



**City of West Point**  
Council Work Session Minutes  
Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.  
Via teleconference

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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference January 26, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell presiding.

Members Participated:

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

Members Non-Participate:

Prior to the meeting, Mayor Steve Tramell open a Public Hearing to hear comments concerning the proposed Comprehensive Plan 2020-2040. There were no public comments. Mayor Tramell closed the Public Hearing.

**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 Henry Hutchinson; **passed unanimously**

**Public Comments**

Anita Jones stated she was a resident of West Point for 42 years. She was horrified to hear that motorized carts may be operating on the streets of West Point. She stated there are logging trucks and heavy traffic that comes through West Point from Fredonia area. Point University students are walking constantly. There are a lot of houses and apartments in and around downtown. Students are jaywalking, and the carts should not be allowed.

Tracy Martin stated she supported the motorized carts ordinance. She wanted to thank the Major and Council for their courage to think outside the box and for being progressive. She also stated the carts are mostly electric and they will be environmentally friendly.

Derrick Higgins stated he was on the Troup County Election Board and was informed of through the media of some recommended changes Troup County is proposing. The changes included reducing the number of members on the board and the Troup County Commissioners appointing all the board members. Mayor Tramell stated the Council was not familiar with the changes.

## **New Business**

- **Resolution Qualifying Fees for 2021 Municipal Election**

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made a motion to set the 2021 Municipal Election qualifying fees at \$90.00 for the council. The fees are based on 3% of the total gross salary paid in the preceding year O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-131. Councilmember Deedee Williams seconded said motion; During the discussion Councilmember Williams asked about the early voting in West Point and if the contract with Troup County includes early voting. City Manager Ed Moon stated the contract included early voting in West Point for the Municipal Elections. A discussion on the Municipal Contract and early voting for the General Elections will on the next agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Update Comprehensive Plan 2020 - 2040**

City Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated the City is required to update its Comprehensive Plan every five (5) years or as scheduled by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He stated Staff recommends approving the Submittal Resolution for Three Rivers review and Georgia Department of Community Affairs submittal, review, and approval. The deadline for approving a Comprehensive Plan is February 28, 2021. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the timeline from when they received the draft and approving it does not allow time for any changes. City Manager Ed Moon stated if she or any other Council member have any recommended changes, he asked them to forward them to him and he would see that the changes are included before adoption of the plan. Councilmember Williams also question how they planned to complete their goals and whether the makeup of the steering committee was representative of all the citizens of West Point.

- **Motorized Carts Ordinance**

Mayor Tramell stated they have had several work sessions to discuss a measure that would allow the use of motorized carts on certain city streets. 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. The proposed ordinance includes registration fees, decals, driver's registration, time of operations, and age of person applying for registration, age of persons operating the cart, liability insurance and the streets designated for cart use. There was no further discussion on the motorized charts ordinance.

- **Troup County Service Delivery**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the 1997 Legislative Session in which House Bill 489 was passed by the Georgia General Assembly required each county and the cities within the county to adopt a Service Delivery Strategy by July 1, 1999. The intent of the Bill was to look at the services they provide to identify overlap or gaps in service provision and develop a more rational approach to allocating delivery and funding of these services among the various local governments and authorities in each county. He stated the City of West Point residents are 59.91% of the county property tax levy. The City of West Point is asking Troup County and the Cities to revise the Recreation Intergovernmental Agreement for Parks and Recreation to include restructure of the commission, address future capital needs, signage, etc., City Manager Ed Moon stated the City is asking Troup County to provide a detailed and separate budget for parks and recreation in West Point. He stated Troup County agrees to an additional \$100,000 for recreation in West Point and to track cost separately from the other cities. He stated City taxpayers pay \$11.80 per capita annually for Troup County Library services. Lagrange and Hogansville have library services supported by the county while West Point has none. West Point request Troup County provide library services in the City of West Point through services at the existing Hawkes Library or other facilities or provide the City \$100,000 annually for Library Services. Troup County agreed to fund directly to the City \$25,000 for library services in West Point. The City of West Point request that Troup County, Lagrange, Hogansville, West Point, and any other entities such as GDOT provide funding for the maintenance and operation of Kia parkway and Kia Boulevard. The cost of resurfacing is approximately \$5 to \$8 million dollars. Troup county agreed to assist West Point with seeking funding from the State of Georgia for resurfacing of KIA Parkway and they offered to assist with some one-time maintenance at their cost of \$130,000. Currently Local Option Sells Tax (LOST) formula is Troup 45% Lagrange 45% West Point 5% and Hogansville 5%. The City of West Point is requesting 10%. Troup county stated the LOST will remain the same. The Cities and County are continuing negotiations.

- **West Point Municipal Public Defender**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the City of West Point Municipal Judge who held the position of Public Defender was recently sworn in and that left the position for the Public Defender open. He asked how the Mayor and Council wanted to proceed in filling that position. The consensus of the Mayor and Council was to advertise the position and conduct interviews.

- **SPLOST Update**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the plans to install the sidewalks around John Hoggs field and the walking trail, playground and parking lot around the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue park were in the Council packet. He stated those projects are almost ready to begin construction.

- **Utility Aid Agreement**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the Georgia Department of Transportation is moving forward on the construction of the roundabouts GDOT PI 0009975 and construction of a replacement bridge over Long Cane Creek GDOT PI 0013999. The City has utilities located in the GDOT right-of-way in both projects including water, sewer, electric and gas. The City has submitted a utility aid package and plan and has met with GDOT and consultants requesting assistance. GDOT has agreed to pay 100% of the water and sewer relocation work at a cost of \$300,430. The City will be responsible for 100% of the electric and gas relocation work at a cost of \$353,749. He stated the resolution is in the Council packet that gives the Mayor the authority to sign all documents associated with these projects.

### **Agenda for February 4, 2021**

Mayor Tramell reviewed the agenda for the February 4, 2021 work-session which included the Troup County Election Board, Update Comprehensive Plan, Motorized Carts, Utility Aid Agreement, SPLOST Update Plans and Troup County SDS. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs made a motion to approve the next agenda; seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously**.

### **Other**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated because of the COVID 19 pandemic, plans for this year Black History Program will be virtual. She asked for sponsors for the program because of the cost associated with having it virtual.

### **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