



## City of West Point

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 13, 2023 @ 5:30

West Point Council Chambers

---

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers on November 13, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. with Mayor Steven M. Tramell presiding.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

### **Public Hearing 2024 Proposed Budget**

Mayor Tramell stated each year the City Manager along with the Department Directors and staff prepare the annual budget. This year the 2024 Proposed Budget will be presented for adoption on December 11, 2023. The total Proposed 2024 Budget is \$28,433,382 which includes General Fund \$8,634,800, Electric \$12,543,840, Water & Sewer \$3,926,116 Gas \$1,257,726, E-911 \$422,550, SPLOST 1,138,000 and \$510,350 Sanitation. The budget includes a 6% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Eight (8) new staff positions, (1) in General Government, (1) in Police Department, (1) Fire/EMS, (1) Public Works, (2) in 911 and (1) in the utility department. It also includes a 6% increase in water and sewer, a 6% increase in garbage and 50 cent increase roadside collection. Mayor Tramell opened the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Tramell called the meeting of the Council to order.

Mayor Steve Tramell called Mayor Pro-Tempore Gerald W. Ledbetter to give the opening prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Tramell.

### **MINUTES**

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023, Regular Business Meeting. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; During the discussion, Councilmember Deedee Williams stated the Work-session minutes for November were

not on the agenda for approval. She stated Councilmember Finlay was not present when the vote was cast to approve the agenda and her motion to amend the agenda failed for a lack of a seconded with a 2-1 vote. Councilmember Williams' correction was noted, and the necessary correction will be made to the work session minutes. The motion to approve the November 13, 2023, agenda **passed unanimously**.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mayor Tramell stated the financial report for approval is in the Council packet. Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the October Financial report. Councilmember Sandra Thornton made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously**.

### **AGENDA**

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

### **Harris County 2025 SPLOST**

Mayor Tramell stated the City of West Point and the four other municipalities which includes Pine Mountain, Hamilton, Waverly Hall, and Shiloh are asked to approve an ordinance or resolution to reimpose/continue the Harris County SPLOST. SPLOST 2025 will begin on April 1, 2025. The proposed schedule allocations for West Point are 3.0% and Shiloh 2% estimated \$166,667 per year/ \$1,000,000 over five years. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**.

### **Joint Resolution for Kia Georgia Project**

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve a Joint Resolution for the Kia Georgia Project between the City of West Point, Troup County Board of Commissioners, Troup County Board of Education, City of LaGrange, and the City of Hogansville. Kia has facilities to strengthen its presence and commitment to Troup County, Georgia by expanding its operations through the construction and equipping of more than \$200 million facility to manufacture electric vehicles which will create approximately 193 new jobs in Troup County, Georgia. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

### **Memorandum of Understanding for Kia Georgia Project**

Mayor Tramell stated the memorandum of understanding between Kia Georgia Inc, the West Point Development Authority a public body corporate and politic and an instrumentality of the City of West Point, the Troup County Board of Assessors, and the Troup County Board of Education. Kia announced they are expanding their operation to

produce electric vehicles at the West Point facility. The first-year tax incentives for the expansion include 100% abatement on real property and 100% abatement on equipment. The second year through and including the eighth year the abatement 65% on real property and 65% on equipment. Year ninth through and including the thirteenth year 50% abatement on Real and 50% on equipment. Fourteenth and Fifteenth year the abatement will be 25% on real property and 25% on equipment. Mayor Tramell asked for a motion for the City of West Point to sign the memorandum of understanding with Kia. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Joel B. Finlay; **passed unanimously**.

**OTHER**

Meeting Schedule:

Work Session Tuesday, November 28, 2023, which includes Budget Public Hearing.

Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, December 11, 2023

**ADJOURN**

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Richard McCoy

---

Steven M. Tramell