

**CITY OF WEST POINT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2025**

The City Council of the City of West Point, Kentucky, met for its regular session on Monday, August 11, 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 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE—

Mayor Ciresi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER—

Mayor Ciresi led the prayer, asking for guidance and wisdom in conducting the business of the city.

ROLL CALL—

PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Ciresi, Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dwayne Culver
Vernon Curl
Kevin Duke
Jo Sabol

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Bickel
Chris McVey

STAFF PRESENT: Ashley Gates, City Clerk

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Clay Smith

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 14, 2025—

The minutes of the July 14, 2025, were presented for approval. Jo Sabol noted that the person listed as offering the prayer was incorrect. After that correction was made, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Jo Sabol and seconded by Kevin Duke. There being no further corrections, the motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2025–

The July 2025 financial report was presented for review. A motion to approve the report as submitted was made by Dwayne Culver and seconded by Butch Curl. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-07- JOINT CODE OF ETHICS–

The second reading of Ordinance 2025-07 was held. The ordinance establishes a code of ethics for city officials and employees in accordance with KRS 65.003. West Point has joined Radcliff, Vine Grove, Elizabethtown, and Hardin County in enacting a joint code.

Council briefly discussed the progress of the ordinance among participating cities. Elizabethtown had passed theirs; Vine Grove's was pending. No further questions were raised.

A roll call vote was taken and Ordinance 2025-07 passed unanimously.

The full ordinance is available on the city's website.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

1. The Flock cameras here in West Point were instrumental in the arrest of three suspects out of Louisville. Our Deputy Walker apprehended all three suspects, without assistance at the Marathon Station. All three had multiple charges.
2. The air compressor at the Firehouse has been repaired for less than \$200.00.
3. We received the renewal for the Fire Station Software subscription for \$499.00. We have had this software over three years, but It does not appear to being used. Should it be renewed? Asst. Chief Curl says "yes."
4. The new roof on the Rest Rooms and the three Electrical panels in the park has been completed. This work was completely funded by a grant from the West Point Bank.
5. We have quote to replace the slide in the Park for just over \$8,000. It partially returned to its original shape during the heat spell and Tony Baker worked on it and made additional improvements. It isn't perfect but it is no longer dangerous to use it. I suggest we do not replace it at this cost.
6. The Cell tower is complete and has been issued a Letter of Acceptance. No equipment has been installed, and they are waiting for LG&E to bring power to the site.

7. The Dollar General store is making progress with anticipated opening in November. They have inquired about applications for both a business and a liquor license
8. The FEMA Public Assistance money has finally been made available. I attended a class presented by FEMA on 08-06-25 to learn the intricacies of the program. We have made the required request for assistance; our FEMA Grant portal is active and will be meeting on site with the FEMA representative to assess the damages we incurred and the funding we are eligible to receive. We hope to recover at minimum, the nearly \$50,000 for costs already incurred and paid.
9. We met with the representatives from the Lewis & Clark Trust, the National Park service, and the Filson historical society on July 17 to firm up plans for the Lewis & Clark Education and Research Center to be located in the library of the school. Printing of the display information will begin next week with an anticipated opening of the center, hopefully in October.
10. The development of the 55 Acres to store automobiles and begin the layout of a subdivision of new homes continues to move forward. Currently we are waiting for the engineering information on the amount of fill required so that we may apply for the state DOW permit. Once we have that approval we will be in a position to prepare formal lease/purchase documents.
11. I am requesting permission to surplus the Bradley Mower we bought last year, for the same amount we originally paid. Our current employees are not comfortable using this stand-up mower.
12. We reached out the owners of the Holloway property seeking additional land for sale or to possibly having them develop some portion of the property for additional homes. They are now, with our cooperation, exploring the possibility of placing a data center on roughly 150 acres of their property. This would be a \$1 Billion investment and would generate enough revenue for the city to fully fund a police department and either reduce or eliminate property taxes.
13. The former siren and pole, located on Eric Duvall's property has been removed.
14. We continue to wait for the control people to aid in the installation of the new siren controls.
15. This Sunday, Church at the River will bring approximately 1000 guests to West Point. After services there will be food, music and entertainment for the children all provided free of charge by Gracepoint Baptist Church.
16. Update on the Folklore Festival coming to Veteran's Park on October 25, 2025. They have ordered their own dumpsters, portable restrooms, security and two 24 Seat trams for moving participants between the event and parking. All food truck and vendor spots are sold out with 50 on the waiting list. They collect all business license fees for the city.

17. Light up West Point will be taking place on November 29 this year.
ADDITIONALLY, on December 13, we will be presenting a “West Point Christmas” event in the gym. Gary Brewer will be doing a two-hour Christmas show and we’re attempting a Christmas Bazaar that will run simultaneously. Also, Gary is presenting “Finley Fest” at his venue on Katherine Station Road on August 23rd and has offered the council free tickets if you would like to attend.
18. At the annual Hardin County Chamber of Commerce meeting, yours truly was presented with the annual “Excellence in Government” award.

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT-CLAY SMITH, SMITH FAMILY HOMES—

Clay Smith of Smith Family Homes addressed the council regarding his interest in developing a portion of the 55 acres of city-owned property. Smith, who grew up in West Point and attended school locally, shared that his company has over 20 years of experience in residential construction and is currently active on a project in Glendale.

He expressed interest in building small, affordable homes on the property and estimated that approximately 20 acres may be suitable for development outside the floodplain. Homes would likely be priced between \$225,000 and \$300,000. He emphasized the importance of flexible zoning and lot sizes to make the project feasible.

Mayor Ciresi suggested that a mixed-use layout could be considered, such as alternating single-family homes with duplexes and quadplexes, to increase density while preserving green space.

Smith stated that he would be open to a public-private partnership and encouraged the council and mayor to consider what support the city could offer to help move the project forward.

Mayor Ciresi reiterated that residential development has always been the city’s long-term goal for the property, though prior attempts have failed due to floodplain and infrastructure challenges. He expressed interest in continuing discussions and reviewing Smith’s proposal in more detail.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FT. DUFFIELD – Chuck McCreary reported that Fort Duffield was weed-eated by inmates two weeks ago. He added that extreme heat has since limited further work. The mayor noted the area looks well maintained, thanks to the combined efforts of inmates and volunteers.

PLANNING & ZONING - No updates reported this month. Bill Hartley did state that zoning changes will be necessary for both the proposed residential development and the potential data center. He noted that the city can rezone as needed, as most of the city is currently zoned R-2.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS – No updates reported this month.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – No updates reported this month.

MUSEUM REPORT – No updates reported this month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – No updates reported this month.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Mayor Ciresi reported that there are currently 20 open code enforcement cases. Four properties have been issued Claims for Lien notices, and filing in county court will proceed after a 10-day waiting period.

He gave an update on 1502 Geoghegan, stating the property owner is deceased and that he spoke with a niece by marriage who confirmed no one intends to claim the property and that the city should continue doing whatever it has to do. A quote of \$3700 was received from Marvin Greenfield of Rightway Hauling for exterior clean up only. Butch Curl asked whether the house should be condemned and noted that it may also need to be boarded up, especially since someone had recently installed an air conditioning unit.

The mayor stated that the city would rent a dumpster and coordinate cleanup. The property will continue to accrue daily fines, and the city will proceed with liens, as necessary.

VI. COUNCIL CONCERNS–

BUTCH CURL – asked that overgrowth along city streets be addressed, noting that tree limbs and bushes are beginning to take over the roads. He specifically mentioned Mulberry Street between 4th and 5th Streets, as well as 3rd Street, where limbs are scratching the fire trucks as they pass.

DWAYNE CULVER – reported no updates at this time.

KEVIN DUKE – reported no updates at this time.

JO SABOL – asked when the last Board of Adjustments and Planning & Zoning meetings were held. It was confirmed that the BOA met last week and Bill Harley confirmed that P&Z has met multiple times this year.

VII. CITIZEN CONCERNS—

EDDIE MOORE— reported that while crossing the Salt River bridge saw approximately 50 dead fish. He asked whether Fish and Wildlife had been contacted. It was confirmed that the agency had been notified.

It was mentioned that a similar incident occurred in the past when a rickhouse collapsed in Bardstown, releasing alcohol into a creek and resulting in a widespread fish kill. The city is awaiting an explanation.

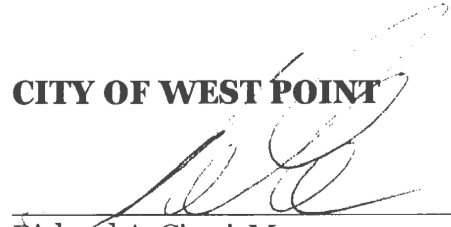
LAURICE BRYANT – thanked the council for their donation to River Days.

There was a request for volunteers and candy donations for this year's Trunk or Treat. The event is scheduled for October 30th. Jo Sabol also noted that all their Halloween decorations were ruined in the flood, and donations or replacement decorations are needed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT—

Jo Sabol called for a motion to adjourn with a second from Kevin Duke. Motion passed unanimously, the time being **7:55 PM**.

CITY OF WEST POINT



Richard A. Ciresi, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ashley Gates, City Clerk