



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall June 29, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

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 Henry Hutchinson made said motion. Councilmember Thornton; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Public Comments on any items

Ms. Trish Graham stated she lives on Webb/Bartley Road. She asked the Mayor and Council to not allow the property next to hers to be used as Mixed Use. She stated it would ruin her way of life and lower the property value of her house. She also stated the residents was not aware of the rezoning and there is no reason the city should allow this to happen.

Ms. Edith Cutler stated she lives on E 6th Street. She stated laws are not being enforced. The city tethering law was being ignored. She also stated dogs are being abused and her life has been threatened by the owner of the dogs. She stated the city ordinance needs to be changed so that it addresses dogs in cages.

Ms. Wanda Davis who lives at 408 E 6th Street stated she is aware and has witnessed dogs being abused. She has complained that the dogs constantly bark, and children are playing basketball on city streets. She stated her concerns were the welfare of the animals and the children safety.

Ms. Jasmine Garrett stated she lives at 408 E 6th Street. She has been fighting this battle of dogs being chained and abused for two years. Every time she complains about the abuse, when the code enforcement comes out there are no dogs present. She stated she does not believe that is a coincidence. The city ordinance stating owners get several

warnings before any action is taken should be changed to one warning and the 4x5 chain link fence should be increased. She stated that she has also been threaten by the dog owner.

The Mayor and Council thanked the citizens for their comments.

Presenter

Mr. Lenwood Coleman from Groundswell gave the Mayor and Council a summary of the Groundswell Project. He stated the program is designed to help citizens lower the cost of utility bills. The program not only weatherizes the property but also aids in helping citizens change their behavior toward their use of energy. There is no cost to the citizens for this program. The program is paid for through the savings from the lower cost of energy (utility bills). The city will have to add the cost to utility bills. The owner and the renter must agree to the plan. If a renter moves out, the cost is fixed to the house. The next renter will pay for the initial weatherization. The City of LaGrange is currently in a PILOT program with Groundswell.

New Business

- **City Manager Update**

City Manager Ed Moon stated Fire Chief Milton Smith as announced on September 30, 2021 that he will be retiring from the City of West Point. He reviewed the hiring process for the Fire Chief position. June 10th through July 1 Formalize Job Description, Create Advertisement. July 1 through July 26 Advertise, Establish Interview panel, August 9th through August 17th Interview Dates, August 18th through August 24th Review Interviews, Resume's, August 24th present candidate information to council and make a recommendation. September 9th discuss Council work session; September 13th Council consider candidate. City Manager Ed Moon stated working with FEMA, EPD and the help from Congressman Drew Ferguson, the city should receive a letter from FEMA that will resolve the changes that was made to the flood map in 2017. The City Water Tank located on the KIA site will be cut off on July 1st. The new logo will be changed on the tank. KIA is paying for the changes to the logo. The MLK and 10th Street project is out for bid. The project is a SPLOST V project. GDOT has approved the project.

Traffic Calming Devices

City Manager Ed Moon stated the goals for implementing calming devices were to preserve quality of life, safer and more attractive residential streets, reduce adverse effect of vehicle traffic, and to promote pedestrian and bicycle mobility. Mr. Moon stated the objectives were to reduce demand for traffic enforcement by the Police Department, maintain response times for emergency vehicles, and achieve reasonable vehicle speeds and volumes on city streets. He stated the process for calming devices that is currently in place is citizen driven. He proposed getting the citizens involved by proposing calming devices on several streets and taking a survey of whether the citizens in those areas agree

on putting the devices up. He also stated the residents can get a petition. City Manager Ed Moon stated he was recommending a 4-Way stop on Avenue C and E 7th Street, 3-Way stop on MLK Drive and Hatchet Street, a 4-Way stop Avenue K and E 9th Street, and a 3-Way Stop on E 6th Street and Beallwood Drive. The city has had several complaints of speeding in those areas.

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated Troup County, Hogansville, and the City of LaGrange have approved an agreement for Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). The City of LaGrange receives 45%, Troup County receives 45%, the City of Hogansville 5%, and the City of West Point will receive 5%. City Attorney Alex stated the proposed agreement is based on population. They did not consider the daytime population for West Point. He also stated if the City of West Point does not agree with the proposed agreement, the city runs the risk of receiving less than the proposed 5%. Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the proposed Local Option Sales Tax as presented by the County and the other cities. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Henry Hutchinson; **passed unanimously**.

Other

Councilmember Deedee Williams asked everyone to attend the Trust Building Inc meetings.

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the Juneteenth Celebration will be held on July 10th at the West Point River Park from 12:00 until 6:00. The City of Lanett will have fireworks display at around 9:00. The Juneteenth Celebration date was changed due to inclement weather.

Adjourn

Councilmember Henry Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Richard McCoy
City Clerk

Steven M. Tramell
Mayor