



## City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Thursday, March 28, 2023 @ 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 at West Point City Hall March 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

### Members Present:

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

### Members Absent:

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshal

### Review Agenda

Mayor Tramell called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made said motion. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

### Public Comment on Any Items

There were no public comments.

### New Business

#### City Manager Update

City Manager Ed Moon gave an update of the storm that begin on March 26, 2023. The tornado was a EF3 with 150 mph winds and it touch down at 6:49 am along the northern city limits and traveled 20 miles across Troup County. All city departments responded to assist. On March 27, 2023, the area received 8 to 10 inches of rain. The lake level increased nearly 4 feet in 24 hours. The Core of Engineers estimated 100,000 cfs was flowing into the lake. The CORPS estimated a release of 40,000 cfs, 10,000 was due to generation, 14,000 spillway and the remainder from tributaries including the Oseligee Creek probable a new record with a flow 20,000 plus cfs. The River at West Point reached a peak of 50,0000 cfs 17.24 feet around 3:00 pm on March 27. There were many calls about stormwater issues. Rain of 8 to 10 inches is nearly 20% of our annual expected rainfall in one event. He stated staff will make every effort to address issues that are needed with the storm infrastructure.

Mr. Moon stated EZ Blockchain three-year contract is ending November 2024. Their contract is nontransferable. They are requesting an agreement from the city to allow the current contract to be assigned to another company CleanSpark Bitcoin mining company. CleanSpark has four Electric City locations in Georgia: Norcross, College Park, Washington, and Sandersville, with approximately 200 MW through MEAG. The item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

City Department Directors Sammy Inman Utilities, Roderick Palmer Public Works, Derick Staley Fire Chief, Kelvin Carter Police Chief all gave reports of their activities during the storm which included closing roads and

bridges, removing city road debris and assisting Troup County with removing debris, setting up command post at the Hwy 29 1506 building, coordinating with Red Cross at the West Point Gym, providing security at the Gym, assisted with the collapsed roof at the Coca Cola Plant, respond to medical calls, and checking water levels on bridges. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if anyone was coordinating with agencies to inform citizens of any assistance they can receive. She stated people are in need, specifically need of housing. Fire Chief Derick Staley stated they coordinated relief efforts with Troup County Emergency Management independent efforts. Mayor Tramell stated he has spoken to Congressman A. Drew Ferguson IV and officials with the State of Georgia.

### **Board and Committee Appointments**

City Manager Ed Moon stated that the City has received two (2) applications to serve on the Hawkes Library Board. Debra Robertson and Larry Duncan and one (1) one Kevin Patrick to serve on the Municipal Planning Board. Councilmember Deedee Williams asked if nominations from the council could be used to appoint members to boards. City Manager Ed Moon stated that is not the current process to appoint members to committees and boards. The Mayor and Council have the right to change or amend procedures at their discretion. The appointments will be on the next agenda for further consideration.

### **Harrell Preliminary Concept Plan**

City of West Point Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated the Preliminary Concept Plan for the Harrell property will include 554 unites that will be used for residential and is consistent with the City of West Point Comprehensive Plan.

### **Rezoning Request by William Wright, Wisteria Drive**

City of West Point Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated William Wright request a zoning amendment for six parcels on Wisteria Drive to allow building 1600 sq ft houses. The rezoning is consistent with the City of West Point Comprehensive plan. Staff recommends approval for the rezoning. Public Hearing will be held Monday, April 10 at 5:30 pm.

### **Other**

Councilmember Joel B. Finlay stated First United Methodist Church in West Point has clothing for anyone who is in need. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated people need housing and if anyone know of any vacant houses to get that information to victims of the storm.

Councilmember Sandra Thornton reminded everyone of the Easter Eggstravaganze that will take place on March 30 from 4-7 p.m. at the John Hoggs Field. The event is presented by Point University, Point University Students, Point University Athlete Advisory Committee, Spring Road Christian Church, and New Dimensions Worship Center.

Councilmember Sandra Thornton asked everyone to wish Dr. Joseph R. Downs III well and congratulate him on his retirement from practicing medicine.

### **Adjourn**

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion; seconded by Councilmember Joel B. Finlay; **passed unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Richard McCoy

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Steven M. Tramell