



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, November 29, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.
West Point Council Chambers

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall November 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 Joel B. Finlay
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Deedee Williams

Members Absent:

Public Hearing 2023 Proposed Budget

Mayor Tramell opened the Public Hearing to receive comments concerning the proposed 2023 City of West Point Budget. The total 2023 budget is \$21,459,676. The budget includes a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 1 Step Increase all employees, 31 positions 2-5 Steps to reach goal of \$31,200 annually. The Budget includes a 5% Increase in Water and Sewer rates.

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

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 Joel B. Finlay; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Public Comment on Any Items

Ms. Andrea Cox stated she was before the council representing her mother Catherine Cox who resides 201 Arrowhead Drive. Ms. Cox stated people are disregarding the stop signs and are speeding. There have been several accidents in the area and is a potential to have more. She showed the Council a diagram of the area streets and recommended the city place 4-way stop signs and speed breakers in the area. The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Cox. City Manager Ed Moon stated the city has received Ms. Cox recommendations regarding the area and will present recommendation to the council later.

New Business

City Manager Update

113 Springvale Drive

City Manager Ed Moon gave the Mayor and Council an update on 113 Springvale Drive. He stated on June 9, 2022, the City Community Development Department issued a stop work order for the residential property owned by Gary Mills. The order was issued due to the changes in construction that were not included in the plans submitted to the city. The city also received information that Mr. Mills intended to operate a business from this location and formed a non-profit organization listing this address in August of 2021. After receiving a letter from Stahl Engineering confirming the structural integrity of the structure and an affidavit signed by Mr. Mills that affirms no business will be operated from the residence. The city lifted the stop work order and revised the building permit on November 3, 2022. The Mayor and Council were notified via email on October 328, 2022, with copies of engineering report and affidavit. The question was asked if there were any structural changes to the house. Mr. Moon stated they added an additional floor.

601 Frank Hall Jr. Street

Mr. Moon stated on November 3, 2022, action was taken at 607 Frank Hall Jr. Street due to multiple code and law violations at a Personal Care Home. This is an ongoing police matter, and we cannot discuss the specifics of this case. The Council was notified on November 3, 2022, of this action with details of the operation. The question was asked if the City of West Point had done everything legally within their power concerning the accident. City Manager Ed Moon stated that they had.

Road Resurfacing Project Inspection

The city recently completed a city street resurfacing project. The project engineer was Falcon Design. The city 2022 roadway resurfacing program has a specification and contract document that governed the project. Part 1 is bidding, agreements, bonds and conditions, Part 2 is specifications which includes measurement and payment, price and payment procedures, quality requirements and product requirements. Falcons Director of municipal Services Skip Layton was the lead staff person on the project and assured that the specifications were adhered to. James Jones P.E. was the senior project manager and Adam Price P.E. was the administrator of the project. Public Works Director Rodrick Palmer was involved in all aspects of the project including on site inspections. The City Manager was engaged with all aspects of the project and processed all documents along with city hall staff. The question was asked about how the process of patching holes to avoid the holes sinking after patching. City Manager Ed Moon stated the patching was done several ways, including using cement.

Economic Development Director

Mr. Moon stated since the vacancy for the economic development directors' position, he has taken on the day-to-day activities of the position. During several rounds of advertising, we only received two qualified application and neither one took the job. The position will be advertised again beginning December 15 for 30 days.

Police Chief

City Manager Ed Moon stated Interim Chief Kevin Carter has been doing a great job with the department since the resignation of former Police Donald Britt. He has been doing so with virtual no command staff. He has handled several highly publicized incidents very well. Mr. Moon stated that within the next month he was going to make a recommendation whether to appoint Kevin Carter as Chief or to open the interviewing process. If the decision is to open the process, Interim Chief Carter may apply also. There was some concern whether not naming a Chief would leave the city opened to criminals thinking they can take advantage of the situation.

Depot

City Manager Ed Moon stated as all of you are aware of the tragic death during a party at the depot. The party organizer paid all fees and provided a signed rental contract for the event. The Depot rental contract requires that all events where alcohol is served must provide a police officer on duty for the duration of the event. The person leasing the depot must schedule and pay for any cost associated with police officer. City staff are not present during events at the depot. The police department does not check on events to assure compliance unless requested by city staff or there is a complaint that requires law enforcement at the event. The leaser is responsible for event security. The city does not know if alcohol was a factor in this event.

Employees Anniversaries

City Manager Ed Moon stated that the city had the employee appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. Anna Green, Charles Poe, Nathaniel Saddler, and Zachary Smith celebrated five years of service. Devin Arnold and Randy Franklin celebrated 10 years of service, and Barbara Hightower and Michael celebrated 15 years of service.

2023 Proposed Budget Discussion

City Manager Ed Moon stated each year the City Manager along with the Department Directors and staff prepare the annual budget. This year the 2023 Proposed Budget will be presented for adoption on December 12, 2022. The total Proposed 2023 Budget is \$21,459,676 which includes General Fund \$6,737,103, Electric \$8,161,372, Water & Sewer \$4,015,145, Gas \$1,627,436, E-911 \$362,670, and \$555,950 Sanitation. The budget includes a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 1 Step Increase all employees, 31 positions 2-5 Steps to reach goal of \$31, 200 annually. The Budget includes a 5% Increase in Water and Sewer rates. There were no further discussions.

West Point Elementary Student Resource Officer

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated that the Troup County School System has asked the City of West Point to enter into an agreement to provide a Resource Officer for the Elementary School. The Officer will be a City of West Point employee and the city will provide all the benefits awarded to Police Officers including providing a vehicle. the School System will pay \$55,000 annually to the city to offset some of the cost. Cedarius Thomas has shown interest in becoming the Resource Officer.

Board and Committee Appointments

Mayor Tramell stated the City has received application to re-appoint Jamie Welch to the Troup County Parks and Recreation Commission and Lionel Johnson to the West Point Development Authority. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

Final Subdivision Plat of Point University

City Manager Ed Moon stated the city has received a request to subdivide and approve the plat for the property located on 3rd Avenue and West 10th Street owned by Point University. The Plat Act requires Mayor and Council approval. There were some questions as to what Point University's intended use of the property. The item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

Final Subdivision Plat of West Point Housing Authority

City Manager Ed Moon stated the city has received a request to approve the plat for the property located on Higgins Street owned by West Point Housing Authority. The property will be used for single family housing. The Plat Act requires Mayor and Council approval. The item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

Request for Convention, Meeting and Banquet Facility

City Manager Ed Moon stated Willie B. McCarden owner of property located 2130 Highway 29 has requested to use the property for a convention, meeting, and Banquet facility. Section 12 General commercial ordinance requires Mayor and Council approval. The item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

Consideration of Troup County SPLOST VI Intergovernmental Agreement

City Attorney Alex Dixon stated SPLOST VI has been or will be approved by Troup County, the City of LaGrange and Hogansville by the deadline date of December 8, 2022. This is the last meeting the City of West Point will have before that date. Councilmember Deedee Williams suggested a possible called meeting. She also stated the need to get along with the County and present projects that they may agree to help fund. Councilmember Joel Finlay and other members stated the need to have a better relationship with the county Mayor Tramell stated the recreation in West Point is currently the responsibility of Troup County. The agreement will give 45% of the collected taxes to Troup County and the City of LaGrange. Hogansville and West Point will both receive 5%.

SPLOST VI Intergovernmental Agreement

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the Troup County SPLOST VI Intergovernmental Agreement. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed on a 5-0 vote. Councilmember Deedee Williams abstained**

Other

Agenda for December 12, 2022, Meeting

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to set the agenda for the December 12, 2022, Business Meeting which includes the Proposed 2023 Budget, West Point Elementary Student Resource Officer, Board and Committee Appointments, Subdivision Plat Point University, Subdivision Plat West Point Housing Authority, and Request for Convention, Meeting and Banquet Facility. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

Adjourn

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III 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