

## **City of West Point Council Meeting Minutes**

10-9-2023

7:00 p.m.

A regularly scheduled City of West Point Council Meeting was held Monday, October 9, 2023, at the West Point Independent School Building, 203 N. 13<sup>th</sup> 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 - Absent
	Jo Sabol
Recording Clerk	Roszelle Moore

### **Approval 9-11-2023 meeting minutes:**

Jo Sabol made a motion to approve the September 11, 2023, meeting minutes, with corrections made. Seconded by Eric Duvall and carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Financial report for period ending 9-30-2023.**

Chris McVey moved to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded by Eric Duvall and unanimously carried.

### **Act on the Towerco 2013 LLC Ground Lease (Cell Tower) agreement**

Chris McVey moved to table the lease agreement. The mayor will negotiate a signing bonus of \$2500.00 and determine when the lease payment will begin to approve the ordinance. Seconded by Eric Duvall and unanimously carried.

**Executive Session KRS 61.810(f)**

Chris McVey moved to go into executive session. Seconded by Jo Sabol. Unanimously carried. Retired at 8:00 and returned at 8:10.

**City Clerk hired.**

Chris McVey moved to hire Ashley Gates as City Clerk with clarifications to the employment agreement. Seconded by Eric Duvall and unanimously approved by roll call.

**Resolution 2023-08 Add signatories to city's accounts.**

Annette Baker moved to approve Resolution 2023-08 to add signatories to the City's accounts. Seconded by Chris McVey and unanimously approved.

**Mayor's report:**

1. Hardin Co. Water #1 has now taken over all water operations. Final WP water bills have gone out. There will be one more trash/storm water bill from WP before all billing moves to HCW.
2. The force main from the Salt River Boat Ramp has been broken and must be repaired as well as all electrical reconnected to the lift station and the pump tested. HCW will now be taking care of these issues in the amount of some \$35,000.00.
3. Water deposits may continue to be an issue. Several citizens who have lived here for years claim they have a deposit that we cannot confirm as current records only go back to 2001.
4. We have contracted with HCW to install the missing Fire Hydrant on 2000 block on Main St. using savings realized in the transfer, and reduction in expenses in the water/sewer department.
5. Storm water rates. Rates have NEVER been increased. Due to the cost of goods and the condition of our system the mayor is suggesting an increase beginning January 1, 2024, from \$1.50 per household to \$5.00 per household. This would net \$20,000 per year to maintain our storm water system, which is not much considering what needs to be done and future improvements. Currently, necessary improvements will need to be funded by grants as the existing \$7,200 per year the city collects are inadequate to make the major repairs necessary after years of neglect.

6. We have one proposal for snow removal from Daniel Hoover. \$2,400 per plowing and salting with the city providing the salt. This would come from road money but is not budgeted.
7. Muldraugh mayor has retired. They have also appointed a New city clerk. The council is appointing an interim mayor.
8. The Health Department will be coming on November 1 and will be setting up a mini health clinic primarily for seniors.
9. Ft. Duffield Road work is to begin this week with the installation of the culverts. It will be completed in approximately three weeks.
10. We have purchased 56 bags of pothole patch and have patched our first pothole. We will be working on the larger ones over the next few weeks.
11. With much encouragement, the state has now mowed most of the right ways around and through West Point. They are supposed to get to our storm sewers sometime this year.
12. New Stop signs and posts have arrived. We will also be trying a new stop sign "skin" to reduce costs and upgrade our current signs. Street signs will be addressed and upgraded over the next few months.
13. The city collected \$326 from Republic for the sign the trash truck damaged.
14. Code enforcement currently has 19 open cases. One ready to attach lien. One hearing is scheduled for Wednesday 10-11-23.
15. Boat Ramp is still waiting for the USACE permit and the start may be delayed (again) until spring.
16. Wesley Cook, city maintenance worker, has been laid off for the next three months.
17. Sheriff's report. In your packet.
18. We're putting final touches on commemorating the new flagpole on Nov. 11 at 1 PM. Awaiting confirmation from River of Life on participation.
19. The City will be represented in the Vine Grove parade on Nov 4.
20. Clothes Closet Opening this week. Schedule to follow.
21. The Lewis and Clark Trust has their interns in place and has started preliminary meetings to convert the school library into a Lewis and Clark Museum. Additionally, we are selecting trees, cataloged on the expedition, to begin plantings in WP.
22. Hardin Co. Animal control trapped cats last week that yielded 16 cats of which only four were returned.
23. There is an offer coming to re-open the Salt River RV Park from an investor as they are still doing due diligence.

24. Albros property to be auctioned will close Wednesday.
25. The River of Life Kidz program continues to be successful meeting on Saturday.
26. I have been invited to speak at the E-town Rotary tomorrow to promote West Point.
27. We have a proposal for new printed city signs. The total cost would be \$2,000 which would be paid by West Point Bank.
28. Market on Main Grand opening and ribbon cutting October 27, 2023.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Fort Duffield:** Project pavilion at top of hill started.

**Planning and Zoning:** No report

**Board of Adjustment:** No report

**Fire Department:** Fire truck has returned. Chief Eddie Curl will present a proposal for equipment needed to supply the truck. Requested funds for treats to pass out at the Hardin Co Trunk or Treat and for hotdogs, etc. for Halloween at West Point.

### **Council Concerns:**

- Annette Baker reported on the old tennis court. Grass has been sprayed, but there is a great deal of dirt to remove. Chief Curl said that the Fire Department could take care of that. Also, there was a pothole. The mayor said that would be taken care of. Proposing a Basket Ball court, but possibly could add the pickle ball court. Eric Duvall said that he had a pole that could be used for basketball. Jason Vogt will be sealing the court at no cost to the city. Annette express concern about the porch roof supports on the house at 408 Elm St. The supports seem to be weak, and the roof could collapse.
- Eric Duvall asked about installing better cameras on the school property due to the break in. The mayor reported that the Sheriff's Office was working on the break in and would be releasing videos to the public.
- Chris McVey reported that the weeds on South Street between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> need to be cut. He asked about the police car to be transferred to the Fire Department. The mayor reported that Josh the Jailer was interested in the police equipment and would report to Chief Curl as soon as he visited. Welcome to pick up the radio equipment for the fire department.

- Jo Sabol presented a municipal order for the finance oversight committee. After discussion and some amendments, it was passed. (See following). Announced that there would be a ghost walk sponsored by West Point VFD Auxiliary with proceeds directed to DJ Taylor benefit due to accident. She was also concerned that the Spectrum cable line was still drooping across Main Street. She has been in contact with KLC about Bonnie Ciresi being bonded and not an employee, but a volunteer clerk. Some discussions, no action taken.

**Municipal Order 2023-01 Finance Oversight Committee.**


Chris McVey moved to approve the Finance Oversight Committee 2023-01. Seconded by Eric Duvall and unanimously approved.

**Citizens' Concerns:**


Sandy Sabol had a complaint about having to move trash can across the street for pick up. In returning the can, she fell. She is displeased with the service but was assured that the matter would be addressed.

**Adjourn:**

Chris McVey moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12. Seconded by Eric Duvall and unanimously carried.



Richard A. Ciresi  
Mayor



Roszelle Moore  
Recording Clerk