



City of West Point

Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

West Point Council Chambers

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council room of West Point City Hall July 30, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

Councilmember Joel B. Finlay
Councilmember Gerald E. Ledbetter
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick
Councilmember Sandra Thornton

Members Absent:

Mayor Pro-Tempore Joseph R. Downs III

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 Kevin M. Patrick seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

Public Comment on Any Items

Ms. Melinda Powers and Charlie Powers addressed the council concerning issues of dogs roaming the neighborhood freely and concerns of her neighbor's two pit bull dogs. She stated March 27, 2023, the pit bull dogs got out and was roaming, On April 28 the dogs were walking in her front yard. Mr. Powers cited two incidents in which police were called. They presented a letter to the Mayor and Council from Dr. Zacharia Eberhart voicing his concern for his wife and kids and his dog. He feels this situation has deteriorated over the past several months. He stated he was writing to request aid, action, and support in helping to solve this alarming problem.

City Managers Report

City Manager Ed Moon stated the city has 89 full-time employees, 11 part-time employees for a total of 90 employees. There are 9 positions open.

Finance: The July 14, 2024, report shows approximately 54% of the budget.

Department	Expenses	Revenue
General Government	57%	32%
911 Communication	62%	37%
Water and Sewer	73%	54%
Electric	42%	46%
Gas	49%	70%
Sanitation	65%	42%

Capital outlay, as budgeted, is approaching \$1 million for 2024. We have purchased an ambulance, police vehicle, service trucks, and tractors. The remaining large item is a loader which has been ordered for several months. These purchases are in the reported percentages.

We are expecting to begin work on land clearing and drainage work for the Soccer Field and Cemetery Expansion Project in the next 45 days. We should have cemetery plots available before the end of the year.

Mr. Moon stated due to budget constraints the Avenue D Culvert Replacement Project will be completed in 2025.

Kia Parkway and Kia Boulevard resurfacing and Exit 2 project should be completed before the end of 2024.

Mr. Moon stated we continue to see new homes being constructed in the Harris Creek Subdivision and on Wisteria Drive. Daesol is underway with its \$72 million dollar facility. Kia continues to make investments associated with EV9 production. We anticipate several residential, commercial, and industrial projects will be underway in the Exit 2 area in the next 12 months.

The WPDA issued an RFP for the development of the Coca Cola property. The board is now in negotiation for development of the site to include a hotel and multiple out parcels. It's too early to predict when or if this project will happen but there are interest and possibilities on the table.

New Business

- **Electric Cities**

Mayor Steve Tramell thanked Kerry Wright and the West Point Electric Department for being awarded the Georgia Municipal Safety Task Force Jeff Cook Platinum award. The award is for Safety Excellence and their dedication and commitment to achieve an environment and culture of safety excellence.

- **Gas Liaison Manuals**

Utility Director Sammy Inman passed out material to the Mayor and Council and went over the material to satisfy the Public of Liaison meeting for pipeline safety. They are required to complete this training every two years.

- **Depot**

City Manager Ed Moon proposed Depot rental rates and policy amendments to allow alcohol for weddings, wedding receptions, and nonprofit fund-raising events only. Nonprofits will be required to provide the required document designating their non-profit status. A security staff person (not a city employee) will be on site for set up and the event. No sale of alcohol at any event. All events will end at 10 p.m. No ticket sales or charge for entry at the door of any kind.

Events that violate the rental policy will be required to cease operation. The city reserves the right to deny any application based on any false or misleading information or any social media post or other advertising describing the event to be in violation of the policy.

Weekend (Friday, Saturday or Sunday) Rate

- \$2,800 – Deposit \$1,400
- Nonprofit \$2,000- Deposit \$1,1000
- Rental from 8:00am to 10:00pm

Weekdays (Monday -Thursday) Rate

- \$1,500-Deposit \$750
- Nonprofit \$1,000 - \$500
- Rental from 8:00am to 10:00pm

- **2024 Millage Rate**

City Clerk Richard McCoy stated a resolution, five-year history of levy, and a PT-32-1 form was in their packet. Based on the state form PT-32.1 millage rate calculation percentage of increase/decrease of taxes, this year it is recommended the millage rate be rolled back from last year's rate of 8.106 to 7.852. to avoid a tax increase due to reassessment of properties, If the city does not roll the millage rate back, it will be considered a property increase of 3.23%. The item will be on the next business agenda for consideration.

- **Love's Travel Stop and Store Road Dedication**

City Community Development Director Dennis Dutton asked the Mayor and Council to review the street acceptance of the J & H Homeplace drive (100-foot width) parcel. The staff recommends street acceptance for "Love's Way". The item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

- **West Point Development Authority Donates Property to the City, 825 Avenue H**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the West Point Development Authority has offered to donate the property located 825 Avenue H to the City of West Point. The property adjoins other city own property. The item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

Action Item

- **Early Voting**

The Mayor and Council had a lengthy discussion on whether to pay Troup County to provide Early Voting at the West Point voting precinct on O.G. Skinner Drive. Troup County will provide the service if the City of West Point covers the cost. Harris County did not provide the option for early voting, citing lack of equipment. Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter made a motion to contract with Troup County for early voting. Troup County will provide early voting

Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th and Monday, October 28th through Friday, November 1, 2024. The motion was by Councilmember Joel B. Finlay; **passed unanimously**.

Other

Mayor Tramell stated Hyundai Dymos was awarded a 5-star rating by KIA. The award is a prestigious award given to suppliers for their job quality.

Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick stated on August 1, 2024, from 5-8 pm C.J. Hicks will be sponsoring a back-to-school giveaway of school supplies to children. Perfect Cut located on 10th Street will have a giveaway also.

ADJOURN

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Richard McCoy
City Clerk

Steven M. Tramell
Mayor