



## City of West Point

Council Special Called Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 @ 5:30 PM  
Via teleconference

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Special Called meeting of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference August 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steven M. Tramell presiding.

Members Participated:

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

Members Non-Participate:

- **Special Call Meeting**

Mayor Steve Tramell stated the purpose of the Special Called Meeting was to consider a Mask Ordinance requiring the use of Masks or Face covering in public during the Covid-19 outbreak for the City of West Point. People may opt out for Health or Religious reasons. The Mayor stated he was for adopting the ordinance for the safety of himself and the public. Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated she was in the high-risk category and she thinks it is important that the City adopts the ordinance. She stated the City Fire Department passed out over 6,000 masks. There is no reason a person in West Point to not have a mask. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated he agrees with Councilmember Thornton, a mask should be worn but the ordinance is not a well written ordinance. The ordinance does not have any teeth because there are too many ways a person may opt out. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated he agrees with Councilmember Ledbetter the ordinance is more of suggestions and he feels the Council should adopt something that the City can enforce. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III asked if the City is restricted to the Ordinance provided and could the City go farther than what the Governor order states. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated the City could not go further than the language provided by the Governor’s order. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she agrees the ordinance is not well written and if we can change the ordinance without violating the Governors mandate, the City should do it. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III stated if passing this ordinance helps to save one-persons life, the City should adopt the ordinance. Councilmember Sandra Thornton agreed with Councilmember Downs. Councilmember Ledbetter stated he did not oppose the ordinance, he only wanted to point out what the ordinance actually does.

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### **Mask or Face Covering Ordinance**

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to approve the use of Masks or Face covering in public within the City of West Point during the Covid-19 outbreak. The goal of the ordinance is to increase the usage of facial covering and masks and it is not for revenue generation. The ordinance includes requiring facial coverings in public places that owners require masks and that it is necessary and appropriate to balance the public's interest in not being unduly burdened with the compelling public interest of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City. The ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until revised or repealed by further action of the Mayor and Council or the County drops below 100 cases per 100,000 people. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton. During the discussion Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the City was going to provide masks to the public. City Manager Ed Moon stated the ordinance allows for a person who is in violation of the ordinance, an option to accept a mask before being cited. The motion **passed unanimously**

### **ADJOURN**

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Richard McCoy  
City Clerk

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Steven M. Tramell  
Mayor