



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, May 25, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall May 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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 Absent:

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. Councilmember Deedee Williams; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on any items

There were no public comments.

New Business

• **City Council Salary**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the Citizen Committee that was appointed by the Mayor and Council to review elected officials’ compensation has completed the work. The Committee has unanimously recommended salary increases, the Council from \$250 to \$325 per month and the Mayor from \$425 to \$595 per month. The Committee also recommended the salary of the Mayor and Council be reviewed every 5-years. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the compensation should be considered as a gratuity for their time and service not as pay. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson recommended the increase should be equal to the Mayor increase and some languish that the Mayor and Council should consider a pay increase every five years as the committee recommended but not consider a decrease that may punish members. He also recommended adding back the retirement benefit for the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III stated the retirement benefit would add value for long term members. It would give them an incentive to continue serving. He stated he benefited tremendously from the knowledge from former longtime members before they retired. If the Mayor and Council consider an increase on the June 2021 meeting, the

proposed increase must be advertised three consecutive weeks. The advertisement must be printed the weeks of May 24, May 31, and June 7. The Mayor and Council thanked the Committee for their work on the compensation.

- **Mural Ordinance**

City Manager Ed Moon stated there were no changes from the previous work-session. A marked-up draft on the proposed Mural Ordinance is in the Council packet. The ordinance would allow three types of mural. Historic murals, original art murals and limited message murals. All other similar forms of outdoor visual that do not meet the definitions of these three forms of murals set forth herein shall be regulated as wall signs and will fall under the sign ordinance. He stated the painting that is currently up on several walls downtown fall under the City of West Point sign ordinance. He also stated the verbiage was changed from one wall to building and an appeal process was added in case an application is denied the appeal process will allow the applicant to appeal to the Mayor and Council. There was some discussion on the length of time a Mural can be up before it could be changed. City Manager Ed Moon stated that could be added to the appeal process. The item will be on the next work-session agenda for further consideration.

Recreation Playground

City Manager Ed Moon stated there are two playground designs options for the 6th Avenue Park in the Council Packet. Design 350-2175 the cost is \$32,595 and \$32,595. The item will be on the next work session agenda for further discussion.

Board and Committee Appointments

City Manager Ed Moon reviewed the 2021 Board Appointments schedule. He stated an appointment to the Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission has been open since January (one year term) Board of Adjustments has been vacant since March and a vacant position on the Keep Troup Beautiful Board will be open in June. He stated application for these positions may be sent to his attention.

Executive Session for Pending Litigation

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to enter an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously.**

Other

The Mayor and Council recognized Councilmember Sandra Thornton and congratulated her for winning the Miss Southwest Beauty Pageant. The pageant took place on May 21st and 22nd at the New Horizon Theater. Councilmember Thornton will travel to Roswell Georgia in August to compete for the State Title.

Adjourn

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned