



## City of West Point

Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 11, 2025 @ 5:30PM  
West Point Council Chambers

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The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers on September 8, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. with Mayor Steven M. Tramell presiding.

Members Present:

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter  
Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall  
Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III  
Councilmember Joel B. Finlay  
Councilmember Kevin Patrick  
Councilmember Sandra Thornton

Members Absent:

Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter gave the opening prayer.

Mayor Steve M. Tramell led the pledge of allegiance.

**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.

Resident Deborah Keith addressed the council, expressing concern that property taxes are already too high. She added that her utility bill is extremely high, making it difficult for her to continue living in West Point if costs keep rising. She concluded by thanking the council for the opportunity to speak.

Mayor Steve M. Tramell called the business meeting of the Council to order.

### **MINUTES**

Mayor Steve M. Tramell asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2025, Regular Business Meeting. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mayor Steve M. Tramell stated the financial report is in the Council packet. Mayor Tramell asked for a motion to approve the August Financial report. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously.**

### **AGENDA**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**AWARD BID FOR SOCCER FIELD PROJECT PHASE 1**

Councilmember Joel B. Finlay made a motion to award the Bid for Phase 1 of the new soccer field to RLC Farms 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. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**.

**2025 MILLAGE RATE**

Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made a motion to set the 2025 millage rate at 7.852 mills. The same rate as 2024. If you are a homeowner living in your primary residence with a homestead exemption, your property value will not change in 2025. 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. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gerald W. Ledbetter; **passed unanimously**.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Steve M. Tramell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall made said motion and seconded by Councilmember Sandra Thornton; **passed unanimously**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Kristin Lester, City Clerk

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Steven M. Tramell, Mayor