



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall August 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember “Henry” Hutchinson
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Deedee Williams

Members Absent:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Sandra Thornton

Agenda Reviewed

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

Public Comments on Business Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

New Business

• **City Charter Discussion**

Mayor Tramell stated the subject of changing the City of West Point Charter to address the section appointing the Mayor and Councilmembers when a seat becomes vacant before a completed term, are areas in the Charter he agrees need to be changed. He stated he believes the citizens should chose the Mayor and Council through a special election. He also stated this issue should be taken up by the next council because any changes will have to go through the State Legislature. Council members Henry Hutchinson, Gerald Ledbetter, Gloria Marshall, and Deedee Williams all agreed with the Mayor that portion of the Charter should be changed. They suggested going forward with the discussion. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated there may be other areas that may need to be re-examined. City Manager Ed Moon will provide hard copies of the current City Charter to all council members.

- **Depot Rental Comparison**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The conversation about whether the City of West Point rental rates for the West Point Depot and other city facilities are adequate or should the City consider adjusting the rates based on other venues in the surrounding area have not been resolved. Mr. Moon stated it is difficult to compare the other venues to the city venues because they all have different rental space size, hours, and rental accessories such as tables and chairs. Councilmember Gloria Marshall stated she would be in favor of reducing the Depot rentals by 10%. After a lengthy discussion, all the council members agreed on reducing the fee rental for the Depot but until they decide how much they will reduce the fees, they will remove the Depot Rental Fees from the next business agenda.

- **Mobis Memorandum of Understanding**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there are no changes from the previous work session. West Point Development Authority has approved the Mobis Memorandum. The memorandum will abate 50% of the taxes for seven years for Mobis 40 million dollars expansion and create 80 jobs. The eighth year and thereafter the taxes will be 100%. The Board of Assessors is in agreement and acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with applicable requirements. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the 80 jobs can be specified for West Point residence. She also asked what type of jobs would be created. The jobs created will be mostly production jobs. Attorney Jeffrey Todd stated he was not sure if the city could legally include language that the jobs would have to be filled by West Point residence. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated he was an employee of Mobis and would recuse himself from voting on this item. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Debt Collection Services Agreement**

City Manager stated DPS Recovery is engaged in the business of government debt collections and is willing to provide such service to the City of West Point. He stated this service will not cost the City anything. DPS collect their fees from the people owing the outstanding debt. Attorney Jeffrey Todd stated there were a couple of things in the agreement that was removed such as the printed Georgia Code 10-1-382 (a) that does not apply in this case would be removed. Councilmember Deedee William asked if current staff could collect the outstanding debt. City Manager Ed Moon stated no current staff do not have the time or resources to collect outstanding debt. The item will be on the next business agenda for approval.

- **Pole Attachment License Agreements**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) negotiated with Cingular and Verizon using the CATV/Fiber Statewide Pole Attachment License Agreement. The increase capacity required for 5G will be achieved by an increased number of sites and the use of very high frequency spectrum (24GHz, 37 GHz). They added definitions specific to wireless communications and equipment. The term is for 10 years and automatically renews for 5-year terms. The annual rental fee equals \$16.50 per foot or partial foot. The Handy-Whitman Index escalator starts in 2021. The permitting includes \$50.00 application fee per pole, wireless carrier pays for permit review, field inspection, preparation of cost estimate. There is a 60-day review period to approve, approve with conditions, or deny after

receipt of completed application. The Pole Attachment License Agreement will be on the next business agenda for further consideration.

Other Business

- **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the City of West Point minutes records the actions of the council when they go into executive session such as the minutes from the Development Authority. City Clerk Richard McCoy stated the purpose for the executive session, the motion to enter into executive session, the person seconding the motion and the recorded vote to enter into an executive session is recorded in the open meeting minutes. The minutes of the executive session are held by the City Attorney.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.