

**CITY OF WEST POINT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2025**

The City Council of the City of West Point, Kentucky, convened for its regular session on Monday, January 13, 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:

Mayor Ciresi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ciresi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER:

Roszelle Moore offered an opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Ciresi, Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Amy Bickel
Dwayne Culver
Vernon Curl
Kevin Duke
Chris McVey
Jo Sabol

RECORDING CLERK: Ashley Gates

A quorum was declared present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-DECEMBER 9, 2025:

The December 9, 2025, minutes were presented for approval. Chris McVey made a motion to adopt the minutes as written which was seconded by Kevin Duke. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

2. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024:

The financial report for the month of December 2024 was presented for approval. Following discussion, Amy Bickel made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, and Jo Sabol seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-04 REVISING THE BUDGET:

Mayor Ciresi introduced the second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-04, which amends the annual budget for the fiscal year 20__-2024. He explained that the revised budget reflects adjustments made after reviewing the city's actual expenditure and revenues, including unforeseen costs related to emergency repairs and changes in city project timelines. Kevin Duke made a motion to approve the ordinance, which was seconded by Chris McVey. The motion passed following a roll call vote, with all members voting in favor.

PRESENTATION-SHERIFF JOHN WARD & LIEUTENANT TRAVIS COOK OF HCSO:

Sheriff John Ward, accompanied by Lieutenant Travis Cook provided an update on law enforcement activities for December. The sheriff reported that there had been minimal criminal activity in West Point last month, with no major incidents. The sheriff's office shifted its efforts toward increasing its presence in the city, reducing traffic enforcement along Dixie Highway.

Council Member Vernon 'Butch' Curl inquired about the sheriff's approach to noise complaints. Lieutenant Cook shared that deputies attempt to *make contact* with those involved in complaints, but Curl mentioned his tenants have been told that nothing can be done. After confirming the existence of a city ordinance, Lieutenant Cook assured Curl that the sheriff's department would begin enforcing it.

Council Member Chris McVey asked about the typical response time for a deputy to a call in West Point. Sheriff John Ward explained that, at most, the response time could be 20 to 25 minutes. However, because deputies are scattered across the county at different points,, response times are usually much quicker.

When it came to the speeding on 15th Street, a resident raised the issue and pointed out that there were many children in the area. Lieutenant Cook suggested contacting the Hardin County Sheriff's Office and they can set up a record patrol for that specific area. If residents can provide specific times and locations, he can have a deputy monitor the area more closely. Lieutenant Cook also pointed out that even if its just one or two cars speeding, its still an issue that needs to be addressed.

4. STATE OF THE CITY:

The mayor provided an update on the current state of the city, emphasizing the need for growth and long-term sustainability. He stressed the importance of preserving West Point's charm as a small, historical community while also ensuring the city's future prosperity. The mayor acknowledged the challenges around low property values and a small population, highlighting that growth will require investment in the city's appearance and infrastructure. He discussed the need for alternative strategies to foster growth, such as increasing housing capacity, developing vacant properties, and attracting new residents. The mayor emphasized the need to balance the town's historical character with the goal of bringing in new opportunities for the future. He also noted the city's financial challenges and suggested that growing the population and residential base could provide long-term financial stability.

The mayor encouraged the council to consider ideas for the future and work on a plan that would ensure the city remains sustainable and successful in the years to come.

5. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The following committee appointments were presented for approval:

- **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS:** Mark Misback(4-year term)
- **PLANNING & ZONING:** Donna McCreary (2-year term), Beth Riggs (2-year term)
- **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Chuck McCreary (3-year term), Matty Hartley (2-year term), Carol Frost (3-year term)

Amy Bickel made a motion to approve the appointments, which was seconded by Dwayne Culver. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT:

7. COMMITTEE REPORT:

FT. DUFFIELD: Chuck McCreary reported that trees were removed from 2 outlooks in the park.

PLANNING & ZONING: Nothing to report.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

MUSEUM REPORT: Nothing to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Amy Bickel reported that the committee has now documented records within City Hall for their monthly meetings. These records outline the members present and the items that were reviewed and certified. Moving forward, anyone wishing to review these records can do so at City Hall.

Following this, Jo Sabol handed out Municipal Order 2025-01, which rescinds Municipal Order 2023-01, establishing the City of West Point Finance Oversight Committee. Amy Bickel then read the ordinance aloud. Jo Sabol made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Kevin Duke. A roll call vote was held, and all members were in favor.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Nothing to report.

8. COUNCIL CONCERNS:

AMY BICKEL noticed that there's outdated information on the city website that needs to be updated. Amy offered to compile a list of the information that needs updating so that the city clerk can get that to the person responsible for maintaining the site.

DWAYNE CULVER Nothing to report at the time.

VERNON 'BUTCH' CURL raised a concern about streetlights being out around town. The mayor acknowledged that he was aware of two streetlights that were not functioning. However, Butch mentioned that about fifteen lights are out throughout the town. The mayor asked Butch to

make a list of the streetlights that are out and get it to him. He will then contact Kelli, the Community Liaison Manager, to report the issue.

KEVIN DUKE reminded the mayor about the pole that the city needs to remove from Eric DuVall's property. Mayor Ciresi stated that once the weather improves, he and Wesley will address it.

CHRIS MCVEY inquired about the effectiveness of the snow removal process. The mayor responded that the city had contracted out snow removal services due to issues with the city's existing equipment, including problems with the plow and salt spreader. The mayor also noted that the city had used up most of its salt and received a generous offer of additional salt from Elizabethtown at a reduced rate.

JO SABOL had nothing to report at the time.

9. CITIZEN CONCERNS:

SCOTT YOUNG asked the contract with the Nichols Fire Department and if they would have any issues taking patients to a hospital in Louisville, like Hardin County EMS. The mayor responded that his main concern was the 25-minute response time for Hardin County EMS, which he felt was too long. The mayor believes the agreement with Nichols EMS will improve response times, though he acknowledged there may be occasional issues. He emphasized that overall, this partnership will be a positive step for the town.

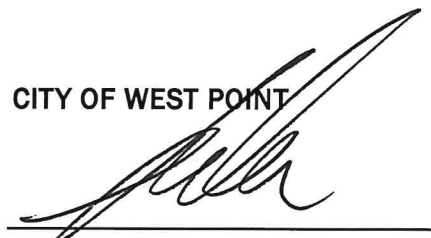
EDDIE CURL asked whether the city still has snow removal equipment and if it is operational. The mayor responded that the city no longer owns fully functional snow removal equipment. The plow no longer fits the truck properly and causes damage, and the Saltdogg is inoperable.

The mayor explained that, up until now, contracting out the snow removal had been a more practical solution, as it allowed the city to rely on someone with the proper equipment who could handle the work regularly. For a town of this size, it made more sense. When snow removal was first considered, there was uncertainty about how long the work would take and what the cost would be. To manage costs, the city focused on clearing only the most heavily trafficked streets. The mayor noted that for future snowfalls, additional streets would be added. He also mentioned that Jason Vogt, the contractor, has been using the city's salt, which has kept the cost lower than anticipated.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Ciresi called for a motion to adjourn. Amy Bickel so moved, with a second from Kevin Duke. Motion passes unanimously, the time being 8:16 PM.

CITY OF WEST POINT



RICHARD A. CIRESI, MAYOR

ATTEST:



ASHLEY GATES, CITY CLERK