

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

The City Council of the City of West Point, Kentucky, met for its regular session on Monday, July 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 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:** Amy Bickel  
Dwayne Culver  
Vernon Curl  
Kevin Duke  
Chris McVey  
Jo Sabol

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ashley Gates, City Clerk

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Charlie Mattingly

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 9, 2025—**

The minutes of the June 9, 2025, were presented for approval. Jo Sabol noted that one of the motions incorrectly listed the same council member as both the mover and the seconder. After correction, a motion to approve the June 9, 2025, minutes was made by Chris McVey and seconded by Amy Bickel. There being no further corrections, the motion passed unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025–**

The draft financial report for year ending June 30th, 2025, was presented. Amy Bickel made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Dwayne Culver. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**III. PRESENTATION – CONSIDERATION OF LEASE PROPOSAL FOR VEHICLE STORAGE & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT–**

The council heard a presentation regarding a proposed lease of approximately twenty acres of city-owned land for the purpose of temporarily storing vehicles for the Ford Motor Company. The proposal also includes the potential for phased residential development.

Mr. Mattingly addressed the council, explaining that Ford had lost access to their previous storage location near I-65 and had recently contacted him to revisit a proposal for the West Point property. While the property is not currently ready, Mr. Mattingly indicated that Ford was willing to work with the city's timeline.

Requirements discussed for the site included gravel surfacing, temporary fencing, security infrastructure, and sewer stub-out to support a trailer. The site would eventually support a subdivision, and the upfront work is expected to cost nearly \$500,000.

Mr. Mattingly expressed an interest in financing the site development through incremental leasing and constructing homes down the line. He discussed the potential for forming a homeowners association, selling lots through the city, and creating a small, well-maintained community. Manufactured homes were referenced as a potential solution, citing recent advancements in design and quality.

The proposed lease would cover an initial 10-year term with two optional 10-year extensions. The agreement includes \$1,000 per acre, paid annually on the anniversary of the lease. The council discussed long-term goals, the subdivision entrance, and how this use could help fund infrastructure. The lease allows the city to retain ownership of all improvements if abandoned.

Following questions and discussion, the council agreed to move forward with reviewing the formal lease before any vote is taken.

**IV. FIRST READING OF REVISED ORDINANCE 2025-07- JOINT CODE OF ETHICS–**

Mayor Ciresi introduced Ordinance 2025-07, revising the city's code of ethics in cooperation with Hardin County and neighboring municipalities. He explained that of the twelve changes requested by the city, nine were openly and willingly

incorporated into the revised ordinance. Ordinance 2025-07 standardizes ethics practices across Hardin County, Elizabethtown, Radcliff, Vine Grove, and West Point. Council agreed to consider the full ordinance as a first reading. A summary will be read at the second reading during the August meeting. Amy Bickel read the first portion of the ordinance aloud. No objections were raised.

**V. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2025-06 - COUNCIL MEETING RELOCATION–**

The second reading of Ordinance 2025-06 was placed on hold pending the city's receipt of a signed certificate of insurance and a hold harmless agreement. Once both are received, Council member Dwayne Culver stated that he is comfortable withdrawing the ordinance entirely.

**VI. RESOLUTION 2025-01 – DISSOLUTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES–**

Mayor Ciresi reported that work is still ongoing to compile a complete list of defunct standing committees. A resolution will be brought forward next month to eliminate all inactive groups. No vote was taken.

**VII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS–**

**ETHICS BOARD APPOINTMENT:**

Mayor Ciresi appointed Annette Baker to represent West Point on the Hardin County Ethics Board. Annette has served this role previously and is willing to return. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS APPOINTMENT:**

Tammy Weyrauch was appointed to the West Point Board of Adjustments with council approval. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. MAYOR'S REPORT–**

- We have received an update on our “offer in compromise” with the IRS. It has been received at the next level, and they will respond by August 11, 2025.
- During one of the recent storms, some shingles on the roof of the park rest rooms were blown off and the roof is generally in poor condition. We have contracted Graber Roofing for a full metal roof replacement to match the Pavilion at a cost of \$4,350.00. Additionally, they will re-roof the three electrical huts in the park. The GOOD news is that West Point Bank has graciously agreed to fund these repairs and have already delivered the check.
- Through a substantial effort from Hardin County, we have applied for a Storm Water Reuse Municipal Grant in the amount of \$300,000. If awarded this grant we

will construct a rain garden and a bioswale in the low area of the park to reduce contaminants in the storm water discharge while beautifying our park with these additional features.

- I attended the KORRA meeting in Northern Ky on Thursday July 10 representing both West Point and Hardin County. This group will be seeking funding in the coming legislature of approximately \$1 million to hire an Executive Director and begin operations improving water quality and access to the river.
- This Thursday 07-17-25, Kevin McCarthy and Jim Mallory of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail will be visiting West Point to complete a final layout on the new Lewis & Clark Educational and Research center. Additionally, Dr. Patrick Lewis of the Filson Historical Society will also be visiting to view and add his expertise to the center.
- Previous minutes reflect a citizen comment that EMS was not available to assist Officer Walker with a patient. In reality, the patient did not want EMS, and the assistance was requested from the WPFD and no one was available.
- There was a complaint regarding EMS stating that the dispatch had instructed them to take the patient to the hospital and if the patient worsened they would meet them on the highway. A review of the recorded call indicates that by the end of the call, the caller chose not to dispatch an ambulance.
- As announced earlier, the lease between the City of West Point and the HCBE for the former school building was not renewed at the request of the city council. However, the West Point Preservation Corp. has leased the building for the continued use of the city and the citizens. The use of the current city council chambers and the various meeting rooms are being offered to the city without charge.
- We have still not received the Public Assistance grant from FEMA and although it appears less likely that we will receive these funds they have not yet been denied.
- Construction has started on both the Dollar General store and the new cell tower, and we have received lease payment information for the cell tower site.
- The parts are in for the siren. When the controls electrician is available, we will attempt to make the necessary repairs.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS–**

**FT. DUFFIELD** – Campground volunteers have begun trail cleanup efforts. An auction fundraiser is scheduled for October 20, 2025.

**PLANNING & ZONING** - No updates reported this month.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS** – No updates reported this month.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – The department received a \$12,000 grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation for a rescue boat and trailer. Two new turnout gear sets will be ordered. SCBA testing, ladder testing, and budgeting for future replacements were discussed.

**MUSEUM REPORT** – No updates reported this month.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – All financials are current and reconciled. The next finance meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** – 25 open cases, some of which are Notice of Violations, 7 citations issued, and 3 people have been fined. The outstanding fines currently total \$9850.

**X. COUNCIL CONCERNS–**

**JO SABOL** – reported no updates at this time.

**CHRIS MCVEY** – reported no updates at this time.

**KEVIN DUKE** – reported no updates at this time.

**BUTCH CURL** – asked about the status of the playground equipment. Mayor Ciresi responded that the representative in Tennessee continues to be unresponsive. Although he was able to go directly through the manufacturer for the replacement tube slide, the company has since requested that all orders go through the assigned representative, which has stalled further progress.

Butch also inquired about the storm drains. Mayor Ciresi explained that the city is still working to coordinate with Elizabethtown to have the lines flushed before any wedge caps can be installed.

**DWAYNE CULVER** – inquired about progress from the Sheriff's Office regarding the caution light near the Salt River Bridge. Mayor Ciresi said he spoke with Sheriff John Ward, as well as a representative from the Department of Transportation, who confirmed that the light will be addressed as part of the larger redevelopment plan for Dixie Highway. The project is already in motion but is still about three years out.

**AMY BICKEL** - reminded everyone that the next Music in the Park event, "Rockin' on the River," is scheduled for Friday, July 18, and encouraged everyone to attend, noting that it's always a fun time.

**XI. CITIZEN CONCERNS—**

**JULIE DALE** - asked who was responsible for maintaining the James Jones cemetery. Mayor Ciresi explained that the cemetery is located on private property and has traditionally been maintained by volunteers.

**JOSEPH FROST** - asked for an update on efforts to repair the tornado siren. Mayor Ciresi explained that a new controller has been delivered and programmed to Hardin County specifications, but the city is still trying to find someone qualified to oversee the installation. He noted that he had reached out to ERS Wireless, the company familiar with the system, but the last time he reached out, it took nearly two months for them to respond. He added that he hopes to secure professional help within the next 30 days.

**LAURICE BRYANT** - shared concerns about safety in the park, describing a recent early morning encounter at the 4th Street boat dock. She and others reported encountering individuals who appeared to be under the influence, including one person who had an infant with them and what appeared to be a firearm within reach of the child. She also noted having seen people sleeping on picnic tables.

Laurice stated that the lack of overnight security was contributing to an unsafe environment and recommended that the city consider closing the park at night or implementing other security measures.

Mayor Ciresi encouraged residents who witness suspicious activity in the park but prefer not to report it themselves to contact him directly so he is aware of the situation and can follow-up with the Sheriff's Office as needed.

**DONNA TAYLOR** - brought up the recently failed ordinance that would have permitted tiny homes. She reported that she had seen people placing beds inside a shed on 15<sup>th</sup> Street, which appears to be used as a living space. Mayor Ciresi informed her that the property had already been cited and clarified for anyone wandering: A shed does not qualify as a tiny home.

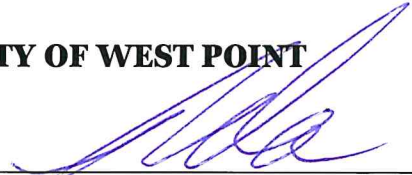
**CHRISTOPHER GATROST** - a candidate for Kentucky State Senate, asked whether Narcan was available at the park in case of an overdose. Mayor Ciresi responded that there is currently no dispenser on-site and that emergency services are relied upon to administer it when needed.

Gatrost noted that efforts were underway to expand Narcan distribution throughout Hardin County and suggested that West Point would be a suitable location.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT–**

Mayor Ciresi called for a motion to adjourn. Butch Curl so moved, with a second from Kevin Duke. Motion passed unanimously, the time being **9:06 PM**.

**CITY OF WEST POINT**

  
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Richard A. Ciresi, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Ashley Gates, City Clerk