



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

Via teleconference

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held by Teleconference March 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell presiding.

Members Participated:

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

Members Non-Participate:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III

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. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on any item

There were no public comments.

Presenters

- **Groundswell SOUL**

Michelle Moore, CEO Groundswell stated Groundswell SOUL serves more that 3,800 customers. The program is designed to save on the amount customers pay for utilities by making the home energy efficient. Older houses tend to be less efficient. The program will help bring homes up to a level that will save on energy, by insulating the house. The cost of insulating the house would be paid through a USDA Rural Energy Saving Program (RESP) loan. The customer will pay the loan back by adding a fee to the customer utility bills. Ms. Moore asked the City to approve the West Point Soul Plan. Ms. Moore stated the homeowner will be notified that they eligible through Direct Mail after their utility bills are analyzed. She also stated Landlords will have to approve of the program. The item will be on the next work session agenda for further consideration.

New Business

- **Valley Haven Proclamation**

Mayor Steven Tramell read a proclamation for Valley Haven School proclaiming the week of April 26th through May 1, 2021 as Hike/Bike/Run Week in the City of West Point.

- **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Proclamation**

Mayor Steven Tramell read a proclamation for National Public Safety Week proclaiming the week of April 11 through April 17, 2021 to be national Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in honor of those whose diligence and professionalism who keep our city and citizens safe.

- **Municipal Public Defender**

City Manager Ed Moon stated they have contacted the Bar Association and the application period for the position ended today, March 4th. City Manager Ed Moon stated two people have express interest in filling the position. Brandy Easlick and Bryant Aplin. Mr. Moon stated he has not received any additional information for the applicant but request the Council to move forward processing their resume.

- **Board & Committee Appointment**

City Manager Ed Moon stated he has received an application from Marshall Sapp requesting to be re-appointed to the Hawkes Library Board. The application is in the Council packet and will be on the next work-session agenda for further consideration.

- **City Surplus**

City Manager Ed Moon stated a list of city vehicles that are no longer in service are in the Council Packet. He stated staff recommends approval to surplus the city vehicles and place them on GovDeals.com to be sold. The list included:

2006 GMC 3500 Utility Vehicle, Vin# 1GDJC33D16F240817,
2008 Ford F-150, Utility Vehicle Vin# 1FTRX14W48FB35966,
2008 Ford Crown Victoria, Police Vehicle Vin#2FAFP71V48X136269,
2009 Ford Crown Victoria, Police Vehicle Vin#2FAHP71V19X115180,
2009 Ford Crown Victoria, Police Vehicle Vin#2FAHP71V19X115183,
2010 Ford Crown Victoria, Police Vehicle Vin# 2FABP7BVXAX138899,
2013 Dodge Charger, Police Vehicle Vin# 2C3DXAT2DH633169,
2013 Dodge Charger, Police Vehicle Vin# 2C3DXAT9DH633170, and
2006 Chevy Tahoe, Police Vehicle, VIN# 1GNEC13Z26R136932.

The vehicles have been replaced over time through regular turn overs. The above surplus will be in the next agenda for consideration. Govdeals information will be added on the City's Website for anyone interested in trying to purchase the vehicles.

- **Salary Benefit Comparison**

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated she asked the City Manager to conduct the survey. She stated the last time the Council made any changes was 2005. City Manager Ed Moon stated a survey of some surrounding cities Mayor and Council compensation was in the Council Packet. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall stated she agreed with Councilmember Thornton that this issue should be examine.

- **Recreation Improvements**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the recommended recreation improvements are 6-foot concrete sidewalk and walking path, asphalt parking lot with 24 spaces, and playground sections for children 2 to 5 years old and section for children 5 to 12 years old with seating for those who are responsible for the children. The parking lot will also serve as parking for the Fort Tyler/West View Cemetery during funerals. The other park improvements include 6-foot sidewalk and walking path to connect existing paths and sidewalks through the park, pedestrian bridge across the unnamed stream, pedestrian crossing at several street crossing locations. These improvements will encourage pedestrian traffic to use paths and sidewalks and not the streets, sidewalks, or walking on the grass. The projects will be funded by SPLOST. The item will be on the next work-session for further discussion.

- **Juneteenth Holiday**

Mayor Tramell stated the Juneteenth Committee asked the City of West Point to consider making Juneteenth Day (June 19th) a City holiday. Juneteenth is celebrated for marking the end of slavery. Although President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1864 freeing slaves in the United States, the news did not reach Galveston Texas until June 19, 1865 which was the impetus for the first celebration marking the freedom of all slaves in the U. S. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated his research did not find anything that would prohibit the Mayor and Council to deem the day as a City holiday. The item will be on the next agenda for further consideration.

Agenda for Work session Meeting April 8, 2021

Mayor Tramell reviewed the agenda for the April 8, 2021 work session meeting agenda which included Public Defender, Board & Committee Appointments, City Surplus, Salary Benefit Comparison, Recreation Improvements, Juneteenth Holiday, and Groundswell SOUL. Councilmember Gerald Ledbetter made a motion to approve the next work session agenda; seconded Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

Other

Councilmember Deedee Williams asked about an update on the Service Delivery Agreement between Troup County and the three other cities in the County. She asked about the April 23rd meeting. City Attorney Alex Dixon stated the parties are working on the agreement for the Mediator and they have had some talk about having a meeting prior to the scheduled April 23rd meeting. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if the discussion Service Delivery be added to the next agenda.

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated May 21st and 22nd the Southwest Pageant will take place. She has tickets if anyone is interest in attending. Councilmember Thornton is a contestant in the pageant.

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