB 146 Act provides firefighters, including volunteers, with monetary assistance in the event they are diagnosed with cancer. All entities that have firefighters certified in the State of Georgia, whether public or private have to provide the coverage. Georgia Municipal Association provide the coverage through the Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company. There

are two parts of the Act relating to a diagnosis of cancer for eligible firefighters. One is a critical illness requirement and the other is an income replacement requirement. Depending on the severity of the diagnosis, the critical illness requirement is either \$25,000 or \$6,250. The income replacement requirement is 60% of the firefighter's total salary as a paid firefighter, or \$5,000 per month, whichever is less for a period of 36 months. The Act become effective 01/01/2018. The cost will be \$3,136.00 annually. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Board & Committee Appointments**

City Manager Ed Moon gave a review of the 2017 City Boards, Authorities and Commissions. He stated the December agenda will consist of the West Point Development Authority, incumbent Lionel Johnson term will expire 12/31/2017. Mr. Johnson has submitted an application to serve another term. Tracy Bandy and Dee Dee Williams have also submitted application. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the bagging of the Toys for Tots will be Saturday, December 9th. The toys will be picked up on December 11th. She encouraged all members to participate in this event. Sponsors and volunteers includes: Nneka@Point University, Misty Ward@LHS, DJJ @Troup, Bernard Bledsoe, Jim Martin@ Toys for Tots, Michelle Ashmore@ THS, Jolene Davis@ Boy Scouts, Kimberly Myers @ LHS, Cindy Watson, and Al Wych@ Beechwood. Sponsors: Caterpillar, Walmart Distribution, Interface, Toys for tots, First Methodist Church, and Powertech.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Sandra Thornton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Benjamin F. Wilcox; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.