



## City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

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

Via teleconference

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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference March 4, 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 Sandra Thornton made a motion to accept the agenda presented and add the resolution for legal service to the agenda. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

**Public Comments on any item**

There were no public comments.

**New Business**

• **Municipal Public Defender**

City Manager Ed Moon stated they have contacted the Bar Association and the application period for the position ended today, March 4<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Ed Moon stated two people have express interest in filling the position. Brandy Easlick and Bryant Aplin. Mr. Moon will forward their resume to the Council.

• **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. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **City Auditor Recommendation**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work session. 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 are highly experienced in government work and audits more governments in Georgia than any of the other firms. They 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.

- **Resolution for Legal Services**

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated the City of West Point is preparing to mediate the Service Delivery Strategy with Troup County. He stated it is important to have an experienced Law Firm to assist the City. Andy Welch with the law firm Smith Welch Webb and White LLC will be a good firm to represent the City. Smith Welch Webb and White LLC has represented counties and cities across the state and has been successful in reaching favorable agreements for their clients. A tentative agreement has been made with DCA to extend the service delivery agreement for 90 days. The resolution authorizes City Attorney Alex Dixon and Smith Welch Webb and White LLC to take action to resolve the current issue with Service Delivery Strategy. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she has talked to several people in Troup County/Lagrange and was told West Point was the hold up and They have offered to resolve the issues and the extension was on the table earlier in the negotiations, but West Point would not negotiate. Councilmember Williams stated if mediation had to occur then that is what we must do, but it should be the last resort. She also stated she was not aware of the City's position on the negotiations. Mayor Tramell stated after reading the bill for Service Delivery and realizing the citizens of West Point are being taxed by the County for services they are not receiving from the County, he has asked for a Special Tax District for West Point residence that will lower the millage rate (dollar amount the residences pay) for taxes to Troup County. He stated he does not believe our residents should pay for services they do not receive. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated although he has not been on the council long, he does understand how the process work and he was not opposed to discussions on this item. He also stated he did not want the media to misunderstand his

position because he was united with the Mayor. The resolution for legal services will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

### **Agenda for Business Meeting March 8, 2021**

Mayor Tramell reviewed the agenda for the March 8, 2021 Business meeting agenda which included Board & Committee Appointments, City Auditor and Resolution for Legal Services. 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 thanked Nufunda Ross for producing the Black History Program and everyone who participated. She stated without their participation, the program would not have been successful. She also announced the Villager's will be on the vacant lot located at 1111 E 10<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, March 5, 2020 distributing boxes of food. She asked for volunteers to help with the distribution.

### **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