

West Point, Mississippi Mayor and Board of Selectmen Minutes
Monthly Meeting - Tuesday, March 13, 2007

This is a regular called meeting of the Board of Mayor and Selectmen of the City of West Point, Mississippi, held the 13th day of March, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall, 204 Commerce Street, West Point, Mississippi. Those members present were Mayor Scott Ross, Selectman Keith McBrayer, Selectman John Cummings, Selectman Marion "Bubba" Wilkerson, Selectman James Watson and Selectman Linda Hannah.

Mayor Ross called the meeting to order. Rev. Orlando Richmond began the meeting with prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Randy Jones

Motion by Linda Hannah, second by James Watson to approve the February 13, 2007, minutes.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bubba Wilkerson, second by John Cummings to approve the Amendment to the January 9, 2007, minutes.

Motion carried.

Motion by Bubba Wilkerson, second by Keith McBrayer to approve the March 8, 2007, Special Minutes.

Motion carried.

Motion by Keith McBrayer, second by John Cummings to approve the February claims docket and that the persons or firms be paid in the amount set forth. The claims having been examined and found correct are hereby approved, and it is directed that warrants be issued in payment thereof.

Motion carried.

The Mayor called on these individuals wishing to publically address the Board. Those doing so were Johnnie Raspberry, who presented the Board with a letter regarding the appointment to the West Point Municipal Separate School District Board. The Mayor advised Mr. Raspberry that the Board would take his recommendation into consideration. No Board action was taken at this time.

Mayor Ross recognized Linda Wilson, who addressed the Board regarding Governor Barbour's "Let's Go Walking Mississippi" campaign. Ms. Wilson presented the Board with the plan and other sponsors and requested the City of West Point sponsor the event, which is scheduled to kick-off April 7, 2007 in Sally Kate Winter's Park.

Upon **motion** by Linda Hannah, second by Keith McBrayer, the Board voted to pledge \$195.00 towards the sponsorship of the health-awareness program.

Motion carried.

Lonnie Peoples addressed the Board requesting the city close the street between 1215 and 1303 Commerce Street. Selectman Keith McBrayer supported the closing of this street saying the street was not and has never been used as a thoroughfare.

Upon **motion** by Keith McBrayer, second by Bubba Wilkerson, the Board voted to close the requested street and grant Mr. Peoples the authority to have the property surveyed and a deed prepared in order to take title.

Motion carried.

Other individuals addressing the Board were Al Bush, Dennis Brock, Susan McComick, Jasper Pittman, Jessie Ivy, Jimmy Davidson, Rebecca Gibson, Terry Buffington, Nadia Dale and Chief Butch Bingham.

Mayor Ross then called for reports from those department heads present. Those presenting written reports were George Hinnant (Water & Light Department), Joey Wright (Public Works), Butch Bingham (Police Department), Mike St. Louis (Building Department), and Paul McKay (Chief Administrative Officer).

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City Attorney, Rod Richmond, addressed the Mayor and Board regarding the latest developments with the Sara Lee facility and stated that he had been heavily involved in various negotiations.

New Business:

The City Clerk presented the Board with a Resolution approving the application of Griffin West Point, LLC for an ad valorem tax exemption in the amount of \$823,934.28. Upon **motion** by James Watson, second by John Cummings, the Board approved the granting of an ad valorem tax exemption in the amount of \$823,934.28 to Griffin West Point, LLC.

Motion carried.

The City Clerk then presented the Board with a Resolution approving the application of Griffin West Point, LLC for a freeport warehouse tax exemption in the amount of 19,742,594.98. Upon **motion** by Bubba Wilkerson, second by Keith McBrayer, the Board approved the granting of a freeport warehouse tax exemption in the amount of \$19,742,594.98 to Griffin West Point, LLC.

Motion carried.

The City Clerk presented the Board with a Resolution approving the application of Troxel, LLC for a freeport warehouse tax exemption. Upon **motion** by Bubba Wilkerson, second by John Cummings, the Board approved the granting of a freeport warehouse tax exemption to Troxel, LLC.

Motion carried.

Upon **motion** by Bubba Wilkerson, second by Keith McBrayer, the Board authorized the Mayor to execute and deliver a Grant of Transmission Line Easement with TVA in the amount of \$550.00 and all related documents to grant, sell, and convey to the United States of America a permanent easement for a transmission line right-of-way.

Motion carried.

Upon **motion** by Keith McBrayer, second by Bubba Wilkerson, the Board voted to authorize Deas Engineering to advertise for bids for switch gear to be installed at North Mississippi Medical Center - West Point. City Attorney Rod Richmond will prepare the necessary agreement for the construction of the underground loop, with North Mississippi Medical Center - West Point to be solely responsible for the cost of all equipment and any and all other costs necessary to complete construction.

Motion carried.

After following all of the publication requirements for the HOME assistance program, Mayor Ross called on Dorothy Ryland to conduct the public hearing. there was a brief discussion and questions from Board members and one citizen.

Upon **motion** by John Cummings, second by Keith McBrayer, the Board voted apply for the Homebuyer Assistance Program, and to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT HOME
INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE
CITY OF WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI**

WHEREAS, the City of West Point, Mississippi has certain pressing Economic and Community Development needs; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Development Authority-Community Services Division has funds under FY 2007 Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); and

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WHEREAS, the City of West Point, Mississippi is eligible to apply for said HOME assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. (GTPDD) has sufficient professional staff members to insure that adequate staff time will be committed to preparation of the grant application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of The City of West Point, Mississippi

(1) That GTPDD is hereby authorized to prepare a FY 2007 HOME Application on behalf of the City of West Point; and

(2) That, upon approval of said application, GTPDD is hereby authorized to administer said HOME Project; and

(3) That Scott Ross, in his official capacity as the Mayor for the City of West Point is hereby authorized to advertise and conduct required public hearings and to sign all necessary documents, including Grant Agreements with the Mississippi Development Authority-Community Services Division.

SO ORDERED THIS, the 13th day of March, 2007, by the Mayor and Board of Selemen of the City of West Point, Mississippi in a regular Board Meeting.

(SEAL)

(Signature)

H. Scott Ross, Mayor

(Signature)

Carole B. Ramsey, City Clerk

A substitute **motion** was made by Linda Hannah, seconded by Bubba Wilkerson to apply for the Rehabilitation Assistance program.

Motion failed.

Phyllis Benson with Golden Triangle Planning and Development District proceeded with conducting the public hearing on the CAP loan after properly advertising such. After reporting that no objections, comments, or questions had been received, a **motion** was made by Keith McBrayer and seconded by John Cummings to adopt the following order:

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
CITY OF WEST POINT**

ORDER AUTHORIZING \$1,000,000 CAP LOAN

There came on for consideration by the Board, a public hearing following notification through Publication concerning the Board's intent to obtain a Capital Improvement Loan (CAP) from the State and there being no comments, objections or input by the public, on motion by selectman Keith McBrayer, seconded by selectman John Cummings, the Board unanimously authorized for the advancement for the CAP loan proceeds.

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So **ORDERED** this the 13th day of March 2007.

(SEAL)

(Signature)

H. Scott Ross, Mayor

(Signature)

Carole B. Ramsey, City Clerk

Upon **motion** by Keith McBrayer, second by Linda Hannah, the Board voted unanimously to employ the services of Calvert-Spradling Engineers for the CDBG Ellis Steels project due to the fact that Calvert-Spradling was the sole bidder for the project.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a **motion** was made by Bubba Wilkerson, second by John Cummings that this meeting be in recess.

Motion carried.

(SEAL)

(Signature)

H. Scott Ross, Mayor

(Signature)

Carole B. Ramsey, City Clerk