

**CITY OF WEST POINT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 9, 2025**

The City Council of West Point, Kentucky, convened for its regular session on Monday, June 9, 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 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –**

Mayor Ciresi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRAYER –**

Roszelle Moore led the prayer, asking for guidance and wisdom in the Council's discussions.

**ROLL CALL –**

**PRESIDING OFFICER -** Richard Ciresi, Mayor

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT -** Amy Bickel  
Dwayne Culver  
Vernon 'Butch' Curl  
Kevin Duke  
Chris McVey  
Jo Sabol

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

**I. APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2025, MEETING MINUTES –**

Motion by Kevin Duke, second by Chris McVey, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025, regular meeting.

Roll Call: All members present voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MAY 19, 2025, MEETING MINUTES –**

Motion by Amy Bickel, second by Dwayne Culver, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025, special meeting.

Roll Call: All members present voted in favor; motion carried unanimously.

### **III. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2025 –**

The financial update for May 2025 was presented. Dwayne Culver asked for clarification on the proceeds from the sale of the lot to Dollar General and application of the payment of \$56,090 on the balance of the loan. The remaining balance is approximately \$77,000. Amy Bickel questioned the health insurance payment as it is supposed to be cancelled. It has been cancelled and this is the final payment. Motion to approve by Jo Sabol, second by Kevin Duke. Roll Call: Unanimously approved.

### **IV. PRESENTATION BY MONICA MILES, SBA –**

Monica Miles from the U.S Small Business Administration (SBA) presented detailed information regarding disaster loan programs available to homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profits impacted by recent flooding. Ms. Miles highlighted loan limits, interest rates, and application processes, emphasizing low-interest options and available mitigation funds.

### **V. SHERIFF'S REPORT –**

Sheriff John Ward and Lieutenant Travis Cook reported increased call activity totaling 178 calls for the month. New procedures for addressing noise complaints were discussed, including issuing court summonses when residents refuse to respond. Concerns about frequent red-light violations occurring at the town's main intersection were raised, prompting discussion of additional traffic signal improvements.

### **VI. SECOND READING & PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 2025-05 FY 2025-2026 BUDGET –**

Adoption of FY 2025-2026 budget. The motion by Amy Bickel, second by Dwayne Culver Ordinance was read in full and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

## **VII. ETHICS ORDINANCE DISCUSSIONS –**

The council expressed significant concerns regarding the proposed ethics ordinance, citing vague language and inconsistencies. Extensive discussion concluded with a decision to table the ordinance, with suggestions for revisions to be submitted. Motion by Dwayne Culver, second by Chris McVey; Unanimously passed.

## **VIII. MAYOR'S REPORT –**

- 1.** The utility costs for the school have been paid to the HCBE. The total was a little over \$13,000 that covers all three years of the lease. There will be one final bill for the month of May.
- 2.** We have still not received the Public Assistance grant from FEMA and it appears less likely that we will receive these funds. We're awaiting a final bill from the electrician to find out what the total costs to the city will be. We are also waiting for final inspection for the park rest rooms.
- 3.** The Ohio River has been designated a National Water Trail by the National Parks Service. This extends from Ashland, Ky. and ends in WEST POINT! This will contribute to our tourism as well as make the area eligible for funding not previously available.
- 4.** The Kentucky Folklore Festival (formerly known as the Battle town Witch Festival) is coming to West Point and may be its permanent home! Thanks to Councilman Sabol for bringing this event to our town. They expect 5000 visitors in the single day event, October 25, 2025.
- 5.** We have been approached by Pyramid Network Services for another possible cell tower to be located next to our water tank. They are in the process of making a determination of the necessity of another tower due to the foundation limitations of the water tower. They would be offering \$16,000 per year in rental with continuous 5-year terms.
- 6.** Construction is to begin on the Dollar General store in the next few weeks depending on the weather. All necessary agencies have been contacted, and our building inspector has approved the final plans. We have issued the building permit and work should begin soon.
- 7.** A question was raised in the previous meeting by Councilman Sabol regarding the origin and purpose of the Revitalization Committee. Although the original committee had evidently been established earlier, Municipal Order 2021-01 passed August 9, 2021 established the committee again with the mission and purpose that we are now working under.
- 8.** This research revealed that there are numerous standing committees (Park, housing, Easter, etc.) that are either no longer active or have membership. I would like to propose a resolution that would terminate any and all previous committees with the exception of the ones we currently are aware of and are functioning.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

**FT. DUFFIELD** – Chuck McCreary reported that plans are underway to separate pedestrian and bicycle trails. An upcoming bike race was announced, with expectations of increased visitor activity.

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

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – No new business was reported this month.

**MUSEUM REPORT** – The museum has a sign that needs installation. Joseph Frost volunteered to assist with the installation of several new signs, including Lewis & Clark trail markers and Salt River boat ramp signage.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** - Amy Bickel reported that the committee met in the prior month and is scheduled to meet again Wednesday, the 11th.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** – Activity has increased, with multiple notices issued. Several properties on 15th Street are responding. Citations will be issued to those failing to comply. Butch Curl discussed a death at one trailer property, 1508 Geoghegan Street, and the lack of any upkeep; Code Enforcement will follow-up.

## **9. COUNCIL CONCERNS** –

**Amy Bickel** inquired about uploading the 2025 meeting minutes to the city's website. The City Clerk explained that due to staffing shortages with the website provider, she is scheduled to take a training course to learn how to manage the updates herself and will reach out to the webpage host again within the week.

**Dwayne Culver** expressed disappointment over the Mayor's veto of the prior ordinance to move council meetings to City Hall, given the absence of a valid lease of the school. He introduced a new ordinance, Ordinance 2025-06, for a first reading to relocate meetings to the West Point Fire Department and confirmed the facility meets ADA requirements.

**Butch Curl** had reported storm drain collapses on 4<sup>th</sup> and Mulberry and 9<sup>th</sup> and Elm Streets. Mayor Ciresi confirmed that these will be repaired with help from E'town's vac truck. There is also a form to make drain caps like the one they put in front of Tom Masterson's house and the city has the money for it.

He also raised concerns about playground safety after the slide was damaged during recent flooding. Council agreed it should be taken down immediately until proper replacement or repair can be arranged.

**Kevin Duke** reported a significant pothole in the right lane near the bottom of Muldraugh Hill.

Mayor Ciresi stated he would contact the representative from the road department who previously responded to the hole in front of the bank.

**Chris McVey** had nothing to report at this time.

**Jo Sabol** made a motion to terminate the lease with Hardin County Schools. Dwayne Culver seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Amy Bickel – No  
Dwayne Culver – Yes  
Vernon Curl – Yes  
Kevin Duke – Yes  
Chris McVey – Yes  
Jo Sabol – Yes

Motion passed 5-1. The Mayor was instructed to issue the required 60-day notice.

## **10. CITIZEN CONCERNS –**

**Roszelle Moore** expressed concern that the Council appeared to vote on motions without discussion during meetings. She questioned whether decisions were being made beforehand and cautioned against possible violations of open meeting laws. The council members denied this and emphasized transparency.

She also announced the West Point Alumni gathering would now be held at Mike Linnig's Restaurant on June 14th at 5:00 p.m., due to a schedule change at West Point Grill.

**William Ash** questioned who had negotiated the Mutual Aid Agreement with Bullitt Co. for ambulance service. The Mayor stated he was aware of, and encouraged these negotiations, but the decision was made between the two counties. Mr. Ash also noted the relocation of Hardin County EMS services and warned of potential withdrawal from the area citing a recent newspaper article indicating the proposed removal of an ambulance from Radcliff due to this change. The Mayor explained that Hardin Co. will still respond in West Point under the proper protocol and the reduced response time from 25 minutes to 7-10 minutes was a substantial improvement.

**Donna Taylor** expressed described a personal experience assisting an elderly woman who had fallen. She stated that no EMS was available and so she called Tim, a sheriff's deputy, and together they helped lift the woman from her bathtub after several hours unattended.

**Eric Duvall** asked about the mayor's chainsaw, which prompted the mayor to recall that he still needed to remove the siren at Eric's property as previously requested.

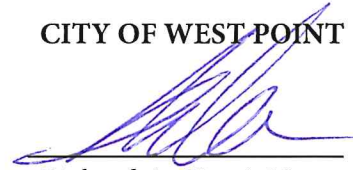
**Tim Taylor** asked about progress on Bank stabilization along the river and was informed the engineering firm, Qk4, wants FEMA to approve the completion of the grant without the H&H study for the bank stabilization project.

**Bill Hartley** raised concerns about property tax misallocation, noting vehicle taxes being credited to Vine Grove instead of West Point. Residents were encouraged to check their property tax receipts. Mayor Ciresi suggested making an open records request to the PVA.

**11. ADJOURNMENT –**

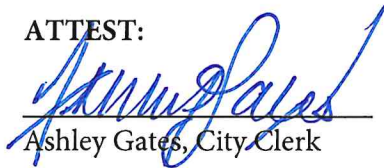
A motion to adjourn was made by Dwayne Culver and seconded by Jo Sabol. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**CITY OF WEST POINT**



Richard A. Ciresi, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Ashley Gates, City Clerk