



The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall January 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Public Hearing 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Mayor Tramell open the Public Hearing to receive comments concerning the proposed 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

There were no public comments and the Mayor 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 Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on any Issue

Coleman Reeves stated he wanted to address the Mayor and Council concerning an Executive Session that the Council held about acquiring some property for the purpose of improving the Recreation in the City. He stated the property relates to the overall Recreation Plan that the Mayor and Council approved several years ago. He asked for transparency regarding their discussion concerning the property. He also asked the Mayor and Council to discuss the issue in an open meeting. Mayor Tramell thanked Mr. Reeves for his comments. There were no further public comments.

Presenters

- **Lacey Southerland, Chattahoochee Early Learning Academy**

Lacey Southerland gave an update on the Chattahoochee Early Learning Academy. She stated the Academy’s started in September 2019. She stated the Academy gave five

scholarship the last quarter although they are trying to increase enrollment with children that is not on scholarship. They want to increase diversity. She also stated the academy goes by the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards.

- **Allie Kelley, The Ray**

Harriet Langford, daughter of Ray Anderson, and Allie Kelley, the Executive Director of The Ray, addressed the Council. The Ray is 18 miles of Interstate 85 from exit 2 to exit 18. The Anderson Foundation has adopted the 18 miles of the Interstate in memory of Ray Anderson to promote improving the environment through solar energy, using recyclable rubber for resurfacing the roadway, and placing attractive flowers and scrubs to beautify the Interstate roadways. They installed 26 Solar Panels and have a 35 year land agreement with the State. Georgia is the third state to approve the Solar Project. They are currently working on improving the lighting from exit 6 to exit 18 using 44 LED lights. The reason the lighting does not begin at exit 2 is because of logistics with Georgia Power. Georgia Power is implementing the lighting. With the help of the State of Georgia, Georgia Power, the City of LaGrange, and the City of West Point they were instrumental in implementing an Electric Fueling Station at the Georgia Welcome Center. The Foundation wants to upgrade the Charging Station to 150 KW. The upgrade will reduce the charging time from about an hour and a half to 20 or 30 minutes. The Foundation is asking the City of West Point to do the electrical upgrades needed for the 150 KW. The upgrade will cost approximately \$8000. The Mayor and Council thanked Harriet Lanford and Allie Kelley for their presentation.

New Business

- **Comprehensive Plan Update -a Kim Dutton, Three Rivers Regional Commission**

Kim Dutton a representative for Three Rivers Regional Commission stated Georgia Planning Act of 1989 is the reason each municipality must have a Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the plan is to assess existing conditions and future needs of the City. Establish community-based, long-term vision for the community's future, establish community-based, long-term vision for the community's future and remain eligible for grants and other funding programs. State law requires the plan to be updated every five years.

- **Election Board Appointment**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there are two applications for the vacant seat on the Troup County Election Board. Diane Davidson and Detrick Higgins. The applicants will be on the next agenda for further consideration.

- **Water & Sewer Refunding -Andrew Tritt, Stifel**

Andrew Tritt Representative of Stifel stated the City of West Point has a variety of debt obligations related to water and sewerage system. The City has \$19,369,688 of principal

outstanding. These debt obligations interest rates range between 2.50% and 4.50% the climate for refinancing debt is very good. The City of West Point Water and Sewer debt could be refinanced with rates between 2.25 and 3.99 that would save the City approximately \$1,619,483 over thirty years.

- **Road Naming**

City Planner Dennis Dutton stated on April 5, 2018 a letter was requested by the Georgia Department of Transportation for a public street to be dedicated to the City of West Point. This agreement was made with the Georgia Department of Transportation, the development group, and the City of West Point in order to gain access onto a public street/road onto Kia Boulevard. The development is a TA Travel America-Phillips 76 Automotive and Truck Fueling Center with a Convenience Store. The Street will connect Kia parkway to Kia Boulevard. The Project Owners has proposed a name for the street. The Mayor and Council has the right to name all streets in the City.

- **Traffic Calming Policy**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the proposed Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program policy and procedure was in the packet. If adopted the program will consist of residents completing an application and it only applies to local access roads in residential neighborhoods. The goals of the program are reduction in speed of vehicles to a safe and legal speed limit, encourage through traffic to avoid using local roads and to stay on collectors and arterials, deterring truck traffic and other inappropriate vehicles from using local roads, maintaining and or enhancing emergency vehicle access and response time, improve pedestrian access and safety, and focus on clear communication with and involvement of neighborhoods and residents. The propose Traffic Calming Policy will be on the next agenda for further consideration.

- **2019 Year End Finance Report**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the 2019 Year End Finance Report was in their packet. The unaudited total revenues are \$18,233,709.06 and the total expenses are \$18,222,348.39.

- **Resolution for 2019 Budget Amendment**

City Manager Ed Moon stated a resolution to amend the City of West Point 2019 Budget to reflect the actual total revenues and expenditures at the end of fiscal year 2019 will be on the next business agenda for consideration

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the City of West Point Black History Program will be on February 25, 2020 at the West Point Gym beginning at 5:30. Kimberly Burroughs DeBrow Assistant District Attorney Dekalb County will be the speaker.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III 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