



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

Via teleconference

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference October 27, 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 Gloria R. Marshall made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

New Business

- Levelized Billing

City Manager Ed Moon stated Levelized Billing provides citizens with a set monthly billing each month for electric. Levelized Billing can be used to level out high summer or winter usage for payment. He stated the Tyler Technologies Software the City is currently using has the Levelized billing capability. He hopes to be able to offer Levelized Billing to our citizens by the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2021. If there is any cost associated with implementation, it will be in training. There were a few questions such as when and how the billing will be adjusted. The Council thanked staff for the work on providing this service to our citizens. Councilmember Gerald Ledbetter who has pushed for this service was praised by the Council for his efforts.

- Motorized Carts

City Manager Ed Moon stated Motorized cart is every motor vehicle having not less than (4) wheels and an unladen weight of one thousand three hundred (1,300) pounds or less and which cannot operate at more than twenty (20) miles per hour. He reviewed the proposed ordinance which included decals issued by the City and cannot be transferred to

other carts, all occupants must wear seatbelts at all times, the carts shall not be operated on the sidewalks, restrictions placed upon licensed motorists shall apply in the same manner as if they were operating a motor vehicle, and motorized carts cannot be operated on any street with a posted speed limit above (30) thirty miles per hour or on State Routes but motorized carts may cross State Routes on city streets.

- **Decriminalization of Marijuana**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the current City of West Point ordinance Sec. 12-29 Possession of less than one ounce or less of marijuana, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by imprisonment for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months or a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or both, or public works not to exceed twelve (12) months. Cities such as Clarkston GA ordinance state It shall be unlawful for any person to possess one (1) ounce or less of marijuana within the corporate limits of the city. Conviction for violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) and no person convicted of violating this section shall be punished by confinement for any period. The City of LaGrange ordinance in part states, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess one (1) ounce or less of marijuana within the corporate limits of the city. A civil fine, not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be assessed against any person found to be in violation of this code section. The finding of a violation under this section shall be a civil infraction and shall not constitute a criminal infraction or criminal offense for any purpose. Mr. Moon stated several inquires about changing the City of West Point Ordinance to resemble or mirror one of the Cities that have reduced possession of one once or less of marijuana to fines and no confinement led him to put the issue on the work-session meeting for consideration. Mr. Moon asked for questions and or comments. Councilmember Gerald Ledbetter stated from what he knows about the ordinance, he is in support of it. The ordinance will have a positive effect on our citizens who will not be locked up for minor offenses and reduce the cost associated with our jail system. Councilmember Hutchinson was praised for encouraging the City Manager to explore the changes in the City ordinance.

- **Public Works Director**

City Manager Ed Moon stated he appointed Roderick Palmer as Interim Public Works Director in early August 2020. Since appointing Roderick, he has met the challenges of payroll, purchasing, budgeting, and the work order system. He has proven himself to be an excellent leader in the interim position. City Manager Ed Moon stated he was recommending the Mayor and City Council appoint Roderick Palmer as the Public Works Director for the City of West Point. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson thanked Mr. Moon for recommending Mr. Palmer. He stated Mr. Palmer has always carried himself in a way people respected and he was an inspiration to him and other youths when he was growing up. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated it was refreshing that the City Manager was recommending promoting from within. Other Councilmember echoed the same sentiments. The item will be on the next agenda for further discussion.

- **Sale of City property East 7th Street (Alley)**

City Community Planner Dennis Dutton stated the City Staff is recommending the obsolete dirt alley located on East 7th Street be released from the City's road and street inventory and he has a draft agreement with the adjacent property owners to relinquish the non-conforming alley to the adjacent property owners. Mr. Eric and Amber Sanborn have agreed to acquire Tract 3-the alley for the assessed value of the parcel. The unpaved alley does not meet the City's standards for a street and is not necessary for City traffic. Staff recommends the Council release from the City's road and street inventory this obsolete dirt alley. The property owner(s) along the city-owned alley is willing to acquire the property at an evaluated price for a total of \$340.22. This will be a major step to bring the 301 E7th Street more compliant with the City zoning ordinance by establishing one resident per parcel or tract. Councilmember Williams asked about another tract of land that runs between the Methodist Church and other residents. City Manager Ed Moon stated the issues with those parcels have not been resolved.

- **2021 Proposed Budget Presentation**

City Manager Ed Moon stated each year the City Manager along with the Department Directors and staff prepare the annual budget. This year the process began on August 19, 2020 and will be presented for adoption on December 14, 2020. The total Proposed 2021 Budget is \$18,131,374 which includes General Fund \$5,942,550, Electric \$6,324,000, Water & Sewer \$3,634,224, Gas \$1,369,200, E-911 \$335,150, and \$526,250 Sanitation. The budget includes a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and a 2% increase in Water, Sewer and Garbage and Trash. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked about why increase the garbage when citizens are not satisfied with the service. City Manager Ed Moon stated there were some minor complaints but the provided has addressed them. He also stated he was available to meet with any Councilmember concerning the budget. The first public hearing will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020. The Budget will be on the next agenda for additional discussions.

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. Mr. Richard Heard Wilson sent out the announcement through email. If you wish to be added to the email list, let her know.

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to adopt three items for the next work session. 2021 Proposed Budget, Public Works Director, and Sale of City Property on East 7th Street. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**.

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