**WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL**

**CITY OF WEST POINT, IOWA 52656**

**Special Meeting February 25, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**: The City Council of the City of West Point, Iowa, met in properly noticed special session in the West Point Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on February 25, 2025. Mayor Gary Peitz presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**: The roll was called by Mayor Gary Peitz and Council Members responded as follows: Present: Council Members: Wendy Vonderhaar, Larry Buchholz, Will Stuekerjuergen, Brian Meierotto and Bruce Wellman.

**The following indicated City staff were in attendance**: City Clerk/Treasurer Denise McGowan and City Administrator Randy Welding

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**: The pledge of allegiance was recited by all those in attendance after which Councilor Wellman gave the Invocation.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**: The tentative agenda was introduced for any necessary amendments. After discussion and due deliberation by all the Council members present, it was the consensus that none were required. A motion was made by Councilor Buchholz and seconded by Councilor Vonderhaar to approve the agenda and proceed with the special council meeting.

02/25/25

 WPCCM 2282

**DISCUSSION OF BUDGET WORKSHOP FYE26**: Mayor Gary Peitz opened the meeting with an article City Administrator Randy Welding gave him regarding the timeframe for the budget.

Mayor Gary Peitz presented City Administrator Randy Welding’s budget summary worksheet to the council for review. This summary included income and expenses current and for FYE26. City Administrator Randy Welding stated the tax rollback has affected the tax dollars the city receives. It is now figured by taking the assessed value of the homeowner multiplying it by 46.8% and multiplying it by 8.1% and that is the amount the county receives for each homeowner. This money is split between many different entities.

Discussion was held regarding wages, and it was decided to keep the 3.5% wage increase for city and utility employees.

Discussion was held regarding insurance for the city. Councilor Wellman stated his concerns regarding the 16%-18% increase in premiums and suggested we shop around with other companies to see if the city can get a cheaper rate. Rod Harmeyer has reached out to City Administrator Welding and asked if he could give the city a quote. Councilor Wellman stated he went to a class regarding insurance, and it is a good idea to shop around every 3-4 years for insurance. City Administrator Welding stated he thinks the city is under a contract for 5 years with Fullenkamp Insurance. He is going to check into that. City Administrator Welding stated EMC has been good to work with in regard to the substation claim. The city paid $5,000 deductible and EMC has been good about covering the rest. Discussion was made concerning a separate policy for utility and city entities if it would save the city money. City Administrator Welding will be looking into that. Mayor Gary Peitz suggested getting at least two bids from other companies.

**SNAPSHOT BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR WELDING:** City Administrator Randy Welding made a snapshot of the budget figures with a comparison of FYE25 vs FYE26. Discussion was had regarding the rollbacks for property taxes. City Administrator Welding explained the roll back process regarding property taxes the city receives. The city will be receiving $20,000 less than last year due to the new program with the rollback. Mayor Peitz recommended raising the building permit fee which is currently $5. That will be discussed at a later date. Funding from Road Use Tax was discussed. City Administrator Welding stated that these funds must be used on streets and the city spends 100% of these funds. Also stated in the report was the 3.5% raise for all employees and it was decided to keep this the same. Discussion was held on the lots that the city owns in contract with Michael Mohrfeld. The city sells these lots for $12,500.00.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Mayor Peitz stated he and City Administrator Welding met with Police Chief Roberts to discuss the Police Department proposed FYE26 budget. Discussion was held regarding the building, the city rents for the Police Department and the costs associated with it. It was decided to end the lease with the West Point Professional Group for Police Department usage. This would save the city around $10,000.00 by ending the lease which includes rent, utilities and insurance. Mayor Peitz spoke with Mayor Ellingboe from Donnellson, and it was decided that Police Chief Roberts could use space at Donnellson City Hall for his workstation if needed. Police Chief Roberts could also use the space in City Administrator Welding’s office if needed while in West Point. Discussion was held regarding losing the storage space for the police vehicle. Several ideas were discussed and will be looked into as to where this could be stored.

**STREET DEPARTMENT:** Discussion was held regarding the street department budget items. City Administrator Welding stated that the streets department will be needing to repair the snowplow, replace the Skag mower, backhoe, tar truck and grasshopper. With the budget being unbalanced, it was decided to remove the $20,000 for the backhoe and $9,000 in the other capital equipment account from the proposed FYE26 budget.

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Discussion was held regarding the parks & recreation department. It was decided to decrease the proposed FYE26 budgeted amount of $5,000 down to $1,000 from the capital outlay buildings fund. This money was used for shelter house expenses. It was also stated that the city pays for concession stands’ expenses.

**BEAUTIFICATION:** Discussion was held on the proposed FYE26 budget for beautification. This includes park improvements, repair of sidewalks, fertilizer, and weed killer. There will be no changes to this portion of the budget.

**LIBRARY DEPARTMENT:** Discussion was held with the Library Department. It was decided to give the employees a 3.5% wage increase plus FICA and IPERS. The council decided to cut the proposed FYE26 library budget by $12,000. Councilor Wellman stated he will attend the library board meeting to discuss the budget cuts for the Library Department. There was discussion regarding the investments the library has and determined there is $564,000 in the Hoenig fund and $200,000 in the Wilson Fund. Councilor Wellman requested to see the figures and paperwork regarding the Wilson funds to make sure funds are being appropriated correctly. Councilor Wellman is planning on attending the library board meeting to discuss budget cuts and discuss the Wilson funds. The approved budget amount for the Library Department is $90,600.00.

**LEGAL SERVICES:** Discussion was held regarding legal services and the consensus was to keep that fund the same.

**CITY HALL:** Discussion was held on the budget for city hall. There will be no changes to this portion of the budget.

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**ADJOURNMENT:** All known business having been conducted, Councilor Wellman moved the Council Meeting adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Buchholz, and which carried unanimously. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion duly adopted and the special Council Meeting of the City of West Point, Iowa, adjourned at 7:42 p.m., February 25, 2025.

CITY OF WEST POINT, IOWA

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Gary B. Peitz Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Denise R McGowan, City Clerk/Treasurer