



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 @ 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 August 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall
Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter

Review Agenda

Mayor Steve Tramell called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and requested a motion for approval. Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session for Pending Litigation and Personnel

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss pending legal litigation and personnel. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made the motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Steve Tramell then asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made the motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment on Any Items

Resident Shannon Maggart is raising concerns about West Point's understaffed police department and the lack of a Resource Officer at West Point Elementary. Local officers are underpaid, with Troup County and the City of Hogansville offering higher salaries. To ensure the safety of the community, we must provide the public safety sector with the resources it needs. The rising crime rate is a clear sign that action is urgently needed.

Resident Rosa Stiggers is expressing concern about dogs roaming freely in the neighborhood, which is causing fear among the children. Due to the dog's presence, she now drives her grandchild to school because the kids are too scared to wait for the bus.

Resident Sejuana Scroggins has raised concerns about speeding on the road where she lives. She is requesting the installation of speed bumps to help reduce excessive speed, especially with her grandkids playing in the yard. These speed bumps would contribute to a safer environment and prevent unnecessary speeding.

Resident Audrey Gilliam has expressed concerns about trees obstructing the view at the intersection of 10th Street and MLK Drive. While right turns on red are permitted, the trees make it unsafe. She requests that the trees be trimmed, rather than removed, to improve visibility and safety at the intersection.

Resident Rob Ewing and Salvation Army Board Member presented information on the Salvation Army Tree Program, noting that sign-ups are available on Facebook and the Salvation Army website. Applications will be accepted from August 22 through October 22. He reported that banners are available, sponsorships are needed, and that the program assisted 500 children in Troup County last year.

Mayor Tramell thanked everyone for attending and their comments.

New Business

• 2026 City Budget Calendar

City Manager Ed Moon has reviewed the 2026 City Budget Calendar. The budget assembly will begin and be presented to the City Council during the work session on Tuesday, October 28, at 5:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing #1: November 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
- Public Hearing #2: November 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
- Final Review of the Budget: November 25, 2025, during the 5:30 p.m. work session.
- Budget Adoption: Monday, December 8, 2025, at the 5:30 p.m. meeting.
- The approved budget will be available to the public on December 9, 2025, both on the city website and the Carl Vincent Institute website.

The budget will take effect on January 1, 2026.

• West Point Soccer Field Project Bid Analysis

City Manager Ed Moon reported that bids for the West Point Soccer Field Project were received on August 21, 2025. Three bids were submitted, with RLC Farms providing the lowest bid in the amount of \$100,000. The project will include the construction of a natural turf soccer field in the City of West Point. Work will involve demolition, grading, construction of the turf field with a gravel entrance and parking area, and erosion control measures for initial, intermediate, and final stabilization. This item will be placed on the business agenda for Council's consideration.

Public Hearing for Property Tax Increase

Mayor Steve Tramell opened the public hearing.

Mayor Steve Tramell made the following statement:

The City of West Point Mayor and City Council has tentatively adopted a 2025 millage rate which will require an increase in property tax by 3.05 percent.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.852 mills, an increase of 0.232 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.620 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$125,000 is approximately \$11.60 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$9.28.

The language in the Notice of Property Tax Increase is required by the State of Georgia. While the notice can sound as though all property owners will see a tax increase, that is not the case.

- If you are a homeowner living in your primary residence with a homestead exemption, your property value will not change in 2025. Assuming the millage rate is not rolled back, your tax bill will remain the same.
- Only non-homestead properties that were reassessed by the county—such as certain commercial properties—will see a higher tax bill if the rate is not rolled back.
- Assuming that the millage rate remains the same for 2025 the property tax revenue collected by the city is projected to decrease from the previous year.

At this time, the City Council has not taken final action on the 2025 millage rate.

The purpose of this public hearing is to listen to your comments regarding the 2025 millage rate. Your remarks will be considered by the council before a final decision is made.

A few guidelines for this hearing:

- This is not a forum for debate or question-and-answer.
- Each speaker will have up to three (3) minutes for comments.
- Please state your name and address before your remarks.
- Council and staff will be available to answer individual questions following the hearing.

Public Comment

Resident Rob Ewing stated that he is not opposed to a tax increase for city services and suggested that the city consider sales tax options.

Resident Shannon Maggart stated that she is not opposed to a tax increase, provided that the city uses the revenue wisely for necessary services.

Resident Coleman Reeves stated that 40–50 percent of the city is not included on the tax digest and suggested requesting a more accurate estimate from the County. He noted that data indicates a need to increase revenue but urged Council to consider alternative methods, such as supplementing revenue with sales tax rather than increasing the millage rate.

Resident Sejuana Scroggins expressed agreement with the comments made by Coleman Reeves.

Resident Carter Brown expressed agreement with Coleman Reeves, stating that the City should consider increasing revenue through alternatives other than a millage rate increase.

Mayor Steve Tramell thanked everyone for attending and called for a motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously.**

The next Business Meeting September 8, 2025 5:30p.m.

- Award Bid for West Point Soccer Field Project Phase I
- 2025 City Millage Rate

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.