

City of West Point Council Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2024

7:00 p.m.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the West Point City Council was held on Monday, July 8th, 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:

Annette Baker led in prayer.

Roll Call:

Presiding Officer: Richard Ciresi, Mayor

Council Members: Amy Bickel
Annette Baker
Hanna Duvall
Chris McVey
Absent: Kevin Duke
Absent: Jo Sabol

Recording Clerk: Ashley Gates

Approval of June 10th, 2024, meeting minutes:

Amy Bickel made a motion to approve the June 10th, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Hanna Duvall and carried unanimously.

Approval of July 1st, 2024, meeting minutes:

Chris McVey made a motion to approve the July 1, 2024, special council meeting minutes. Seconded by Annette Baker and carried unanimously.

Approval of financial report for the period ending June 30, 2024:

Amy Bickel motioned to accept the financial report as presented for the period ending June 30, 2024. Chris McVey seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Second reading of Ordinance 2024-02 annual budget FYE 2025:

Amy Bickel read the second reading of Ordinance 2024-02. Amy Bickel made a motion to accept the second reading of Ordinance 2024-02; Hanna Duvall seconded the motion.

Roll call vote; Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Municipal Order 2024-01 amending the personnel policy established by Municipal Order 2022-01:

Amy Bickel read the changes to Municipal Order 2024-01, which would increase the maximum amount of individual insurance coverage from \$400 per month to \$700 per month and revise the order to reflect a 30-

hour work week as full time in compliance with IRS rules. Annette Baker made a motion to approve the amendment and Amy Bickel seconded it. A roll call vote passed unanimously.

Appointment of Lily Jones to the Planning and Zoning Commission: Hanna Duvall made a motion to appoint Lily Jones to the Planning and Zoning commission. Amy Bickel seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

1. The letter of intent to sell the property between Beverly's and Red Oak for the construction of a Retail Store has been executed and delivered to all parties. We are waiting for an acceptance of our counteroffer.
2. We are seeking approval from TowerCo for the relocation of the cell tower originally proposed on this property to a location on the very southern end of the city's property. All indications are that this change will be accepted and will be of benefit to both the tower company and the city.
3. We have an offer of a concession agreement for the Salt River RV Park. I am requesting a motion to complete the negotiations and approve this agreement contingent upon the approval of the National Park Service.
4. Just a reminder. We have received 14 notices from the IRS regarding the unpaid back taxes amassed from 2017 to 2021. These notices are in error but must be dealt with as they could cause the city to lose our payment agreement and make all funds immediately payable.
5. The HCSO has taken custody of another eighteen boxes of evidence for cataloging and disposal. The city will receive some of the funds recovered from this effort once all the evidence is processed by the Sheriff's Department and the Commonwealth Attorney. Speaking of Police. Our police budget is \$160,000 per year. Currently, Radcliff police start a recruit at \$55,000 per year plus \$4,300 bonus upon completion. Retirees are paid \$65,700 per year with a \$4,300 bonus.
6. We have switched telephone services away from Spectrum and have received new phones from Unified Global solutions for a monthly savings of \$200 per month reduction in overall expenses. Phone services with Spectrum have been cancelled.
7. LG&E personnel were in town to evaluate our streetlights and perform an audit to confirm that we are paying for the correct number of streetlights. Additionally, they have provided two new LED streetlights at the corner of 6th and Elm at no cost for our evaluation. These lights could eventually reduce the number of streetlights required by increasing the amount and spread of each light.
8. Many thanks to Bill and Hannah Hartley, Dillon Jones, Eddie Adams, Ron McCreary, Bonnie Ciresi and my son for all the help with the cleanup of the 10th St property. There is one small pile of rubble left to burn when appropriate. This area will be closed temporarily to prevent further dumping and abuse.
9. We have received the 2024 AARP Community Challenge grant in the amount of \$17,791 to add benches and sidewalks to our Veterans Park.
10. We have received notice from Radcliff Police that the company that installs the Flock cameras are behind schedule without a specific date for performance. We will be credited all this time that we do not have them, so once installed we will be paid for a full two years.
11. The first pour of the boat ramp has been completed and pushed into the river. The next pour is ready and should be completed this week depending on the weather. Completion is most likely still 30 days away.
12. The River Circus is officially scheduled for Monday September 16 on the riverfront. This comes to us through our relationship with Ohio River Way. This is a band of traveling minstrels/circus performers that will arrive by boat which they use as a stage. The event is free, but they will take donations.

13. Again, this year, the City of West Point will have a booth at the Hardin Co. Fair which began today. Volunteers are still needed to work at the booth if anyone is interested.
14. Many thanks to Amy Bickel for the success of our first, third Friday event even though it may have been one of the hottest days of the year. Senator Matt Deneen and Magistrate Yates were both in attendance.
15. I have reached out to the County Judge of Bullitt County in pursuit of an agreement with the Nichols fire department to provide a quicker response ambulance service, awaiting his response.
16. We have received the first order for turnout gear.

Approval of the RV Park Concession Agreement:

The mayor handed out a copy of the RV Park Concession Agreement which followed the format recommended by the National Park Service. Annette Baker introduced a motion to complete the negotiations and approve this agreement contingent upon the approval of the National Park Service. Amy Bickel seconded the motion. After discussion, a vote was called, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Fort Duffield: No report.

Planning & Zoning: Bill Hartley reported that Planning & Zoning held two public hearings. One was regarding the residential commercial property located between Beverly's and the apartments, and the other hearing focused on the cell phone tower. **Board of Adjustments:** Cindy Young reported that the Board of Adjustments' July meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The committee has two pending applications, and the next meeting is scheduled for the first Monday in August, which falls on August 5th.

Fire Department: Chris McVey reported that the fire department received all three sets of turnout gear, and they look very snazzy. He also mentioned that fire helmets cannot be older than 10 years from the manufacture date. As of last month, all the fire helmets were expired. He estimates that a rough budget of \$5000 to \$6000 will be sufficient to replace the helmets.

Museum: No report.

Finance: Amy Bickel stated that the Finance committee met for the first time last month, and the meeting went well. Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14th, at 6:00 PM instead of the usual 6:30 PM

Council Concerns:

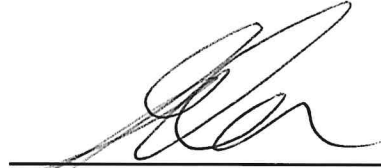
Amy Bickel announced that the next concert in the park will be on Friday, July 19th, and there's a great lineup.

Citizens' Concerns:

Charles Zoeller brought up two items. First, his wife suggested creating a list of council candidates so that residents can talk to them and understand their platforms. The mayor mentioned that although the RSBA hasn't confirmed it yet, they are considering hosting a candidate forum in October. Second, Charles expressed concerns about 5G technology, stating that he believes it is harmful and potentially lethal. He emphasized that he does not want the community to become a source of plausible deniability for these companies. The mayor requested that Mr. Zoeller put in writing a plan of action that he believes the City Council could implement to satisfy his concerns.

Adjournment:

Amy Bickel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M. Motion was seconded by Annette Baker and carried unanimously.



Richard A. Ciresi, Mayor



Ashley Gates, City Clerk