



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

Via teleconference

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference September 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell presiding.

Members Participated:

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

Members Non-Participate:

Public Comments

Ms. Trevena Hodo addressed the Mayor and Council about the traffic, noise, alcohol use, and drug use that is taking place on East 9th Street. Her concern is about the gun shots that occurs on weekends. She stated her mother and aunt lives on E 9th Street and this type of activity happens not only during the recent West Point Day event, but just about every weekend. She asked the Mayor and Council to do something about these unlawful activities.

Agenda Reviewed

Mayor Steve Tramell called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**

New Business

- **Request for Personal Care Center at 1009 3rd Avenue**

Ms. Tameka Atkinson and Ms. Chrystal York, D&M LLC have shown interest in opening a Personal Care Home at 1009 3rd Avenue. They asked the Mayor and Council to consider a variance to allow for the residential use of the property. The Council was presented information on density, parking and the overall impact of residential use that is street level. The residential use of Central Business District property ordinance is very specific in the City code of Ordinance. Residential use of apartments and condominiums above commercial store front are acceptable. 4th Avenue currently has approved condominiums style street level residential use in the Central Business District. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked about the process, single and double occupancy units, and the clarity on Personal Care Facilities. Community Development Director

Dennis Dutton stated if the Council vote to allow the project to go forward, all the other City building codes would apply. Ms. York stated all the units are single occupancy except married couples. She also stated the home will be limited to six occupants and the units are for people 65 and older. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated he think the facility will be a good fit for the building and the area.

- **Board & Committee Appointment**

City Manager Ed Moon stated he has received (1) application for an appointment to the West Point Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Debra Robertson wishes to be considered for re-appointment to the Commission. Her application will be on the next agenda for consideration.

- **City Charter Discussion**

Mayor Tramell open the floor up for discussion on the City Charter. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she thought they should explore revising the Charter. She stated there are several things in the Charter that the Council does not follow. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall asked her what things in the Charter the Council are not following. Councilmember Williams cited the arbitrary use of Roberts Rules of Order and Committee appoints. Councilmember Williams stated they should go through the entire Charter and revise it instead of changing something and having to go back and change something else later. Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the Council had revised the entire charter several years ago and it took months instead of several weeks. Attorney Alex Dixon stated some changes must be approved by the State Legislature.

- **Disorderly House Ordinance Amendment**

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated City Code Sec. 12-7 Maintaining a disorderly house states A person who keeps and maintains, either by himself or others, a common, ill-governed, and disorderly house, to the encouragement of gaming, drinking, or other misbehavior, or to the common disturbance of the neighborhood or orderly citizens, is guilty of a misdemeanor. He stated the City of West Point current ordinance do not adequately address all the issues as it relates to disorderly houses. He stated the proposed amendment, if adopted would mirror the City of LaGrange action and would hold the property owner accountable as well as the tenant for a violation of disorderly house. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked what was control in reference to owners having control of their properties. She stated she did not think owners of property should be penalized for something their tenants do. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated owners have the right to evict disorderly tenants. They should have something in their lease agreement that address these issues.

Mayor Tramell listed the three items for the next work-session Request for Personal Care Center at 1009 3rd Avenue, Board & Committee Appointment, and the Disorderly House Ordinance Amendment. The next meeting will be October 8, 2020. and asked for a motion to approve the next meeting agenda. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made said motion seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III. During the discussion Councilmember Deedee Williams question acting on items before having time to research. There was some confusion on whether the Mayor included the Disorderly House Ordinance Amendment on the next work-session. Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated Councilmember Deedee Williams should recuse herself from discussion because of her owning rental property. Councilmember Williams disagreed. The motion **passed unanimously**.

OTHER

Councilmember Sandra Thornton announced the Community Cleanup in West Point hosted by Valley Community Outreach a.k.a. The Village will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2020. The contacts for this event are LT Colonel Clinton Gilder or Bridgette Heard.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is in the month of October. This year the celebration will be virtual. She asked everyone to join in the virtual Paint the Town Pink celebration October 1st through 8th.

Councilmember Thornton stated early voting will begin Monday October 12th through Friday October 30th. There will be a Drop off ballot box in the back-parking lot of City Hall for Troup County. City Manager Ed Moon stated he would confirm whether Harris County residents will be able to use that drop box.

Councilmember Deedee Williams asked about speeders on Kia Parkway and the posting of the street sign for Donald Gilliam Street. Mayor Tramell stated this was a time for announcements. She may direct those questions to City Staff.

Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the residents have less than 48 hours to complete this year Census. She emphasized the importance of residents completing the Census. She stated it could be up to \$3,850 per person that our community could potential receive for various programs.

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