



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall October 10, 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 Deedee Williams

Members Absent:

Councilmember Sandra Thornton

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 Henry Hutchinson; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Coleman Reeves Chairperson Downtown West Point Development Authority spoke on behalf of the Revolving Loan Fund Application for an Event Center. Mrs. Kesha Edwards-Coniglio and Michael Coniglio presented the application and a presentation to the Mayor and Council at the last work session. Mr. Reeves stated the project was in line with the goals and objectives of the vision of the City. He also stated the Coniglio’s are a proven applicant based on their past business history.

New Business

• **Point University Homecoming Event**

Mr. Tavaris Taylor, representative of Point University stated when he located in the City of West Point, he felt the kindness and generosity of this community. He was inviting the Mayor, Council, and the Community to join in the Point University Homecoming Block Party. He stated it will be an opportunity to showcase the University and the Community. The event will take place on November 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked about the procedure for Point having the event. City Manager Ed Moon stated there is an event application process that is presented through staff. He also stated Point Homecoming event has been approved.

- **Revolving Loan Fund Application**

Mayor Steve Tramell stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The last work session, Mrs. Kesha Edwards-Coniglio and Michael Coniglio present a presentation for the purpose of providing information to the Mayor and Council for their application requesting \$170,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund. Mrs. Coniglio presented the application to the City on August 19, 2019. The Funds will be used for an Event Center. The last work session, Ms. Coniglio stated the center will provide space and props for events. They will work with the City to promote West Point. She also stated in 2018 there were 370 wedding within 25 miles of West Point. During the last work session, Mrs. Coniglio stated the project will not be able to proceed without the Revolving Loan Fund.

There were several questions raised during the discussion. Examples included Councilmember Deedee Williams asking if there is a dead line for the money to be loan out before the City would have to return it to DCA? City Manager Ed Moon stated the deadline had passed but DCA was aware of the current application. Councilmember Gloria Marshall asked did Mrs. Coniglio get more than one Bid for the renovations? Mrs. Coniglio stated she had received two. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson asked Mrs. Coniglio how was she informed about the Revolving Loan Fund? Mrs. Coniglio stated she was made aware through the Chamber of Commerce. He also asked Mrs. Coniglio what would she do if her cost run over the loans amount? Mrs. Coniglio stated she had included some cost overruns in her initial budget. Councilmember Gerald Ledbetter asked if there is a penalty for not lending the money in the time allotted by DCA? City Manager Ed stated he was not aware of any penalties. DCA would probably request the City return the money. Mayor Tramell stated it would be a waste if the City have to return the money to the State when it could be used to better our community. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she was not against approving the loan but just had some questions. She didn't think items should be rubber stamped and she suggested the item be tabled. She also stated she was all about transparency. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated the Mayor and Council do not rubber stamp items. They have always received the information needed to make informed decisions. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated he was concern with the process and that nobody had said no to the application. They should look into everyone's concerns. Mayor Tramell stated he had not heard any questions or concerns about the application before the Council only about the process. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall stated she don't think the item should be tabled. The Council should take these next few days and address their concerns and make a decision on Monday.

- **Intergovernmental Contract Regarding Utility Service**

Mayor Steve Tramell stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The 2006 Intergovernmental agreement between the City of West Point and the City of LaGrange required residents that received water service from the City of West Point to also receive gas service from the City of LaGrange. This agreement will remove the mandated requirement of having to have gas service from the City of LaGrange. The agreement will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Amendment to Mobis Memorandum of Understanding**

Mayor Steve Tramell stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The amendment to the Mobis Memorandum of Understanding was to remove the contract labor numbers from the total number of employees that will be hired. The number will go from 80 to 40. The 40 new employees will be within the Troup County Bond Agreement. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the changes involved reducing the number of employees, she asked if the Council would consider using a scaling process in the future. She also asked if the City has to agree with the County. City Manager Ed Moon stated the City does not have to agree with any amendment they do not agree with. The amendment will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor Tramell cited the items that will be on Monday October 14, 2019 Business Meeting. They include:

- Proclamation for Breast Cancer Month
- Revolving Loan Fund Application
- Intergovernmental Contract Regarding Utility Service
- Amendment to Mobis Memorandum of Understanding

Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the minutes from the last business meeting did not include the email information she provided to the Council and the Mayor read. Mayor Tramell stated she may offer an amendment to the minutes at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.