



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2023 @ 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 January 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Sandra Thornton
Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Deedee Williams
Councilmember Joel B. Finlay

Members Absent:

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall

Review Agenda

Mayor Steve Tramell called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made said motion. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**

Public Comment on Any Items

There were no public comments.

New Business

City Manager Update

Severe Weather Mr. Moon stated over the last month we have had a variety of severe weather, from below freezing temperatures to thunderstorms and heavy rain. Our utility and storm water infrastructure performed well due to our hard-working employees. There were issues but the city staff responded in difficult conditions to resolve customer issues quickly. Thanks to our utility and public works staff for their dedication to the community.

AMWASTE Mr. Moon stated over the past two months we have seen a distinct improvement in the quality of service provided by AMWASTE. The number of missed cans has decreased, the response time to resolve issues has improved, communication with the city is clear and meaningful. Overall, we are seeing a satisfactory level of service from the service provider.

After Hours Calls for Service Mr. Moon stated each weekday the city provides customer service for all type requests. Our customer service representatives can be reached at the numbers 706-645-3503, 3504, 3505 between the hours of 8am and 5pm. The main published number is 706-645-2226. This number is automated and has a selection process to reach the needed city department between the hours of 8am and 5pm. After 5pm the city has an afterhours service that answers all calls to the numbers. The service also answers on weekends and holidays.

Many times, customers call individuals, like the mayor and council, to request basic service needs after hours. It is important that we all direct these customers to call the city service numbers. This is the most efficient and documented way to report a problem and get the appropriate staff responding quickly to meet the customer or citizens need. The request is entered into our work order system and management staff is notified via email that the call has been dispatched. Despite what individuals may think going through the call center is more efficient, better communicated, and quicker than calling directly to an individual city employee for service. It provides accountability and documents the actions taken. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated she had experienced some issues in reaching employees at City Hall. She contacted the City Manager and was able to get a return telephone call from city hall staff. She also asked about trucks making deliveries blocking lanes in downtown during business hours. She was told to contact the City Hall when such incidents occur, and code enforcement and our police department will address the situation as it relates to city code violations.

2023 Board and Committee Appointments

City Manager Ed Moon stated in March there will be two vacancies on the Board of Adjustments that will need to be filled, two vacancies on the Hawkes Library Board, and two on the Planning Board. There will also be a vacancy on the West Point Development Authority Board that will need to be filled in December.

2023 Appointment City Officers

Mayor Tramell stated the Mayor and Council will need to appoint Mayor Pro-Tempore, City Attorney, and the Municipal Court Staff. The appointments will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

Qualifying Fees for 2023 Municipal Election

City Clerk Richard McCoy stated state law requires the governing body of a municipality to fix and publish qualifying fees for each of its offices no later than February 1 of the year the local election is to be held. The qualifying fee for each office to be filled shall be three (3) percent of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding calendar year. The amount for Mayor is \$214.20 and Council is \$151.20. This year The Mayor Steve Tramell and three (3) Councilmembers Sandra Thornton, Gerald W. Ledbetter, and Deedee Williams seats are up for elections. There were some questions about the qualifying dates and early voting. City Clerk Richard McCoy stated the qualifying dates will be August 21 through August 23, 2023. The qualifying dates will be advertised according to State Law. It was asked whether Early Voting will take place in this year municipal election. He stated as in the past, there will be Early voting in the city's municipal election. The Mayor and Council have always supported Early Voting and allowing citizens of West Point every opportunity to cast their vote. The elections in which Early Voting is not offered locally are elections that are not Municipal Elections, they are General Elections and are the responsibility of the Counties. The resolution will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

Memorandum of Understanding Mobis Alabama, LLC

The Mobis Memorandum of Understanding between the City of West Point, the West Point Development Authority, Mobis Alabama, LLC., Troup County Board of Tax Assessors, and the Troup County Board of Education. The expansion of the Mobis facility will be located on the Kia campus with an investment of 94,600,000 with 60 new jobs. There will be a seven-year PILOT Program based on the Troup County Pilot Policy. There will be a 50% abatement of Real and Personal Property Taxes from 2024-2030. The West Point Development Authority approved the MOU on December 19, 2022. There were questions from Councilmember Deedee Williams as to who were involved with the negotiations and could there have been other options. The item will be on the next business meeting for consideration.

Agenda for January 9, 2023 Business Meeting

Mayor Tramell reviewed the agenda for the January 9, 2023, business meeting.

- Appointment of City Officers
- Swearing in of City Attorney
- Establish Qualifying Fees for the 2023 Municipal Election
- Memorandum of Understanding Mobis Alabama, LLC

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to set the January 9, 2023, Business Meeting Agenda per review.

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

Executive Session for Property Discussion

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss property. Joseph R. Downs III made said motion seconded by Councilmember Joel B. Finlay; **passed unanimously**.

Adjourn

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.