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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall February 6, 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:

**Agenda Reviewed**

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

**Public Comments on agenda Items**

Diane Davidson stated she wanted to address the Mayor and Council concerning the vacant seat on the Troup County Election Board. Ms. Davidson stated she had submitted an application wishing to continue serving on the board. She stated she has all the certification associated with serving on the board. Ms. Davidson also stated the State of Georgia has implemented new procedures and new machines that will be used in this upcoming election. She asked the Council what was the delay in reappointing her to the position. Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated her concern related to Ms. Davidson making statements regarding her not being re-elected. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated the board appointments are not life appointments. Applicants should not automatically expect to be re-appointed when their term is up. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated both applicants are capable of serving on the board. He hopes the applicant that does not get appointed would consider other boards within the City. Mr. Detrick Higgins the other applicant for the position, stated he was teachable and feel he would do a good job on the Election Board. William Tatum, President of the Troup County Election Board, County Commissioners Lewis Davis and Ellis Cadenhead stated this year one season board member from Hogansville has already rotated off the Election Board and with the new machines and procedures, another change would leave the Board at a disadvantage. They asked the Council to consider leaving Ms. Davis on the board

through this term. They thanked the Mayor and Council for their consideration. There were no further Public comments.

## **New Business**

- **Election Board Appointment**

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

- **Water & Sewer Refunding**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session when 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. Mr. Moon stated he recommended the re-financing. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she wasn't against the re-financing especially since it will save the City money. She feels the Council need more time to consider item of this magnitude. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Road Naming**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. 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. Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated to honor former Councilmember Donald Gilliam who was a Civic leader, Business man, and a Civil Rights champion. She will make a motion to name the street after Mr. Gilliam. She stated Mr. Gilliam was a progressive leader for community economic growth and he was proud of the Kia project and the jobs it provided for the City of West Point. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated in addition to naming the road recommended by Councilmember Thornton, the Mayor and Council may look into other ways to honor former Councilmember Donald Gilliam.

- **Traffic Calming Policy**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The proposed Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program policy and procedure was presented at the last work session. 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. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated the Mayor and Council should rely on the recommendations of Profession staff and in this case the City Public Safety when it comes to issues such as this. The propose Traffic Calming Policy will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **The Ray Solar Improvements**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the last work session when 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 linguistics 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 up grade 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. Councilmembers Gerald W. Ledbetter, Joseph R. Downs, and Henry Hutchinson stated it is good the City can support the project. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **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 unaudited revenues of \$18,233,709 and expenditures of \$18,222,348.39 at the end of fiscal year 2019. The resolution will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Troup County Recreation Board Appointment**

Councilmember Deedee Williams asked for the Council to consider the applicant, Mr. Alton Pitts, for the Troup County Recreation Board Appointment. Councilmember Williams provide a completed Interest to Serve Application to City Council. This item will be added to agenda for consideration at Monday Council Meeting.

- **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. She also stated the AKA Founders Day celebration will be 1:00p.m. February 8, 2020 at the Bowen East District.

Mayor Tramell asked everyone to support the Sweet Georgia Senior Pageant. Councilmember Sandra Thornton is one of the contestants.

## **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Henry Hutchinson; **passed unanimously**. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned