



City of West Point
Council Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, October 28, 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 October 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Steve Tramell opening the session.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Review Agenda

Mayor Steve Tramell called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Kevin M. Patrick made said motion. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III seconded the motion; **passed unanimously.**

Public Comment on Any Items

There were no public comments.

New Business

• **2026 Proposed City Budget Presentation**

City Manager Ed Moon presented the Proposed 2026 Budget, totaling \$26,080,821.73 across all funds. The proposed budget reflects a 14% reduction from the previous year. Planned equipment purchases include a new bucket truck, vehicle replacements, a remount ambulance, an inmate van, 911 system updates, and police department camera upgrades, totaling \$1,260,000. An increase in service rates is also recommended: 2% for residential and commercial water and sewer rates, 6% for industrial water and sewer rates, 3% for garbage service, An additional \$1.00 for trash service. Electric and gas rates will be evaluated next year. The budget also includes salary adjustments for Public Safety departments (Police, Fire, EMS, and 911 Communications). A 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Salary and benefits total \$7,726,836.47. The City's only debt obligations include the USDA Fire Station loan, Gas Pipeline loan, and Water and Sewer bond. Projected 2026 projects include improvements to the Water Plant, Water Intake, Soccer Fields, Cemetery, and Long Cane Creek Bridge.

• **Surplus City Vehicles and Equipment**

City Clerk Kristin Lester recommended to surplus city equipment that is no longer in service and to sell on Govdeals. Utility Department, 2013 Chevrolet Silverado, VIN# 1GC2KVCG9DZ121880, 1999 Yancy/CAT Backhoe, VIN# 4ZN20793, 1994 GMC Bucket Truck with ALTEC A5500 boom with material handler. The items will be on the next business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Board and Committee Appointments**

City Clerk Kristin Lester reported that the terms for Larry Duncan and Joe Thompson on the Historic Preservation Commission have expired. Both individuals have expressed interest in serving another three-year term. Their completed applications are included in the council packet for review. This item will be placed on the business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Diverse Power Outdoor Lighting Facilities Agreement**

City Manager Ed Moon stated the city currently owns outdoor lighting facilities along Kia Parkway, Kia Boulevard, and Sorento Road, and purchases power from Diverse on a metered basis to operate said lights. The outdoor lighting facilities presently consist of 112 spun aluminum poles, 112 250w lamps, 28 high mast lighting structures, and 112 1000w high mast lamps. The city desires to transfer ownership of the outdoor lighting facilities to Diverse and pay Diverse to operate lighting on a per-light basis as the standard retail lighting rates utilized at any point by Diverse. This item will be placed on the business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Local Homestead Exemption**

City Manager Ed Moon presented information regarding the Local Act for Homestead Exemption. He explained that if the Mayor and Council are interested in offering a Local Homestead Exemption, the first step is to determine whether the type of exemption to be implemented. The next step would be to discuss the process with the Tax Commissioners. A resolution would then need to be created and approved, followed by a request for the legislative delegation representing West Point to sponsor a local bill.

In January 2026, the local legislation would be introduced during the 2026 State Legislative Session. If approved, the Local Act would proceed to the Governor for signature approximately 40 days after the close of the Legislative Session in May 2026. In June 2026, the city would prepare and approve a resolution for a referendum and coordinate with the Troup County Election Supervisor to hold the referendum in November 2026. If approved by voters, the Local Homestead Exemption would be applied to tax bills beginning in 2027.

- **Zoning Amendment of Property Located at 1805 U.S. Highway 29**

Community Development Director Dennis Dutton presented the request to zoning amendment for the property located on US Highway 29 (Parcel No. 0942D004006). The property is currently zoned R-1A: Single Family Residential. The request is to rezone the property to O-I: Office Industrial District. The Municipal Planning Board will hear the application in a public meeting and make its recommendation to either approve, approve with conditions or deny. This item will be placed on the business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Zoning Amendment of Property Located along O.G. Skinner Drive**

Community Development Director Dennis Dutton presented a request for a zoning amendment submitted by the West Point Development Authority for property located along O.G. Skinner Drive (Parcel No. 0944B000041K). The request is to rezone the property from I-1: Light Industrial District to R-1: Single-Family Residential District. The Municipal Planning Board will hear the application in a public meeting and make its

recommendation to either approve, approve with conditions or deny. This item will be placed on the business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Resolution to Approval of 2025-2045 Comprehensive Plan Update**

Community Development Director Dennis Dutton stated that the Three Rivers Regional Commission is submitting to the City of West Point a request for 2025-2045 Comprehensive Plan Update approval as required by the State of Georgia to maintain its Qualified Local Government Status. This item will be placed on the business meeting agenda for council consideration.

- **Executive Session to discuss Acquisition for Real Estate**

Mayor Steve Tramell asked for a motion to enter an Executive Session to discuss an Acquisition for Real Estate. Councilmember Joseph R. Downs III made said motion, seconded by Councilmember Gloria R. Marshall; **passed unanimously**.

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

Other

Councilmember Sandra Thornton announced Walking for a Cure by the Betty LaGayle Cancer Foundation on Saturday, October 25th, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Mayor Steve Tramell announced Salvation Army is accepting Angel Tree Applications until October 22. Register at SAAngelTree.org.

The next Business Meeting November 10, 2025 5:30p.m.

- Public Hearings:
 - 2026 Proposed City Budget
 - Zoning Amendment of Property Located at 1805 U.S. Highway 29
 - Zoning Amendment of Property Located along O.G. Skinner Drive
- Surplus City Vehicles and Equipment
- Board and Committee Appointments
- Diverse Power Outdoor Lighting Facilities Agreement
- Zoning Amendment of Property Located at 1805 U.S. Highway 29
- Zoning Amendment of Property Located along O.G. Skinner Drive
- Resolution to Approval of 2025-2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

ADJOURN

Mayor 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.