



## City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

Via teleconference

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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference February 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell presiding.

### Members Participated:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III  
Councilmember Alanteo “Henry” Hutchinson  
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter  
Councilmember Sandra Thornton  
Councilmember Deedee Williams

### Members Non-Participate:

Mayor Pro-Tem Gloria R. Marshall

### Agenda Reviewed

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

### Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### New Business

- **Update Comprehensive Plan 2020 - 2040**

Mayor Tramell stated the Council has received a draft copy of the proposed update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. He 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. Councilmembers Gerald W. Ledbetter and Sandra Thornton thanked Dennis Dutton and his team for working so diligently on updating the plan.

- **Motorized Carts Ordinance**

Mayor Tramell stated they have a proposed amendment to the City’s Ordinance to allow motorized carts to be operated 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. The proposed ordinance includes 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, registration fees, decals, driver's registration, time of operations, and age of person applying for registration, age of persons operating the cart, and liability insurance. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the carts need to be registered locally and with the State. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated he would check to make sure but believe the carts only need to register locally.

- **Troup County Service Delivery**

Mayor Tramell 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., Mayor Tramell 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. Councilmember Deedee Williams talked about the lack of representation the citizens of West Point have in Troup County. She talked about how the district lines are drawn that makes it impossible for someone from West Point to win a seat. Mayor Tramell stated he is meeting with the County Chairman next week to attempt to reach an agreement that will provide tax equity for the citizens of West Point.

- **Utility Aid Agreement**

Mayor Tramell stated the Georgia Department of Transportation will soon begin construction on the three roundabouts on State Route 18. 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. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the agreement can be negotiated. City Manager Ed Moon stated normally there is not much room for negotiations on Department of Transportation (DOT) projects. He stated the resolution is in the Council packet that gives the Mayor the authority to sign all documents associated with these projects.

- **Elections**

Mayor Tramell stated a request was made in the previous work session to have a discussion concerning elections in West Point to include early in person voting. He opened the floor for discussion. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated the City is responsible for Municipal Elections and the Counties are responsible for General Election. When the City has a Municipal Election, the City offers early in person voting in West Point. He stated when there is a General Election, the Counties should provide that service to our citizens. He also stated when there is a General Election, the Mayor or the Council as a body should petition the Counties to offer in person early voting within the City. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated if the Counties do not provide the service, the City should. We should give people as many options as possible to get people to vote. Mayor Tramell stated this item will be on another work session for further discussion.

### **Agenda for February 8, 2021**

Mayor Tramell reviewed the agenda for the February 8, 2021 Business agenda which included Update the Comprehensive Plan, Amend Ordinance to allow Motorized Carts, and Utility Aid Agreement Resolution. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs made a motion to approve the Business Meeting agenda; seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

### **Other**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated because of the COVID 19 pandemic, plans for this year Black History Program will be virtual. The program is February 25, 2021. She also asked for sponsors for the program because of the cost associated with having it virtual. The speaker is Dr. Lawrence Brack, MD from LaGrange, Georgia.

Councilmember Deedee Williams thanked City Manager Ed Moon for getting the street sign up on the street named after former Councilmember Donald Gilliam.

**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