



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

Members Present:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember “Henry” Hutchinson
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Deedee Williams

Members Absent:

Public Hearing

- **Annexation Request by Jean Miller, 2284 GA Hwy 18**

Mayor Steven M. Tramell open the public hearing for comments concerning the annexation of approximately 16.0 acres in land lot 179 and 224 of the 5th Land District, Troup County, Georgia parcel number 07-63-000-042 owned by Jean Miller. Troup County and the West Point Planning Board have agreed to the annexation. The County zoning classification is SFMD Single-Family/Rural/Agricultural Use. Mrs. Miller is requesting rezoning R-1A. There were no public comments. Mayor Tramell closed the public hearing.

Agenda Reviewed

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

Public Comments on Any Items

Bill Edwards introduced Dr. Justin Finney, Assistant Superintendent of Harris County Schools. Dr. Finney stated he wanted to meet the Council and offer any assistant to them and the citizens of West Point. He stated Harris County residents will have two items on the November 5, 2019 ballot. The option to continue E-SPLOST and voting on a 26-million-dollar construction bond. The bond will provide funding to make improvements at Creek Side School, and to build onto the High School and build a new middle school. Dr. Finney stated most of the added growth to the county will be four to six hundred houses along highway 185 and 315.

Mrs. Patsy Cloninger 600 E 8th Street apt 206 addressed the Council regarding the City Noise Ordinance. She stated she has filed numerous complaints since November 2018 about a dog barking at night to no avail. The dog constantly barks keeping her and other residents from sleeping. She proposed citing the owner of the dog.

New Business

- **2020 Budget Calendar Review**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the Budget process for 2020 began on Tuesday, August 21, 2019 when the Budget request forms was distributed to Departments Directors. Tuesday, October 29, 2019. City Manager Ed Moon will present the budget for consideration in the 5:30 p.m. work session. The Mayor and Council will review the budget between October 29th and Friday, November 15, 2019. Public hearing #1 November 7, 2019 following the work session that begin 5:30 pm, Public hearing #2 November 26, 2019 at 5:30 pm. The Final Review of the Budget will be on December 5, 2019 at the 5:30 pm work session. Monday, December 9, 2019 at the 5:30 meeting, the budget will be presented for adoption. The Budget will become effective January 1, 2020. December 10, 2019, the approved Budget will be available to the public, post on the City website, and posted on the Carl Vincent Institute web-site.

- **Annexation 2284 GA Highway 18**

City Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated the Annexation and rezoning of the property belonging the Mrs. Jean Miller will be on the next agenda for consideration. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she was not against the annexation and welcome Mrs. Miller into the City but stated she has some questions as to the process, such as when the Council is notified of any annexations.

- **Revolving Loan Fund Application**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the completed application from Ms. Kesha Edwards-Coniglio for 170,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund was received on August 19, 2019. The Funds will be used for an Event Center. On August 20, 2019 Ms. Kesha Edwards-Coniglio qualified for a City Council. City Attorney Jeff Todd and Officials of the State of Georgia stated there were no conflict for Ms. Coniglio receiving the loan since she hasn't been elected. RLF Committee Members normally approve the application for the but due to Ms. Coniglio qualifying for a Council seat, City Manager Ed Moon asked the Council to consider contracting the application process to an outside arbitrator.

- **Agreement Regarding Hotel Motel Tax**

City Manager stated the City of West Point entered into a contract on November 1, 2016 with the LaGrange Troup County Chamber of Commerce for service to be provided under the Hotel/Motel Tax law. The City has been notified by the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce that the Chamber will no longer offer service applicable to Hotel/Motel Tax expenditures. O.C.G.A. 48-13-50(a)(8)(B) This compliance determination must include the amounts expended or contractually committed for expenditure as provided in O.C.G.A. 48-13-50 and must express such amounts as a percentage of tax receipts collected during the fiscal year.

The O.C.G.A. 48-13-50-2(2) defines “promoting tourism”. The County has agreed to end the contract on June 30, 2019. The City Staff recommends ending the agreement on June 30, 2019.

- **City 2019 Millage Rate**

City Clerk Richard McCoy stated the City of West Point 2019 net Property Tax Digest increased over the 2018 total of \$168,359,096 to \$189,611,806 providing a net increase of \$116,755. The staff recommends rolling the millage rate back from the 2018 rate of 9.257 to the state roll back rate of 9.181. The recommendation will be advertised and the item will be on the next business agenda for consideration. The five-year history will run in our local newspapers the week of September 1st. The resolution to set the 2019 millage rate to 9.181 will be on September 9th business agenda for consideration.

- **Garbage Collection**

City Manager Ed Moon stated Mike Criddle, the Streets and Sanitation Director was not present and he will have a presentation about the garbage collection at the next meeting. Mr. Moon stated staff recommends working toward termination of current contract with C&C, complete negotiations with new supplier AMWASTE, notify citizens of change and transition to new company. The pick-up dates and routes and price will not change. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson and Deedee Williams asked about the process of selecting a vendor for the service.

- **Sale of City Property**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the First Baptist Church has requested to purchase two city properties that are covered under Section 2-11 of the City Code of Ordinance. The Church has notified the abutting property owners of their intent to purchase the property and received written permission to purchase the property from the city. The Church has agreed to pay any and all cost associated with the sale of the property. Staff recommends the sale of the properties to the Church.

- **Depot Rental Rate**

City Manager Ed Moon stated he would put together some rental rate options for the Council to consider adopting at the next business meeting.

- **City Charter Discussion**

There were no discussions on the Charter.

- **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton recognize West Point Vision for the Basketball Game that was held on Friday, August 30, 2019 in the West Point Gym. The game was part of the West Point Day that was sponsored by West Point Vision.

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.