



## City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Wednesday, June 29, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

West Point Council Chambers

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The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall June 29, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

### Members Present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Sandra Thornton  
Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III  
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter  
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall

### Members Absent:

Councilmember Joel B. Finlay  
Councilmember Deedee Williams

Mayor Steve Tramell and the City Council recognized City Clerk Richard McCoy for being named City Clerk of the year at the annual Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Municipal Clerks Association convention in Savannah.

### Review Agenda

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 Joseph R. Downs III; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

### Public Comment on Any Issue

Little Gaston Stone made comments questioning why an electric meter was removed from his home. He also requested sidewalks from MLK and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Stone was concerned about children walking in streets where there are no sidewalks. Mayor Tramell thanked Mr. Stone for his comments.

### New Business

- **113 Springvale Road**

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated a permit was issued 113 Springvale Road for renovation of the property. The renovation was to add a two (2) story addition to the property. The applicant begin construction and added a three-story addition which was not permitted. Social Media and other parties indicated the property will be used for a home for homeless veterans. The applicant applied to the Secretary of State for 305 Non-Profit Brotherhood Life Mission using 113 Springvale Road as the location. 113 Springvale Road is zoned for single family Residence. Brotherhood Life Mission for Veterans with PTSD would not be allowed at 113 Springvale Road. The City of West Point has issued a stop work order at this location.

## **Public Comments on 113 Springvale Road**

Mayor Tramell asked if anyone was present who wish to speak in favor of the renovation 113 Springvale Road. There was no one present that was in favor of the construction.

Mayor Tramell asked if anyone was present who wish to speak against the renovation 113 Springvale Road.

### **Mr. Josh Dunn**

Mr. Dunn spoke on behalf of the Majority of the Residence in the area. He had a list of 80 signatures against the project. He asked if the council had considered the negative effects of the project. He stated that 113 Springvale Road was zoned for single family residence. The purpose of the structure as reported on social media Brother Life Ministry for people suffering from PTSD would not be permitted. He voiced the concerns about traffic, treating mental disorder people in the area, and the Go Fund Me account that was set up. He stated none of the residence was against veterans and the residents would be willing to donate to help veterans, but the location is not zoned for that. He also stated he agreed with the comments made by City Attorney Alex Dixon regarding the city ordinance and actions made by the city regarding the stop work order.

## **Public Comment on 113 Springvale Road**

Ms. Lynda Meadows, 110 Terrace Road, wanted to know the timeline to remove the addition to the structure.

Mr. Darren Kelley, 124 Tyler Terrace, voiced his concerns about the project and wanted to know when the permit was issued, when the city was notified of the violations, how often the location was inspected.

- **City Manager Update**

City Manager Ed Moon reported we continue to have issues with Amwaste concerning the garbage and recycling pick up. Staff continues to engage with Amwaste daily concerning the service issues. He is working on options for the council to consider and he hopes to present them at the next work session. He asked citizens to continue reporting issues to Amwaste and they may contact West Point City Hall and we will forward their request to Amwaste.

The city is almost at full staff. Fire and Police are at the highest level since 2019. The city has some openings, and he encourages job seekers to visit the city website for details on job openings. The advertisement for Economic Development Director has closed. Human Resources are scheduling interviews with the candidates. He hopes to have a candidate for council consideration in August.

The intersection improvement project at MLK and 10<sup>th</sup> Street is underway after 5-years of preparation. The project consists of sidewalk and signal improvements, plus landscaping. The work should be completed in mid-August. Sections of the state project had to be removed because the city and state plans did not match.

Mr. Moon stated the City of West Point continue to have unprecedented interest in development. This includes residential, retail, commercial and industrial.

## **Minutes**

City Manager Ed Moon stated during last business meeting there was discussion on information contained in the previous business meeting minutes. This issue has come up several times over the past few years. The city has for decades documented minutes in a summary form. The minutes are recorded by the City Clerk or assigned city staff in a way that is in the recorder's opinion captures a summary of the discussion and comments of each participant. The minutes are not exactly every word spoken. Minutes are the written record of all actions in a meeting, including city council meetings. Meetings held by any governmental agency or committee of the governmental agency require minutes to ensure that these agencies or committees follow the law. There have been no issues with the legal requirements being recorded in the meeting minutes. City staff reviews the minutes for various reasons, and I am not aware of any action taken by the mayor and council that has not been properly recorded. The approval process of the minutes allows for members to offer an amendment to the minutes. He also stated there are three options for the mayor and council to consider. 1. Continue to document meeting in the current summary format. 2. Document only information that must be included as a requirement of Georgia law O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(e)(1)(2) (B) The regular minutes of a meeting subject to this chapter shall be promptly recorded and such records shall be open to public inspection once approved as official by the agency or its committee, but in no case later than immediately following its next regular meeting, provided, however, that nothing contained in this chapter shall prohibit the earlier release of minutes, whether approved by the agency or not. Such minutes shall, at a minimum, include the names of the members present at the meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, the identity of the persons making and seconding the motion or other proposal, and a record of all votes. The name of each person voting for or against a proposal shall be recorded. It shall be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in attendance unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining. 3. Record verbatim minutes. Verbatim minutes would require hiring a stenographer. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter stated he sees no reason to change the way the city is currently recording the minutes. Councilmember Gloria Marshall stated the current systems is working and the City Clerk is doing an excellent job. Councilmember Sandra Thornton echoed the sentiments of the other councilmembers. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III stated every time the council had to research something that was in a previous meeting, they always found it in the minutes. He stated he sees no reason to change our process. The item will be on the next meeting for consideration.

## **Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority Member**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the city has received a notice from Meghan Duke, Senior Director of Economic Development with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce that the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority is being revived. Meghan is asking the City of West Point to appoint two members to the Authority. The Chairman of the West Point Development Authority currently Kevin Patrick and the Economic Development Director. The item will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

## **Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City and West Point Housing Authority for the West Point Villages Project**

City attorney Alex Dixon stated the agreement is for the previously approved city share of the funding \$250,000. The anticipated closing date is July 15, 2022. The project includes 72 units. The item will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

## **Executive Session**

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the purchase of property. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

### Following the Executive Session

**Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to give City Manager Ed Moon permission to negotiate the purchase of property on behalf of the City. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; passed unanimously.**

### Agenda for July 11, 2022, Meeting

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to set the agenda for the July 11, 2022, Business Meeting which includes Meeting Minutes, Valley partnership Joint Development Authority Member, Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and West Point Housing Authority for the West Point Villages Project. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion; seconded by Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

### 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.