



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, May 30, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.
West Point Council Chambers

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Room at West Point City Hall May 30, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III
Councilmember Joel B. Finlay
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshal
Councilmember Sandra Thornton

Members Absent:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Gerald W. Ledbetter
Councilmember Deedee Williams

Review Agenda

Mayor Tramell called the meeting to order 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 Comment on Any Items

There were no public comments.

New Business

Awards

During the 2023 Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia annual membership meeting, the city was presented with the 2022 Marketing Excellence Award, as an acknowledgement of their exemplary achievements in achieving the highest customer growth within a member gas system with a distribution network of less than 1,000 meters.

Electric Cities of Georgia 2022 Jeff Cook Safety Award was awarded to the West Point's Electric Department for their dedication and commitment to environment and culture of safety excellence.

City Manager Update

River Park Trails

City Manager Ed Moon stated the city is committed to updating and maintaining the river park trail system. Our resources are limited but we will use city forces to operate and maintain the park property's. A trail consultant recommended focusing on perimeter trails and abandoning the interior trails, at least until the main use trails can be established and maintained. The perimeter trails should be 10 feet flat, open, and well signed to benefit walkers, hikers, families, etc. to help people feel safer.

Water Intake project

City Manager stated the city continues to work on the water intake project. SLFRF funds received by the city in 2022 in the amount of \$1.3 million are being held in reserve for this project. We have applied for \$6 million with the USACE in federal funds to build the project along with our matching funds. If awarded this will be a 2024 project. We will continue to look for any other available funds.

Radio System Communications Upgrade

The City Manager stated the current city radio communications system is not capable of meeting the needs of public safety, fire, and police. Due to, age of the system, condition, regulation, improved technology, and growth the city communication system will move to 800mhz. All communication systems must be transitioned to support this change. Staff recommendation is to purchase the first phase of a new system at an estimated cost of \$144,222.66. This purchase will allow the city to move to 800mhz for communications quickly. Additional infrastructure will be added to provide a more robust system moving forward.

Personnel Policy Amendment – Personal Leave

City Manager Ed Moon presented revising the Personnel Policy, Section 6.5 Vacation Leave. Recommended changes to policy are:

6.5.1 change verbiage to personnel leave.

6.5.2 remove.

6.5.3 current: 1year 40hours, 4years 80hours, 14years 120hours.

(6.5.2) proposed: Start date 40hours, 2years 80hours, 10years 120hours, 15years 160hours.

6.5.4 current: 1year 60hours, 4years 120hours, 14years 120hours.

(6.5.3) proposed: Start date 60hours, 2years 120hours, 10years 180hours, 15years 240hours.

6.5.5 b.) personal leave, c.) revised, d.) removed, e.) removed.

6.5.6 revised (5days)

6.5.8 revised

6.5.9 removed

Ordinance Amendment – Food Truck

City Manager stated the city property owners have made a request to amend the Mobile Food Vendor ordinances to allow location of fixed food trucks. This item will go before the municipal planning board for review prior to council consideration on Monday, June 12.

Ordinance Amendment – Downtown Parking

City Manager states the parking restrictions, Section 20-9 in city ordinance, is creating confusion for parking enforcement. The section was added to regulate business owners parking in the downtown area. The ordinance proved to be difficult to enforce and was not an effective long-term solution for parking in this area. Section 20-10 Illegal Parking provides the needed language for parking enforcement in the downtown area. Staff recommend removing Section 20-9 restrictions.

Other

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated she was appreciative for the Troup County School System naming West Point Elementary School Gymnasium after Zelma Brock but wished they took the community letters of support into consideration. Also, Troup County needs to repair the swimming pool. Councilmember Gloria Marshall agreed about the naming and pool. Marshall mentioned swimming lessons are needed too. City Manager Ed Moon stated the current pool is not salvageable. He reminded them they have a chance for a swimming pool project in 2025 if that is what the council decides.

Adjourn

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.