



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall May 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember “Henry” Hutchinson
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Deedee Williams

Members Absent:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall

- **Swearing in Council Member Deedee Williams**

City Attorney Jeffery Todd administered the oath of office to Deedee Williams swearing her in as a City of West Point Councilmember. Mrs. Williams will fill the unexpired term of Benjamin Wilcox. The term ends January 2020.

Agenda Reviewed

Mayor Steve Tramell reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Sandra Thornton made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on agenda Item

There were no more public comments.

New Business

- **Update from Well Star Health System, Verlene Luna**

Ms. Verlene Luna stated WellStar was committed to the City of West Point. They have a potential permanent location for their office Building. She hopes to make a public announcement in the near future.

- **Communities in School, Tabitha Lewis-Coverson**

Ms. Tabitha Lewis-Coverson stated Communities in Schools is designed to help kids stay in school. They provide needed services to schools and students such as whole school prevention, group services for students having academic or behavioral challenges, case

managed individualized supports for students with multiple risk factors for dropping out of school. They case manage 368 students in high need of support to be successful in school. Whole school services reach 2,649 students. Direct services and parent engagement support to 592 parents. 61.2% of CIS middle school students who were failing academically improved their grades. 87.6% of students missing 10 or more days prior to CIS improved their attendance. 75.7% of students with a history of behavior resulting in suspension improved their behavior. Ms. Lewis-Coverson asked the Mayor and Council to visit their program and consider supporting this program. Mr. Fredric Stanley echoed the remarks made by Ms. Lewis-Coverson and invited the Mayor and Council to support the program. Amerion Elder stated he was a West Point resident and a member of the program. He stated the program has helped with his academic and personal development.

- **West Point Housing Authority Update, Coleman Reeves Chairman WPHA Board**

Coleman Reeves Chairperson West Point Housing Authority Board gave an update of the Housing Authority. He stated Columbus Housing Authority has agreed to continue managing the West Point Housing Authority a few more months. Mr. Reeves stated that the Authority had approved of RAD but HUD has recently approved a Voluntary Conversion Plan that will allow more flexibility for Authorities with less than 250 units. It will allow tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing. HUD will have to approve any changes to the present operations. Mr. Reeves stated he was not sure if the actions will require the Mayor and Council official approve or disapprove any changes but was sure the Mayor and Council was a component of any decisions.

- **City Clerk Appreciation Week**

Mayor Tramell stated Governor Kemp signed a proclamation naming May 5 through May 11 as National Clerks week. The Mayor and Council thanked City Clerk Richard McCoy for all the work he does for the City in his capacity and City Clerk.

- **Chattahoochee Point Housing, Jorge Aguirre**

Mr. Jorge Aguirre presented a presentation prepared for Chattahoochee Point. He stated the company was established in 2001 headquarter in Fond du lac, WI with additional offices in other states including TX, OR, Al, and GA. They are the 7th largest developer in the county. The Full development portfolio consists of almost 100 affordable housing projects creating over 5,860 units in 14 states. They are proposing the construction of (3) three-story garden style walkup buildings with 72-units. There will be 16 one-bedroom, 28 two-bedroom, and 28 three-bedroom units. The construction will include 3,000 sq. ft. clubhouse, on-site management a fitness center, business center, laundry facility, playground, and community gardens. City Manager Ed Moon stated the plan was previously approved but with a different developer. The project will be located off Highway 29 in West Point.

- **Department of community Affairs Revolving Loan Fund**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the City of West Point has \$174,000 in Revolving Loan Funds. The Department of Community Affairs has informed the City if the funds are not loaned out for the downtown area, the City will have to return approximately \$30,000 back to the State. Mr. Moon stated there are state mandated requirements in receiving the loan such as creating jobs. Mr. Moon stated he would forward all the requirements to the Mayor and Council.

- **Tenth Street Mass Grade Project Update**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the 10th Street grading project was completed. He also stated the City does not have a current committed developer for the property.

- **Tenth Street Historic Marker**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the 10th Street Historic Marker will be replaced in a more assessable location on the property. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the marker was important to her because she attended the former 10th Street School. Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked if there will be a ceremony replacing the Marker. City Manager Ed Moon stated that is something that can be scheduled.

- **WorkSource Three Rivers, Stephanie Glenn Deputy Workforce Director**

Ms. Stephanie Glenn, the Deputy Workforce Director stated the work source provides intensive job search assistance, individualized career counseling, budgeting and financial planning, vocational assessments, and resume preparation. She stated their organization was not an unemployment office and could not answer questions that would require the knowledge of the state unemployment services.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked Ms. Renata Dowdell of Jewelz Inc. if she wanted to make any remarks. Jewelz is an organization to help girl's development into Young Women. Ms. Dowdell invited the Mayor and Council to a Gala for the girls. She asked for them to continue supporting Jewelz.

Mayor Tramell stated there will not be a business meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019 since there were no business that was on the agenda for approval.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned