



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2020 @ 5:30 PM
Via teleconference

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference October 8, 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:

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 Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments

Ms. Shannon Maggart addressed the Mayor and Council about the Disorderly House Amendment Ordinance. Ms. Maggart stated she has had several cases of disorderly houses in her neighborhood with loud noise and drug use. She stated police would respond when called but the activities continue. She stated she would be in favor of an ordinance that would help address these issues and hold tenants and owners of the property responsible.

Mrs. Trudye Johnson addressed the Mayor and Council about the Disorderly House Amendment Ordinance. Mrs. Johnson stated she was present to talk about a peaceful harmonious community. She stated she was offended and disgusted about the activities that are taking place in our neighborhoods. The partying house in residential areas, people walking the streets like they are in the Wild Wild West with the arousing, drugging, and shootings day and night. It is discerning to hear that neighbors are afraid to sit in their yards or children to play out without gunfire. She stated in May after midnight hundreds of young adults coming from the Morgan house were out in the streets with loud music and drinking. She stated it was like a war zone. She also stated the ordinance should be meaningful to tenants and the owners of property to make them responsible. and we should not leave the citizens living on 9th Street standing alone or standing over a grave. Our parks and community centers should be more accessible instead gathering in neighborhoods and the streets. She stated she support the police. She

also stated the Ordinance, Code enforcement along with Community policing will go a long way to making West Point a better West Point.

Ms. Deb Siegel addressed the Mayor and Council about the Disorderly House Amendment Ordinance. She stated she love West Point and she agreed with the other two people that spoke before her and she supports the ordinance.

New Business

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

Mayor Tramell stated there were no changes from the previous work session. 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. If the Council vote to allow the project to go forward, all the other City building codes would apply. The units are single occupancy except married couples. The home will be limited to six occupants and the units are for people 65 and older. Councilmembers Williams and Ledbetter expressed support of the project. The item will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

- **Board & Committee Appointment**

Mayor Tramell stated there were no changes from the previous work-session. The Council 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 business meeting agenda for consideration.

- **Disorderly House Ordinance Amendment**

Mayor Tramell asked if there were any further comments from the previous work session when 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 thanked the citizens for their comments but stated she has issues with the Ordinance. She stated the Council was addressing one problem the incident on 9th Street over the Labor Day weekend. Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the proposed ordinance was not being addressed because of one area. It is for concerns throughout all West Point. Councilmember Williams stated the ordinance is shifting responsibility from tenants to the property owners and she was not in support of the ordinance. Police Chief Donald Britt was asked for an update of activities on E. 9th Street area Chief Britt stated there have been several citations written to tenants and the owners will be notified through a letter. If there is a second incident, the owner would also be held accountable. Several times during the discussion, Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III asked for Point of Order.

Mayor Tramell listed the three items for the next Business meeting agenda. They are Request for Personal Care Center at 1009 3rd Avenue, Board & Committee Appointment, and the Disorderly House Ordinance Amendment. The next Business meeting will be October 12, 2020. and asked for a motion to approve the next Business meeting agenda. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter. The motion **passed on a 5-1 vote Councilmember Deedee Williams Voted No.**

OTHER

Councilmember Sandra Thornton announced the Community Cleanup in West Point hosted by Valley Community Outreach a.k.a. The Village will not take place on Saturday, October 17, 2020 instead there will be over 500 pounds of food given away beginning at 12:00 until 8:30 at the Valley Sports Center.

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter announced the 2020 National Faith & Blue Weekend at the West Point Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall from 3:00pm until 6:00pm. It is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and breaks down biases through activities and outreach amongst law enforcement professionals and the communities that they serve.

ADJOURN

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned