

City of West Point Council Meeting Minutes

8-14-2023

7:00 p.m.

A regularly scheduled City of West Point Council Meeting was held Monday, August 14, 2023, at the West Point Independent School Building, 203 N. 13th Street, West Point, Kentucky.

Call to Order:

Mayor Ciresi Called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ciresi led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayer

Annette Baker led in prayer.

Roll Call:

Presiding Officer: Richard Ciresi, Mayor

Council Members: Annette Baker

Amy Bickel

Absent: Eric Duvall

Chris McVey

Kevin Duke

Jo Sabol

Recording Clerk Roszelle Moore

Approval of 7-10-2023 meeting minutes:

Annette Baker made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023, meeting minutes, with corrections made. Seconded by Chris McVey and carried unanimously.

Approval of Financial report for period ending 7-31-2023.

Jo Sabol moved to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded by Amy Bickel and unanimously carried.

First Reading of Alcohol Board Commission ordinance 2023-04

Amy Bickel read the first reading of ABC ordinance 2023-04. She read the summary which was approved by the attorneys.

First Reading of Setting Tax Rates Ordinance 2023-05

Amy Bickel read the ordinance for setting the tax rates for 2023-2024. The next reading will be at a special meeting August 21, 2023, 7:00 PM to meet the August 30, 2023, deadline for submission.

Mayor's report:

1. Trash collection issues are being resolved.
2. We have been donated a projector from LTADD care of Daniel London.
3. We have an applicant for City Clerk. As soon as she clears background, we will introduce her and begin training for later council approval.
4. Ernie Pack has been hired as a temporary part-time worker to help with general maintenance.
5. Hardin County Sheriff's report is in your packet.
6. New fire truck is titled and licensed and is in the shop for re-lettering estimated at \$1,500
7. West Point is hosting the first ever Hardin Co. Town Hall next Tuesday Aug 22, 5:30 pm. All magistrates are expected to attend to take questions and concerns on County issues. This is not a forum for local issues.
8. The Lewis & Clark Trust will provide an intern to explore and design a Lewis and Clark Museum in the school building.
9. Met with Hardin Co. Animal control regarding the city's cat population. They will begin trapping cats in the city in early September. The goal is to capture 10 Cats per week for 10 weeks. Cats that will use a litterbox will be spayed, neutered, and adopted out. The remaining Ferrels will be returned to the city after spaying and neutering.
10. We are working with investors to re-open the Salt River RV Park. The initial investment would be approximately \$125k and would be repaid by a 60/40 revenue split until the initial investment is repaid. Once repaid the split would be 50/50. This could mean something between \$20 and \$80k additional revenue to the city.
11. The transfer of the water/sewer system to Hardin County Water District #1 is still on hold but there are no additional requests for information. Recently spoke to Steve Hogan at HCW, they are ready to go!
12. We have applied for KTC Discretionary funds grant to complete the repaving of Ft. Duffield Road. Spoke to Loren Carl today and we are still in the running and could have a decision by the end of the month.
13. We are now up and live on the County's RAVE emergency notification system. This will provide all the functions of our Reach Alert system and more for FREE! We intend to transfer our current residents from the Reach Alert system to the new system.

14. Senator Deneen is confidently moving the widening of Dixie Highway forward. Utility work will come first with actual road work being two years out.
15. Code enforcement is currently working on 16 open cases with many more to come. Only one has had to be advanced to the citation stage so far.
16. We did respond to an open records request for some 22 items.
17. Developers continue to show interest in our properties, and we have added the Albros' property to our total portfolio that gives us approximately 175 acres available for re-development.
18. The Kidz Summer Blast program has ended with the Baptism of 13 WP young citizens. River of Life church will continue the program in a different format through the winter on Saturday morning with the first date to be determined.
19. Our next block watch meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday Aug 15, 6:30 pm at the school.
20. Flagpole update – We hope to make progress this week. We have cleaning materials to remove stains from laying so long.
21. West Point will be represented in the Heartland Hometown Parade in E-Town on Saturday August 26th.

Addressed numerous harmful rumors circulating in town and on social media, some that may be close to libel. Requesting that if the council has concerns about any action taken, please confirm with city hall or the mayor. This unnecessary division is not supportive of a brighter future for the city.

Committee Reports:

Fort Duffield: No report

Planning and Zoning: Chairman Bill Hartley reported that a swimming pool application had been denied due the height restrictions. Another pool has been placed on another property without application and is not in compliance. There was a fence application that was forwarded to the Board of Adjustment for a variance.

Board of Adjustment: Approved a variance for a fence on S10th and South Alley.

Fire Department: Fire truck is being stripped and has been inspected, licensed and title transferred.

Council Concerns:

1. Jo Sabol discussed the finance committee. Mayor Ciresi informed that the council should select the committee. Jo will produce a Municipal ordinance. She asked who the employees were and was concerned about Bonnie Ciresi being bonded and not being a paid employee. The paid employees are Richard Ciresi, Wesley Cook, Ernie Pack, Bob Heuglin and Roszelle Moore. The bonding company was aware that Bonnie was a volunteer at the time the bond was issued.
2. Chris McVey asked about the software for the fire department. He requested a full report from the Hardin County Sheriff's Office. The fire department air conditioner

on the main floor is repaired, but the upstairs still needs repair. Discussed the condenser problem. Mayor suggested a larger bucket.

3. Kevin Duke spoke about the garbage situation.
4. Amy Bickel asked about the signage. The mayor said that he finally made contact with Sign-a-Rama in Elizabethtown and a quote is forthcoming.
There will be a school building meeting on Wednesday at 6:30. There is an opening for a replacement committee member. Scott Young has volunteered to fill the slot. Friday will be Rockin' on the River event. The next event will be in October depending on the weather.
5. Annette Baker asked about moving the Veterans Park basketball court to the old tennis court at the school property. River of Life is clearing the court of grass and Jason Volt's company will be sealing it at no expense to the city. Proposing a Pickle Ball court, but possibly could add the basketball court.

Citizens' Concerns:

Fred Staley complained that the field behind his property needs to be mowed. Wanted to know the status of the complaint. A notice of violation has been sent to Yellow Diamond LLC. Fred also asked that the flagpole project be completed. It has been years since purchased.

Pat Ochocki, a resident of Lakewood NY is visiting and was very complimentary of the community and its residents.

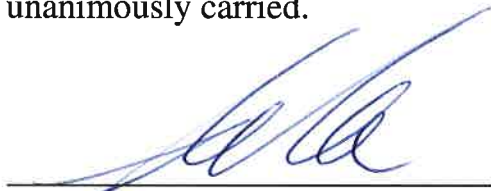
Teresa Walker requested an answer to a conditional use permit denial although she intends to comply. Some discussion ensued, the mayor requested that she submit a letter with her questions and what she is requesting.

Fran Moore spoke about the River Days parade. The theme this year is "Rollin' on the river." Requested that the council ride in the parade. Asked if there was any chance of Feeding America coming to West Point. The mayor said there was a problem with getting someone to manage it.


Roszelle Moore is concerned that the refrigerators and freezer at Jeff Wright's home are still sitting out unattended. This has been remedied.

Adjourn:

Chris McVey moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Annette Baker and unanimously carried.



Richard A. Ciresi
Mayor



Roszelle Moore
Recording Clerk