



## City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Thursday, January 30, 2024 @ 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 of West Point City Hall on January 30, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

### Members Present:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joseph R. Downs III  
Councilmember Joel B. Finlay  
Councilmember Gerald E. Ledbetter  
Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick  
Councilmember Sandra Thornton

### 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 Gerald W. Ledbetter made said motion. Councilmember Joel B. Finlay seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

### Public Comment on Any Items

There were no Public Comments.

### City Managers Report

#### Maintenance of Kia Parkway and Boulevard

City Manager Ed Moon stated Kia Parkway and Kia Boulevard are city streets. The streets have been in service for 15 years. The city was required to take ownership of the roadways as a part of Kia locating in Georgia. The city has contended that the six miles of 4-lane highway and the Long Cane Creek Bridge are more than the city could maintain without financial or physical assistance. The total cost of resurfacing the road and bridge repair is estimated to be over \$7 million dollars. In November of 2022 the City and Troup County agreed to SPLOST 6 to allocate \$4,000,000 to assist with the project. In November of 2022 the city began to seek other opportunities for grant funding and started a dialog with GDOT about support for the project. December of 2023 GDOT agreed to resurface the asphalt portions of Kia Parkway and Kia Boulevard. The city will provide \$1.5 million in SPLOST 6 funding to support the resurfacing.

#### Water Intake, Treatment Plant Improvements

The City has set aside \$1.3 million in SLFRF (State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) that must be spent by December 31, 2026.

## Utility Department Capital Asset Purchase

The city has received the Pole Derrick Truck. Mr. Moon asked council members to view the truck after the meeting. The cost of the truck is \$240,000. The truck replaced a 2007 model.

## New Business

### Public Defender Appointment

Mayor Tramell stated there is a letter of interest and resume in your packet from Jacob Key, with Johnson, Caldwell & McCoy, LLC. He is interested in the public defender position with the City. He has been practicing law since 2016 and is an active member with Alabama and Georgia State Bar. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

### Charles Abbott Associates, Inc., Building Inspection and Plan Review Service

Mayor Tramell stated the city is seeing a serious expansion in the EV electric automobiles as well as the housing which includes single-family, multi-family, townhomes, condos, apartments, warehousing, distribution centers, and commercial outparcels. He stated with new technology and lack of training to deal with the new development. Staff reached out to Mr. Will Hart, CBO and Tim Inglis, CBO, and VP of Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. for their assistance. CAA already has a contract with the Cities of Hogansville and LaGrange. The company also has a relationship with Kia Manufacturing and Hyundai. They have met all the insurance requirements. Staff recommends contracting their services. The item will be on the next business meeting agenda for consideration.

### Railroad Crossing West 9<sup>th</sup> Street

City Manager Ed Moon stated the railroad was interested in keeping the crossing at West 9<sup>th</sup> Street closed. There was some discussion about compensation from the railroad to keep the crossing closed. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter and Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the feedback they have received was that most citizens want the 9<sup>th</sup> Street crossing reopened. The consensus of the Mayor and Council is to reopen the intersection. The item will be on the next work session agenda (February 27) for further discussion.

## Action Items

### Development Authority Board Appointments

Mayor Steve Tramell stated the city has received three (3) statements of interest to serve on the West Point Development Authority Board. The statements are in your council packet to choose two (2) West Point Development Authority Board members. The Development Authority Board has met the three applicants. The board is supportive of the Mayor and Councils decision in selecting the new board members. The applicants are Pete Bober, Henry Hutchinson, and Aaron Lewis.

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to appoint a new member to fill an unexpired 2-year term. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to appoint Aaron Lewis to fill the unexpired 2-year term. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to appoint a new member to a full 5-year board member term. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made a motion to appoint Pete Bober; Councilmember Sandra Thornton seconded the motion; **passed unanimously**.

#### Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the statewide mutual aid and assistance agreement. Mayor Tramell stated the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement is in the council packet. The agreement was received on January 8, 2024, and must be approved and submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup>. The agreement provided by the Georgia emergency Management Agency requires a framework for emergency and disaster response and is mandatory to be updated every 4-years. Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the statewide mutual aid and assistance agreement. Councilmember Sandra Thornton made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**.

#### Other

Councilmember Sandra Thornton stated the date for the Black History program will tentatively be on February 27th or 29th. She will inform everyone when the date is finalized.

#### ADJOURN

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Richard McCoy

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Steven M. Tramell