

City of West Point Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024
7:00 p.m.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the of the West Point City Council was held Monday, February 12th, 2024, 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:

Monie Matthews led in prayer.

Roll Call:

Presiding Officer: Richard Ciresi, Mayor
Council Members: Amy Bickel
 Hanna Duvall
 Chris McVey
 Jo Sabol
 Absent: Annette Baker
 Absent: Kevin Duke
Recording Clerk: Ashley Gates

Approval of January 8, 2024, meeting minutes:

Amy Bickel made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Jo Sabol and carried unanimously.

Approval of financial report for period ending January 31, 2024:

Chris McVey made a motion to accept the financial report as presented for the period ending January 31, 2024. Hanna Duvall seconded the motion.

Second reading of Ordinance 2023-09 setting storm water rates:

Amy Bickel read the second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-09. Amy Bickel made a motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-09; Chris McVey seconded the motion. Roll Call vote; Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 2024-02 Adopting Hardin County Solid Waste Management Plan:

All were in favor of accepting a resolution adopting the Hardin County Solid Waste Management Plan. No motion was made. The plan involves implementing solid waste reduction and management from 2023-2027. Resolution passed unanimously.

Amending Ordinance 2007-12 with first reading of Ordinance 2024-01:

Amy Bickel read the first reading of Ordinance 2024-01. The proposed ordinance would codify removing provided trash containers for non-payment of garbage fees and incorporating a thirty-five-dollar (\$35) return container fee.

Approval of budget amendment:

Amy Bickel made a motion to revise the budget to allocate \$3,500 per year into a restricted account to cover potential flood-related expenses in the future. Hanna Duvall seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

1. The results of our phone meeting with the IRS regarding the city's tax payment plan indicate that it could be up to 120 days before we receive a response to our request to re-evaluate our payment agreement. We will continue to make our monthly payment until further advised.
2. We advertised for bids to fulfill the services for the Bank Stabilization Grant. All bids were due today. However, we have received only one bid. The selection committee is scheduled to meet this Thursday at 10:30 to evaluate the submitting firm.
3. There was a discrepancy in the original water bills. HCW charged and collected the franchise fees prior to the agreement being in place so they were refunded. Franchisee fees are now scheduled to begin in March.
4. We now have 86 users signed up for our Reach Alert Service. Every household in WP was mailed all necessary information to sign up over the past few weeks. Please help spread the word. This is the most convenient and cost-effective way to communicate with our citizens information of public interest and emergencies.
5. We have received the scope of work for our USACE grant. This will mostly be used to identify city properties that should be elevated or addressed for emergency functions.
6. The movie production is still on track. Currently they will be in West Point beginning approximately 02-22-24 and will be here through early March. The filming will take place in two local structures as well as the businesses. They will be renting the gym for most of the period beginning 02-25-24.
7. The Police/Fire Department vehicle has been made serviceable and is ready to be wrapped. The repair cost to bring the vehicle to a reasonable standard was \$3,500.00 being paid by the proceeds of sale of the other cruiser.
8. The issue of the police department continues to be a question. For the council's consideration, to establish a minimum three-man police department (chief and two officers) to include pay, retirement, health insurance vehicles, administrative time etc. is roughly a minimum of \$375,000 annually IF we can find the officers. We currently have \$160,000 in our budget for police.
9. There are still 11 accounts with outstanding balances from November that are uncollected. We have taken the trash can from these accounts in an effort to obtain payment and will pursue other measures as necessary.
10. We have been requested to participate with HCSO and Radcliff Police in the installation

of two Flock cameras on 31W as you enter West Point. The maximum first year cost is \$8,500 and following years will be \$6,000 per year. These are vehicle identification readers that aid all police departments in the cities and county. Request a motion for budget modification to enter into this arrangement.

11. GED classes started 02-07-24 with four (4) participants. These classes will continue every Wednesday night as long as there are participants. Students may start at any time. Financial Literacy classes, taught by Selena Hudson of South-Central bank start Thursday 02-15-24 and will continue every other week for a total of three sessions. We have an Emotional Resilience Class starting March 7, 2024, that will run weekly for 10 weeks.
12. Code enforcement is back in full operation. We have issued four new NOV's with more coming this week. We have condemnation orders executed on five properties that will be posted and moved upon as time and legality permits.
13. It has been suggested that there should be three additions to our ordinances addressing different issues. (1). A Cannabis growth and sales Ordinance. Due to its likelihood of this substance being legal soon in KY we should prepare to regulate those activities. (2) The allowed locations and operating requirements for Rehab Centers. (3) An ordinance relating to the sales of dogs and cats, i.e. puppy mills. As Elizabethtown, Radcliff and Vine Grove pass similar ordinances these issues and the troubles that they can bring will soon come to West Point if we don't act.
14. Our 58 Acres is being fully marketed through signage and the web. I met with a group of developers this morning and fully expect a plan and offer in the near future. The total package of real estate, the city's and the privately owned parcels, are being marketed as "The Village of West Point" to create an atmosphere of cooperation as well as downplay the stigma West Point has earned over the years.
15. The Lewis C Clark Interpretive and education center continues to become a reality. Final plans for the facility should be available by May and a fund-raising campaign is getting underway.
16. In the last month I have attended on the city's behalf, the following:
 - a. 01-09-24 Hardin Co. Fiscal Court
 - b. 01-10-24 HCCC Board Meeting
 - c. 01-16-24 Radcliff Small Business Alliance
 - d. 01-7-24 Lincoln Trail ADD board meeting
 - e. 01-17-24 Friends of Hardin Co. Animal Shelter
 - f. 01-24-24 Film Premier This is the Ohio - Louisville Free Public Library
 - g. 01-27-24 RSBA Annual Gala and fund raiser.
 - h. 01-31-24 Fund raiser for Lou Metro District 14 Candidate
 - i. 02-03-24 Annual Mayor's Breakfast Radcliff
 - j. 02-05-24 Fund raiser for Lou Metro District 14 Candidate

Committee Reports:

Fort Duffield: The pavilion has been completed. There is an upcoming bike race in April, with more than 100 riders already registered. The Fort Duffield Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is February 24th.

Planning & Zoning: Approved one fence permit. A meeting will be held March 13th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss amending outdated land use ordinances.

Board of Adjustments: Granted one permit and rejected another. Next meeting will be April 1st, the first Monday of the month.

Fire Department: The Fire commission audited the department. This audit ensures the receipt of state aid.

Council Concerns:

Jo Sabol is concerned that council members are uninformed about details such as gate closures at the park and is seeking increased communication from the mayor. The Mayor agreed to attempt to be more informative. Jo indicated that she was in possession of a document from the Dept. of Homeland Security indicating that the Polaris was to be transferred to the Fire Department. No confirming documentation was presented to the Mayor or council members at this time. The Finance Committee is still in need of another council member.

Chris McVey has concerns with the reports given each month from the Hardin County Sheriff's Office and wants to be sure that the city is getting what it's paid for. Mayor Ciresi intends to meet with the Sheriff's Office concerning these matters.

Hanna Duvall proposed the creation of a separate email or Facebook account for residents to submit questions. She suggests presenting these questions on behalf of citizens during council meetings, followed by posting the questions and answers after each meeting.

Amy Bickel has been getting questions about the police response times in West Point. She also raised the idea of live streaming the council meetings as some individuals may not feel comfortable attending in person. Mayor Ciresi mentioned the city is lacking some of the equipment needed but suggested adding it to the budget and funding the equipment, if desired. Amy also noted that she reached out to two signage companies and is currently awaiting bids. The city-wide cleanup is scheduled to take place from May 6th through the 11th.

Citizens' Concerns:

Joseph Frost inquired about the amount we owe the IRS, stating that he knows we are paying \$1,300 per month. The Mayor stated the balance is approximately \$267,000 and that we are going backwards by about \$400 per month due to the interest charges. Joseph also inquired about the completion timeline for the boat ramp and expressed reservations about relocating the basketball court. He recommended fundraising to pave the court and install new goals. Mayor Ciresi doesn't consider this a suitable location or use of prime river front property and suggested moving the court further back in the park to free the riverbank and avoid balls going in the river. Joseph asked if there was any funding for Hardin County library to do something here in West Point, other than the Bookmobile. The mayor stated that he has pursued the idea without success and emphasized that the Radcliff library has been closed. Joseph asked how much city monies had been expended on the school. The mayor indicated \$0 with the exception of picking up some trash.

Daniel Hoover inquired whether Mayor Ciresi had spoken to anyone from the Corps of Engineers, to which the mayor responded that he was told that it's a railroad issue.

Natasha Janney reported that there is a tentative date of March 16th for the Easter egg hunt. The city will provide \$300 for the purchase of bicycles.

Scott Young proposed the idea of installing more playgrounds in West Point and highlighted the numerous advantages of increasing their presence in the town.

Roszelle Moore participated in a Zoom session on the local impact of medical Cannabis and another online event focusing on modular homes.

Carol Frost expressed apprehension regarding the information about the town being circulated on Facebook.

Hampton Spurlock has volunteered to contribute benches from his store for the planned playgrounds.

Adjourn:

Amy Bickel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Motion was seconded by Jo Sabol and carried unanimously.

X

Richard Ciresi
Mayor

X Ashley Gates

Ashley Gates
City Clerk