



## City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, August 6, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

Via teleconference

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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference August 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell presiding.

Members Participated:

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

Members Non-Participate:

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 Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**

**New Business**

- **Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia Resolution**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the last work session. The issue of the Municipal Gas Authority Resolution has been discussed. The Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia is requesting its members to enter into a new Supplemental Contract, Gas Supply Portfolio V, that will replace Portfolio IV which expires on December 31, 2020. The updated Portfolio will allow MGAG to acquire future gas supplies to satisfy members long-term needs. MGAG ability to purchased large volume of gas needed by its 80-member systems, can purchase gas at a lower cost. City Manager Ed Moon stated staff recommends the approval of the resolution to amend the Gas Supply Contract and Supplemental Contract Gas Portfolio V. The item will be on the August 10, 2020 agenda for consideration.

- **City 2020 Millage Rate**

Mayor Tramell stated there were no changes from the previous work session. The City of West Point 2020 net Property Tax Digest values increased over the 2019 total of \$189,611,806 to \$241,388,772 providing a net increase of \$51,756,966. The staff recommends rolling the millage rate back from the 2019 rate of 9.181 to the state recommended roll back rate of 8.971 mills providing tax relief to those whose property has increased in value and a tax rate reduction to all other property owners. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated due to the increase in the projected dollars to be collected and the hardship the COVID-19 Virus has placed on our citizens, the Council

should roll the millage rate back further. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated if he could he would eliminate property taxes altogether but he understands the City can't do that and continue to offer the level of service we are providing. He recommends going with the Staff recommendation of rolling the millage rate back to 8.971. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall asked Councilmember Williams what she was recommending the millage rate be rolled back to. Councilmember Williams stated the staff recommendation is only about 1/5 of a percent. She stated it could be more. The resolution to set the 2020 millage rate to 8.971 will be on August 10<sup>th</sup> business agenda for consideration.

- **Board and Committee Appointments**

City Manager Ed Moon stated he has received applications for five (5) appointments to be made. Dianne Davidson and Donald Cleveland, to be considered for appointments to the Board of Adjustments. Elizabeth Lester for the Hawkes Library, Joel Finlay for the Municipal Planning Board, and Tyrone Roberts for the Keep Troup Beautiful board. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked about an application she presented today. Mayor Tramell stated the application she presented today will be on the August 25, 2020 agenda.

- **Vehicle Donation Agreement**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia (KMMG) agrees to donate (5) vehicles to the City of West Point to be used in the Police Department for administration vehicles. The vehicles are donated for a term of 2-years or 100,000 miles which ever comes first. KMMG may extend the donation period. The vehicles are donated for the purpose of quality evaluation for certain items by KMMG. The City Staff and Legal personnel have reviewed the agreement and recommend approval. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated the donation was very good for the City and perhaps they would consider continuing this trend. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she thought donations of vehicles had been given before and the Mayor received a vehicle. City Manager Ed Moon stated there have not been any prior vehicles donations to the City. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Amend Retirement Benefit Plan**

City Manager Ed Moon stated pages 15, 16, 17 of the City of West Point Retirement Plan are in their packet. In order to allow retired employees to hold political office in West Point and continue to draw their city's retirement, the Council would have to vote to allow In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees. Currently employees can not draw retirement funds and continue receiving compensation from the City (In-Service Distribution). Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the Council should not determine who runs for office. That should be citizens decision. City Manager Ed Moon stated No In-Service Distribution for employees was part of the original plan it was not added at a later date to hinder or prohibit anyone from running for political office. The recommendation to allow In-Service Distribution for retired employees that may wish to run for political office in West Point will be forward to GMA for analysis of how it would affect the employee compensation and the City's retirement plan. Councilmember Gloria Marshall

asked if this amendment could be separate from the amendment to allow current Councilmembers to begin drawing their retirement benefits.

- **Georgia CARES Act Grant Funding Resolution**

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated a resolution to authorize the execution of the Coronavirus Relief Fund terms and conditions agreement, including all understandings and assurances contained within such agreement, to direct and authorize the person identified as the official representative of the City, or the designee of the City to act in connection with the grant application; and to provide such additional information as may be required. Based on population, the City of West Point will receive \$195,625. The first round \$58,686.99 must be spent on COVID related expense by September 1, 2020. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the City could transfer money from budgeted line items and used CARES ACT money to pay for the items. That would help with the shortfall in the budget. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated the CARES ACT funding can only be used for expenses due to the COVID Virus. It could not be used to replace budget short falls. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Tramell stated there will be another food drive at the West Point Elementary School on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURN**

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned