



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall November 28, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Public Hearing 2024 Proposed Budget

Mayor Tramell opened the Public Hearing for comments on the 2024 Proposed Budget. The 2024 total Proposed Budget is \$28,433,382.

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

Agenda Reviewed

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, seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously.**

Public Comments on any item

Ms. Samantha Knowles who resides at 2284 Highway 18, West Point, Georgia stated she and her family have lived in West Point for around three years. She praised the West Point Fire Department for their prompt response to a incident at her residence. She asked the Mayor and Council to provide additional police presence on Highway 18. She stated that the increase traffic from logging trucks, school buses, traffic from Kia employees, and a dangerous curve warranted an increase in law enforcement in the area. Mayor Tramell thanked Ms. Knowles for her comments.

Ms. Beverly Huguley ADRC/Gateway Waiver Coordinator with Three Rivers Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging and Disability Services along with Ms. Kelli Weaver stated, their agency serves 10 counties including Troup. They assist with State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) by providing financial screening and community presentation. The Waiver Program provides in home services or assisted

living options for elderly and disabled persons to prevent premature nursing home placement. They also have Caregiver Services. An option where Counselor can meet with you and or your caregiver to complete a formal assessment. They also assist with Medicare Enrollments. Mayor Tramell thanked them for their comments and applauded their work.

New Business

2024 City Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Tramell stated the 2024 City Council Meeting Schedule is in the Council packet. The schedule will be on the next agenda for further consideration. The Business meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. The first Work session for 2024 will be on January 4 and the remaining Work sessions are the last Tuesday of each month. All meetings are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at West Point City Hall Council Chambers.

2024 Proposed City 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. Councilmember Deedee Williams stated this is not the first time she has requested additional funding for recreation beyond the amount the city receive from Troup County. She stated it has been around 10 years since the swimming pool has been in operation and with the Chattahoochee River running through the city, there is a need to have a place for residence to learn how to swim. She stated additional funding should be included for that purpose. The Budget will be on the next agenda for consideration.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Mayor Steve Tramell stated the only item on the next meeting agenda December 11, 2023, is the 2024 Budget. The first meeting of the new year will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Executive Session for Pending Litigation

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made said motion seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously.**

The Mayor and Council reconvene the regular scheduled meeting. Councilmember Joel F. Finlay made a motion to opt out of the litigation with DuPont and 3M with PFAS forever chemical in drinking water. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III; **passed unanimously**.

Other

City Economic Director Meghan Duke stated that if weather permits, the Christmas Lighting will take place on December 1st at the J. Smith Lainer Park. If the weather does not permit, then the alternate place will be indoors at Johnny's Pizza.

The Christmas parade will be held on December 7th and Christmas on the Hooch will take place on December 9th.

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.