



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall January 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter

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 Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on any Issue

There were no Public comments.

New Business

- **2019 Board and Committee Appointments**

City Manager Ed Moon gave a review of the 2019 City Boards, Authorities and Commissions. He stated there are vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission, Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission, West Point Development Authority, and Troup County Election Board. The City has received applications from Larry Duncan and Joe H. Thompson for the Historic Preservation Commission and Josh Moon for the West Point Development Authority and Henry Hutchinson for the Troup County Parks and Recreation Board will be on the next agenda for consideration.

- **2020 Board and Committee Appointments**

City Manager Ed Moon gave a review of the 2020 City Boards, Authorities and Commissions. Mr. Moon stated all applications received, including those from incumbents will be reviewed and considered for an interview. Mr. Moon stated the City has not received an application from Diane Davidson for the Election Board.

- **2020 Council Meeting Dates and Times**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the 2020 Mayor and City Council meeting schedule was in the Council packet. The Schedule will be posted at City Hall and will be on the City Web Site.

- **Appoint 2020 City Officers**

City Manager Ed Moon stated on Monday, January 13, 2020 the Council will elect a Mayor Pro-Tem to serve for the 2020 year. The Council will also elect the City Attorney, Public Defender, Prosecuting Attorney, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, City Recorder Pro Tempore, and Municipal Court Judge for 2020. The 2019 current officers Municipal Court Judge Wesley Leonard, Judge Pro-Tem Benjamin Wilcox, Prosecuting attorney Mark Carlton, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jeffery M. Todd, City Attorney Jeffery M. Todd, and Public Defender Luther Jones.

- **GEMBS Restated Defined Benefit Retirement Plan**

City Manager Ed Moon stated on March 30, 2018 the IRS issued a favorable advisory letter for the restated Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Volume Submitted Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. The IRS requires that each adopting Employer sign an updated DB Plan Adoption Agreement that includes Key amendments such as Final Average Earning and Federal Law Compensation Limits, Mandatory Participation unless an employer's adoption agreement says participation is optional. Immediate Participation for all Eligible Employees. Repayment of Withdrawn Employee Contribution Interest and Timing. Participant who has terminated employment and withdrawn contributions returns to service has six (6) months following reemployment, in a lump sum with interest, compounded annually from the date of withdrawal to the date of repayment. In-Service Distribution will allow employees to continue working for the City while drawing retirement funds from the City's retirement. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the City's Retirement Plan had in-service distribution and if the City decides to amend its plan to allow in-service distribution, would adopting the current recommendation from GEMBS have any impact on changing the City's Plan to include in-service distribution. The City of West Point currently does not have Employee In-Service Distribution. Attorney Jeff Todd stated he would check to see if that is an option but each entity has its own plan within the Master Plan. Each City Plan is independent of the others. The Amendments will be on the next agenda for further consideration.

- **Resolution to Update Water Conservation Plan**

Utility Director Sammy Inman stated the resolution to update the water conservation and drought contingency plan will comply with Georgia Environmental Protection Division guidelines for permitting surface water withdrawals. The resolution will update the Water Conservation Plan and the Drought Contingency Plan. The plan was prepared by Turnipseed Engineers.

- **Service Delivery Strategy Update Consultant**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the Troup County Service Delivery Strategy will be renegotiated in 2020. In order for the City of West Point to take full advantage of the negotiations it is important to understand all of the intricacies of the service being offered, taxes being paid and agreements the city and county are operating under. The work product would be a report of county SDS non-compliance for each service and the resulting annual tax inequity for the cities and for city incorporated taxpayers. In order to accomplish a successful Service Delivery Strategy, Staff recommends Pelican Consulting be retained to assist the City.

- **Sludge Disposal**

City Manager Ed Moon stated in 2019 the city experienced a 130% increase in landfill cost for the disposal of biosolids. In an effort to reduce these costs, city staff has determined that land application of biosolids can reduce the cost significantly. City Staff has located a property in Alabama that currently has land application activity and is willing to accept the city's biosolids. The City and Property Owner will enter into a lease agreement for the property at no cost. The City will then pay a fee per load of biosolids that is hauled to the site. The fee is not yet determined as the required engineering study has not been completed. The conversation with the property owner, staff, and engineers, anticipate at least a 50% reduction in cost. There are no capital costs associated with this project. Staff recommends entering into the lease agreement.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked everyone to participate in the upcoming MLK Unity Breakfast on January 20th at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Mr. Orentha Holloway Special Agent with the United States Secret Service will be the speaker.

The Black History program will be February 25, 2020 at the West Point Gym.

- **Special Call Meeting**

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to enter into a Special Called Meeting to consider the purchase of land. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion and second by Councilmember Henry Hutchinson; **passed unanimously**

ADJOURN

Councilmember Henry Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Deedee Williams; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.