



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Thursday, Nov. 4, 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 November 4, 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

Members Absent:

Councilmember Deedee Williams

Public Hearing 2022 Proposed Budget

Mayor Tramell open the Public Hearing to receive comments concerning the proposed 2022 City of West Point Budget. The total 2022 budget is \$17,763,123.

There were no public comments and Mayor Tramell closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Tramell open the Public Hearing to receive comments concerning Rezoning properties for Arrowhead Drive and Sunset Drive, 80 Sandtown Road, and 44 Sandtown Road. **There were no public comments and Mayor Tramell closed the Public Hearings.**

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

Public Comments on agenda items

There were no public comments.

New Business

Harris County Business Park Expansion

Mayor Steve Tramell stated there are no changes from the previous work session. The project consists of building a road and infrastructure to service a mass graded 35 acre parcel within 90 acres in the Northwest Harris County Business Park. Harris Gray

mastered the plan of the 90 acres to provide the most efficient site layout and design as possible. The total cost is \$2,382,831.97. \$226,951.25 for Storm Drains, 128,138.80 for Sanitary Sewer, \$230,700.00 for Portable Water, 221,150.00 for Gas Maintenance, \$280,066.50 for Curb, Concrete, Paving, \$334,377.25 for Erosion Control. \$660.00 for Clearing and Demolition and \$849,984.00 for Earthwork. The city will pay for the Water and Sewer cost. The item will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

Electric Cities of Georgia Joint Purchasing

Mayor Steve Tramell stated there are no changes from the previous work session. Electric Cities of Georgia is a Georgia nonprofit corporation under the Georgia Nonprofit Code and operates on a nonprofit basis on behalf of each of the participating cities. 52 Participants have entered an Intergovernmental Participant Contract dated February 1, 2013, setting forth the terms of certain services to be provided by ECG on each of their behalf. The resolution is to approve amending number 3. The Joint purchasing Service includes aggregating annual purchase needs across members for common utility inventory items, aggregating purchase needs across members for larger, product-specific buys on a quarterly or as-needed basis (such as 3-phase transformers, large switchgear, etc. Developing common standards and specifications for utility inventory items and developing the mechanism to buy/sell excess inventory. The annual cost of the JP Service shall be allocated to each Participant confirming its agreement to receive the JP Service for a Fiscal Year based upon allocating Fiscal Year Cost to all JP participants equally. The item will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

Board and Committee Appointments

Mayor Steve Tramell stated there are no changes from the previous work session. He stated two people have shown interest in being appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. They are Marshall Sapp and Jane Fuller. The terms are for 3 years. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

Variance for Property Use 1111 2nd Avenue

City Manager Ed Moon stated there are no changes from the previous work session. The property owner has requested the Council to allow the property located 1111 2nd Avenue to be used as residential. The property is currently in the Central Business District. This will also allow the property to be used as residential use of the once existing home. The change of use will only need to follow building permits of the building codes for a residential structure. There shall be no plans to alter the exterior of this historic home. The City Council is required to publicly discuss and decide the best and applicable use for said property in the Central Business district. The property is owned by Steve Tramell. **Mayor Tramell abstained from the discussion.** The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

Traffic Calming

City Manager Ed Moon stated there are no changes from the previous work session. A survey was sent to around 30 residents in the areas Avenue C & E 7th Street, MLK Drive and Hatchet Street, Avenue K and E 9th Street, and E 6th Street and Beallwood Drive. Eight residents responded to the survey and only one was opposed to putting up the All way Stop Signs. He recommends the Mayor and Council to go forward with implementing the signage. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

2022 Proposed Budget Presentation

City Manager Ed Moon stated there are no changes from the previous work session. Each year the City Manager along with the Department Directors and staff prepare the annual budget. This year the 2022 Budget will be presented for adoption on December 8, 2021. The total Proposed 2022 Budget is \$17,763,123 which includes General Fund \$5,859,980, Electric \$6,329,900, Water & Sewer \$3,547,936, Gas \$1,186,457, E-911 \$334,700, and \$504,150 Sanitation. The budget includes a 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The purchase of two (2) Police Vehicles, Increased IT Security, and Wage and Salary Study. SPLOST V \$1,000,000 in paving, and 2014 Harris County SPLOST \$350,000 Water & Sewer. It also includes 3% increase in water and sewer. City Manager Ed Moon stated he was available to meet with any Councilmember concerning the budget. Councilmember Henry Hutchinson asked the Mayor and Council to consider the Street and Sanitation workers when implementing they cost study. He stated they deserves a higher wage because of the importance of their duties.

Next Business Meeting Agenda Items

Mayor Steve Tramell stated the items on the next business meeting agenda are Harris County Business Park Expansion, Electric Cities of Georgia Joint Purchasing agreement, Board and Committee appointments, Variance 1111 2nd Avenue, Traffic Calming Devices, 2022 Proposed Budget, Rezoning at Arrowhead Drive and Sunset Drive, 80 Sandtown Road, and 44 Sandtown Road.

Other

Councilmember Henry Hutchinson stated when he first ran for a seat on the Council, he had per conceived opinions on how City Government worked. After serving for the past four years that opinion has changed. He stated he has grown as a Councilmember and as a person. He thanked the Mayor, Council and City Staff for their support in guiding him the last four years. He also stated he has confidence in their leadership and the direction the city is going, and he will continue to support the Council and the City of West Point any way he can. Councilmember Hutchinson came in forth behind Gloria R. Marshall, Joel Finlay, and Joseph R. Downs in the November 2nd Municipal Election. Gloria R. Marshall, Joel Finlay, and Joseph R. Downs will be sworn in at the January 2022 Council meeting. They will serve a four-year term.

Councilmember Hutchinson announced 10-year-old Brooke Rinder will make history by becoming the first female football player to play in the Textile Bowl. The Textile Bowl will take place at Callaway Stadium on November 15th. Ms. Brooke also won Athlete of the Week.

Adjourn

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.