

**WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025**

**CITY OF WEST POINT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2025**

The City Council of the City of West Point, Kentucky, convened for its regular session on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the West Point Independent School building, 203 N. 13th Street, West Point, Kentucky, with Mayor Richard A. Ciresi presiding as chair.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME -

Mayor Ciresi called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -

Mayor Ciresi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER -

An invocation was offered by Monie Matthews, asking for guidance and wisdom in conducting the business of the city.

ROLL CALL -

PRESIDING OFFICER -	Richard Ciresi, Mayor
COUNCIL MEMBERS' PRESENT -	Amy Bickel Vernon Curl Chris McVey Jo Sabol
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT-	Dwayne Culver Kevin Duke
STAFF PRESENT -	Ashley Gates, City Clerk

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 10, 2025 -

The minutes of the March 10, 2025, regular meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Amy Bickel and seconded by Butch Curl. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

II. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2025 -

The financial report for the period ending March 31, 2025, was presented for approval. Amy Bickel moved to approve the report, which was seconded.

A roll call vote was conducted:

Amy Bickel - YES
Butch Curl - YES
Chris McVey - YES
Jo Sabol - YES

The motion passed unanimously.

III. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-01 - TINY HOME REGULATIONS -

The Council held the second reading of Ordinance 2025-01 regarding tiny home regulations. This ordinance was previously tabled during the March 10, 2025, meeting to allow more time for research and review. The ordinance establishes criteria for the construction, placement, and use of tiny homes within city limits. The ordinance was read in full.

A roll call vote was taken:

Amy Bickel -	YES
Butch Curl -	NO
Chris McVey -	NO
Jo Sabol -	NO

The ordinance failed to pass.

IV. ZONING CHANGE – MARSHALL REALTY PROPERTY (R-1 TO AGRICULTURAL) -

The Council considered a zoning change presented by the Planning and Zoning Commission for parcel 137-00-00-002, owned by Marshall Realty. This change, initiated by the Mayor, was proposed to align the city's zoning map with state law. The property, although zoned R-1 by the city in the 1970s or 1980s, is taxed as agricultural because it exceeds 10 acres and contains no structures. The change to agricultural zoning also resolves a conflict with city ordinance prohibiting cell towers within 300 feet of residential zones. A public hearing was held on March 25, 2025. No objections were raised, and the property owners expressed no opposition.

Motion to approve by Amy Bickel. Second by Chris McVey. Roll call vote as follows:

Amy Bickel -	YES
Butch Curl -	YES
Chris McVey -	YES
Jo Sabol -	NO

Motion passed.

V. MAYOR REPORT -

- a. CLEANING SUPPLIES -There were numerous questions regarding the cleanup supplies and their distribution. At the outset we were not certain of what would be needed to supply the entire community. The initial order to the Red Cross was for 100 Cleaning kits and accessories, but they delivered only 40. At that point we felt it necessary to ration supplies in an attempt to make sure the people that truly needed them and were the most effected by the flood would be supplied. Additionally, we were not allowing citizens to pick up for other parties as we could not validate the need and supplies were limited. Our intent was to treat everyone equally, whether or not we knew them personally. As we began to receive more supplies from numerous sources, we were able to loosen these restrictions. Also, initially we were told by the Red Cross that the supplies we had received were ONLY for West Point, not the entire 40177 zip code. This was changed later by the Red Cross, and we began including Dixie Beach and other areas in the 40177-zip code and even making deliveries to these areas.

- b. **DUMPSTER ISSUES** - Thanks to C & C portables and Platform waste we are well supplied with dumpsters that are being emptied daily. The dumpsters are in numerous locations, here at the school, on 6th St and Main St. We will begin tomorrow, picking up flood debris that is brought to the curb. These services are being provided by the Hardin County Jailer inmate work program, the Hardin County Road Crew, and Daniel London at various times and days as we schedule them.
- c. **ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS** - Prior to this flood, the Hardin Co. electrical inspector was a paid employee. During previous floods he would come to West Point, without charge, to aid flood victims. Now, the Hardin Co. Electrical inspector is a contractor and will not provide this service. Additionally, the county Planning and Zoning commission is demanding that everyone apply and pay for a permit then wait until Wednesday to get inspected. To expedite the restoration of power to as many citizens as possible, the City employed an electrical inspector from Louisville Metro to make these inspections on a shorter time frame and without having to apply for a permit. We managed to get over 40 homes that did not require electrical work, turned back on over the weekend using this system. TODAY, I have been informed by LG&E and our inspector that every home in West Point that can be turned back on without additional electrical work has been restored. Going forward, we are considering setting up our own electrical inspection and permit structure to avoid this situation. However, there are still legal requirements that need to be investigated before we do this. We hope to provide a better solution than going to Etown but there are a few options at this point. Please be patient.
- d. **FEMA** - We are still waiting for the Federal Disaster Declaration. FEMA employees have been in town regularly along with all of our elected leadership and believe we will get the declaration.
- e. We are trying to reach the owner of the Timber Wood Mobile home park to learn his plan for reopening the park or what he will be doing to help the residents. It is also evident that some people will be permanently displaced and will not be able to return due to the cost of repairs.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS -

FT. DUFFIELD – Clean-up efforts were scheduled for Saturday, April 12th, but the road was underwater preventing access. The next meeting will be held at the West Point Independent School building on Wednesday, April 23, at 6:30 PM.

PLANNING & ZONING – Already addressed earlier in the meeting.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS – No meeting was held this month because there were no applications or issues to consider.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Nothing new reported.

MUSEUM – Monie Matthews reported the water missed the museum by about six inches.

FINANCE COMMITTEE– Gaye Moore and Amy Bickel reviewed the city's financials for last period; everything checked out. Next meeting is Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – No activity since the onset of the flood.

VII. COUNCIL CONCERNS -

AMY BICKEL reported on the LG&E community grant application and a grant for weather radios. She also provided an update on efforts to restore the city's storm siren.

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BUTCH CURL – Nothing to report.

CHRIS MCVEY introduced an ordinance proposing to change the location of council meetings due to the current lease ending. The first reading of Ordinance 2025-003 was conducted.

JO SABOL expressed frustration at the lack of communication during the flood response, stating council members were repeatedly asked questions without having answers. She felt the council was not kept informed.

VIII. CITIZEN CONCERNS -

HANNA DUVALL raised concern that Hardin County EMS had refused to transport a patient to Louisville during a medical emergency on Tuesday, April 8. Although EMS arrived on scene, they declined to make the transport. Chris McVey ended up contacting the Pleasure Ridge Park Fire Chief, who did send an ambulance, but delayed transport.

The Mayor explained that Hardin County and Bullitt County are working on a Memorandum of Agreement that would allow ambulances to be dispatched from nearby Nichols. Bonnie Ciresi said the agreement is expected to go before Fiscal Court on Tuesday, April 22, and explained that EMS availability depends on whether other units are already out on calls, since they can't just leave the county without coverage.

The Mayor said he expects the agreement to pass without issue, and once it's in place, West Point should have an ambulance service with a response time of about 5 to 7 minutes.

A CITIZEN voiced dissatisfaction with being turned away when trying to pick up supplies for someone else. She stated she was only trying to help a mother returning home from surgery with a child and refused to apologize to anyone.

JOSEPH FROST raised questions about ADA accessibility at City Hall and the building's occupancy load and life safety parameters. The mayor will confirm.

ROSZELLE MOORE asked for updates on several items. She asked how the recent tire disposal event went; Butch reported he hauled off 150 tires and the Mayor collected 17 from the pole barn.

She also asked about the Apple computers and the fire station's computer crash. The fire station's computer has been repaired and is running, but the Apple computers have not yet been offered for sale.

Lastly, she inquired about the Dollar General store. The Mayor told her that they had reached out earlier that day and had applied for their permit. He confirmed that the sign had been down for some time.

ERIC DUVALL thanked the mayor, the sheriff's department, and specifically the West Point Fire Department for their efforts during the recent flood.

He shared that the Mayor had always returned his calls and said he believed the same would be true for anyone in the community who reached out.

He encouraged the community to come together, support one another, and not let division get in the way of progress.

SCOTT YOUNG shared that despite challenges, the kids in town have really risen above. From unloading supplies and carrying boxes to helping deliver meals, they've stepped up without hesitation and deserved to be recognized for their efforts.

The Mayor echoed that sentiment, saying it was incredible to see how many people jumped in to help. He noted that volunteers were showing up even before supplies arrived and shared that at least 8 pastors had already reached out, wanting to know how they and their congregations could help.

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The outpouring of support shows just how strong the sense of community is in West Point and how far it reaches. He mentioned that at one point the city ran out of bleach and trash bags, so he placed a call to Daniel London. By the next day, two magistrates showed up with a truckload of supplies donated by the Builders Association.

NATASHA JANNEY said the Easter Egg Hunt had to be postponed and that a new date hasn't been set yet. She added that she still hopes to put something together for the kids soon.

LENA MCVEY announced that World Central Kitchen was still serving lunch and dinner daily out of the firehouse. A reevaluation of community need was scheduled for April 17 to determine how long meal service would continue. MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) have also been donated and were available as an additional food source.

IX. ADJOURNMENT -

Butch Curl made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris McVey. Motion passed unanimously, the time being 8:12 PM.

CITY OF WEST POINT


Richard A. Ciresi, Mayor

ATTEST:


Ashley Gates, City Clerk