

**WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 14, 2024**

The City Council of the City of West Point, Kentucky, met in a regular session on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the West Point Independent School building, 203 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, West Point, Kentucky, with Mayor Richard A. Ciresi presiding as chair.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Ciresi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Ciresi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRAYER:** Annette Baker led in prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Richard Ciresi, Mayor

**PRESENT:** Annette Baker  
Amy Bickel  
Kevin Duke  
Hanna Duvall  
Chris McVey

**ABSENT:** *Jo Sabol*

**RECORDING CLERK:** Ashley Gates

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Lieutenant Travis Cook

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-SEPTEMBER 9, 2024-:**

The September 9, 2024, minutes were presented for approval. Hanna Duvall made a motion to adopt the minutes as written and her motion was seconded by Annette Baker, Motion carried unanimously.

**2. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2024-:**

Upon motion by Chris McVey, duly seconded by Amy Bickel, the financial report for September 2024 was accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voted "yes" and the motion carried.

**3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR EMERGENCY RECEIPT & EXPENDITURE:**

A letter from the Department of Transportation was previously distributed to each Council Member for consideration. In recent months, the city began participating in a municipal aid cooperative program whereby 3% of its road aid funding, totaling around \$700 a year, is withheld and placed in an emergency fund. The city requested emergency funds to repair Salt River Road, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet approved the request. So far, 50% of the approved funds, totaling \$28,000, have been disbursed. This is an 80/20 program; The state covers 80% of the project while the local government is responsible for the remaining 20%. The city has received two quotes: one from PSI Paving for \$35,840, honoring their proposal from a year ago, and one from Scotty's for just over \$58,000. The city's contribution of \$7164 is available in the road fund.

**ANNETTE BAKER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY KEVIN DUKE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$7,164 FROM THE MUNICIPAL ROAD AID FUND; AND TO FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE \$28,660 IN EMERGENCY FUNDS; AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER.**

Mayor Ciresi requested a Roll Call Vote. Roll call recognized five yes votes, and zero no votes, motion passes.

**PRESENTATION— HCSO LIEUTENANT TRAVIS COOK:**

Mayor Ciresi welcomed Lieutenant Travis Cook from the Hardin County Sherriff's Office. Earlier this month, the mayor met with Sherriff John Ward to discuss the concerns of West Point citizens. The meeting resulted in an agreement to adjust their patrol schedule to include more evening shifts. They were also able to gather the necessary information to effectively enforce existing ordinances.

Lieutenant Cook notified the citizens present that organizing patrol officers' schedules has presented challenges due to difficulties in retaining officers and the unfortunate deaths of some deputies, coupled with others on sick leave. In an effort to improve services for the residents of West Point, the sheriff's office has introduced a new strategy of compensating deputies that are scheduled off with overtime pay. This initiative is aimed at having dedicated deputies solely focused on serving the citizens of West Point without any interruptions.

As someone who assists with scheduling officers, Lieutenant Cook also said he establishes criteria for officers. If they are assigned to West Point, they must be productive during their time here, not just stationed at the Marathon.

Lieutenant Cook then welcomed any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns.

Lieutenant Cook was asked about the types of crimes he observes in West Point and whether there is a way for the residents to stay informed about the town's crime incidents.

Cook's response was as follows:

*"It's knucklehead stuff. You don't have major break-ins, you don't have major car thefts, you don't have major civil disturbances. You've got a couple knuckleheads that create a nuisance for everyone else here. Y'all really don't have a crime problem" ...typically, when something serious occurs, it is often someone from out of town who is involved.*

Chirs McVey asked Lieutenant Cook if he knew how much time his officers spend on the highway patrolling versus in town. Chris mentioned that he would rather see increased officer presence in town rather than patrolling the highway.

Cook's response was as follows:

*"Oh yeah, so there's no need for us to address an issue that is being addressed by someone else [KSP]."*

Bill Hartley asked Lieutenant Cook if there was anything that we citizens could do to help them out and make their lives easier/better.

Cook's response was as follows:

*"I've been a cop for 28 years. Typically, the majority of my time has been spent in an investigative role. I spent a long time in homicide and a long time in a detective spot. And I can tell you that 90% of those cases that I ever solved was because someone picked up the phone" ...if you see something, say something.*

#### **4. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

1. During the facelift on the West Point Bank we discovered a cistern, on public property, that was used for fire fighting in the early days of West Point. We have learned that there are three more of these in town that will need to be addressed at some point in the future. We spent \$2,500 to fill this cistern with rock to eliminate the possibility of future collapse which would have closed 6th St.
2. We continue to wait on the auditor. Our extension will run out on November 1. We will need to increase the budget in the coming years to accommodate the use of a larger, more dependable firm.
3. I attended the Ohio River Way Summit in Maysville on September 12 & 13th. Heather French Henry was the host. This group is very informative and is raising a considerable amount of money in pursuit of the National Water Trail designation for the Ohio River from Ashland, Ky. to West Point. This designation will provide an opportunity to obtain Federal funds for improvements to facilities and the waterway, as well as increase the recreational and tourism opportunities for West Point.
4. On Wednesday September 18 I attended an informational meeting with the leadership of Blue Oval. They will start making batteries in the 2nd quarter of 2025. They currently employ about 800 people and will ramp up to 2500 once in production. They also agreed to participate in the River Days parade.

5. On September 25 I attended the KLC conference in Lexington. This was a great training opportunity and received valuable information on additional grants that we may be eligible to receive.
6. We are still waiting on a response from the IRS regarding our request for settlement.
7. The Dollar General store continues to move forward. We have notified the billboard company that has a sign on the lot that we will not be renewing the lease, and the sign must be removed by January 15, 2025, to which they have agreed. This should be the last legal step in closing this transaction.
8. I would like to explore the possibility of removing the current Net Profits tax and replacing it with a Gross receipts tax.
9. The boat ramp parking lot is scheduled to be repaved the last week of October by the Ky. Department of Fish and Wildlife. Once this is completed, we will schedule the re-paving of Salt River Road.
10. The cell tower continues to move forward. They are in the process of completing their environmental study on the property prior to scheduling the public and zoning change hearings.
11. The siren remains inoperative. Due to its age, we are having difficulty in finding someone that knows enough about it to repair it.
12. The sidewalks provided by the AARP Grant have been completed within the budget. We will be assembling and installing the benches over the next two weeks.
13. Every year the HCCC creates and markets a Christmas ornament to represent the county. This year, the picture on the ornament will be of the Caboose here in West Point.
14. **REMINDERS.** The River Circus is officially scheduled for Monday September 16 on the riverfront. AND of course, River Days is scheduled September 26-28.

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**FT. DUFFIELD:** Nothing to report.

**PLANNING & ZONING:** Nothing to report.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS:** Nothing to report.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire Chief Eddie Curl said the department received their new fire helmets and he thanked the mayor and council members for helmets and the additional equipment. Currently, their gear is almost entirely up to date, with the recent purchase of three additional sets of turn out gear.

**MUSEUM REPORT:** Nothing to report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The finance committee did not meet this month. Typically, they meet on the second Wednesday of every month.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Nothing to report.

**6. CITY COUNCIL CONCERNS**

**ANNETTE BAKER** will begin measuring the park for flower placement and needs to plant them soon because they are starting to go dormant.

**AMY BICKLE** announced that the school building committee will be meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

**KEVIN DUKE** no comment.

**HANNA DUVALL** no comment

**CHRIS MCVEY** no comment

**7. CITIZEN CONCERNS:**

**LENA MCVEY** announced two important dates to remember for upcoming events.

- November 2, 2024, is the date for the 5K run, organized by the Ladies Auxiliary (same date River Days 2 has been rescheduled).
- October 26, 2024, Trunk-or-Treat will be hosted at Veteran's Park from 4 PM-7 PM. They are accepting candy donations, which can be dropped off at their home or the fire department.


**ROSZELLE MOORE** informed everyone that former Kentucky senator Elizabeth Tori has died. She served Kentucky's 10<sup>th</sup> District, which comprises Hardin County, for over 16 years.

**SCOTT YOUNG** stated that over the weekend, he and someone from out-of-town visited Fort Duffield. While everything was beautiful, the view from the outlook was disappointing because of all the branches and old, grown-up trees. He suggested using a tree pruner, which the city does own, and added that he would voluntarily put on a harness to remove them himself.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Annette Baker second from Chris McVey. Motion passes by a unanimous voice vote, the time being 7:46 PM.

CITY OF WEST POINT



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Richard A. Ciresi, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Ashley Gates, City Clerk