



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.
Via teleconference

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference February 23, 2021 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:

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 approved the Updated 2020 Comprehensive Plan at the last Business meeting. He stated during the motion to approved, it was also decided to revisit the discussion of the plan at the next work session. Mayor Tramell open the floor up for discussion. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she thinks the plan needs more work. It needs to include people from all areas of the City and cost should not be the main factor in updating the plan. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall asked if there were anything that should be in the plan that is not in the current plan. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated the steering committee had public hearing to get input from the community. Mayor Tramell stated the Council should decide whether to wholesale rewrite the plan which would need DCA approval or do a 5- year short term work plan that would not need DCA approval. She stated the primary focus is having everyone input.

- **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 paying for services they are not receiving. He stated he has asked to go to mediation to let an outside person hear both sides and make a ruling. Mediation is all the City is currently asking for. Mayor Tramell stated the original agreement called for special tax districts and he believe that is what's needed to avoid double taxing our citizens. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated if it goes to court, the Judge will be someone outside the local circuit. Mayor Tramell thanked the City of Hogansville for agreeing with the City in trying to come to an applicable agreement. The Council voiced support for the Mayor and asked if they can do anything to help such as contacting our County Representative Lewis Davis.

- **Municipal Public Defender**

City Manager Ed Moon stated they have contacted the Bar Association and the application period will end March 4th. The Mayor and Council will be able to proceed with interviews for the position.

- **Board and Committee Appointment**

City Manager Ed Moon stated he had received an application from Bill Gladden asking to be re-appointed to the Municipal Planning Board. Mr. Gladden has been a member of the planning board for over 15 years.

- **City Auditor Recommendation**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the City received four proposals for Audit Services. They were Boatwright Certified Public Accountants Lagrange Georgia, Driver Adams and Sharpe Certified Public Accountants and Consultants Zebulon Georgia, Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors Atlanta Georgia, and Robinson Grimes and Company, P.C. Columbus Georgia. The staff evaluated the proposals were Richard McCoy, Kristin Lester, Lasheika Ward, and Ed Moon. Using a 100-point scoring system the team reviewed the proposals independently and then as a group. Using four critical areas, responsiveness, clarity of the firm's ability to perform the work, experience in conducting city audits of similar size, nature and complexity, technical experience and professional qualifications of the audit team, cost, and size and structure of the firm's office. The Administrative team scored Mauldin and Jenkins with scores of 92, 95, 98 and 98 placing the firm well above the other applicants. Mauldin and Jenkin's firm is highly experienced in government work and audits more governments in Georgia than any of the other firms. The provide audit services to 10 MEAG communities and 10 Georgia gas utility

operators. The firm serves 500 state and local governments across the southeast, 126 of those are city governments. They are ranked in the top 100 of the largest certified public accounting firms in the country. Staff recommends contracting with Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs and Advisors for auditing services for the City of West Point. The maximum price for 2020-2025 is \$39,000.

Work Session Agenda for March 4, 2021

Mayor Tramell reviewed the agenda for the March 4, 2021 work session agenda which included Public Defender, Board & Committee Appointments, and City Auditor. Councilmember Sandra Thornton made a motion to approve the next work session agenda; seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **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 6:00 p. m. 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.

Adjourn

Councilmember Sandra Thornton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned