

**TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
WITH PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 16th, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Point Town Council held a joint meeting with West Point Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing to receive comments regarding a request for an amendment to SUP2017-01, WestRock, CP, LLC on Wednesday, August 16th 2017 at Town Hall, 329 6th Street, West Point, Virginia. The Honorable James H. Hudson, III called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor, Jim Hudson; Deborah Ball; Tina Gulley; Paul Kelley; Robert Lawrence; Jack Lawson; Gail Nichols and Chris Vincent.

Also Present: John B. Edwards, Jr., Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Holly McGowan, Community Development Coordinator and other interested persons.

Mayor Hudson made the following announcement: Your Town Council, on behalf of the people of West Point, condemns hatred and bigotry, in all forms and in all places. We stand in unity with all like-minded communities and people throughout this Commonwealth and our great nation. We ask that you join us in a moment of silence, remembering all victims of recent violence, and especially those who died so tragically in Charlottesville.

II. COMMENTS from WESTROCK

Jim Hudson asked WestRock to give a review of the amendment request.

Chris Broom, WestRock Plant Manager, advised that after review of item number four of the conditions that Town Council adopted with SUP2017-01, an engineer's review of the storm drainage portion of the project discovered that the original plan would be creating more problems than solving. The design of the chip pile has a concrete ring that will go around it, to accommodate the chip pile the drainage pipe was placed under the road at 15th Street, this could be a problem later when we need to access the drainage pipe for maintenance work. We are requesting that condition number four be amended as advertised.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

Jim Hudson read the advertisement then asked the Town Clerk if anyone asked for a copy of the application.

The Town Clerk stated several citizens asked for copies of the application and the Town honored all of the requests.

Jim Hudson asked if anyone requested assistance to participate in the public hearing.

The Town Clerk stated that no requests were received.

- 1 Lucy Thornton Edwards, 222 12th Street, West Point, Virginia stated she has concerns with the issues that were discussed at previous public hearings regarding the dirt and dust. Ms. Edwards stated that she is stunned to find that nothing will be done regarding the dirt and dust and there are no attempts to acknowledge that the problem exists. Ms. Edwards suggested that the research and engineering work be done to address the issue with the dirt and dust.
- 2 Amy Harris, 228 15th Street, West Point, Virginia stated that she would like to yield her time to her brother Vernon Carter.

- 3 Vernon Carter, 228 15th Street, West Point, Virginia stated that he is concerned with the impact of the houses on 15th Street and advised that at a location in Northern Virginia after a train line was built there were problems and issues with drainage. There were promises made to the residents and those promises were never kept, there are no records of the promises and residents have to live with sever drainage problems. Mr. Carter suggested that Town Council keep all records so that when the time comes we will be able to hold someone accountable if the drainage gets worse.

Jim Hudson advised that this project will not make the drainage worse and that a study will need to be done of the area by a combined effort from the Mill, VDOT and the Town.

- 4 Garland Jenkins, 3470 Southern Avenue, West Point, Virginia advised that he supports the project and asked that Town Council adopt the amendments.
- 5 Van A. Acree, 744 Millwood Road, Aylett, Virginia stated that the design of the new equipment will reduce the dirt and dust. Mr. Acree supports the project and asks that Town Council approve the amendment.
- 6 Tom Roberts, 3720 Blue Hearing Lane, West Point, Virginia advised that he supports the project and asks that Town Council approve the request.
- 7 Charles Weeden, Sanders Construction, 404 23rd Street, West Point, Virginia stated that WestRock is a responsible corporation that cares about the community and environment. Mr. Weeden supports the amendment and asks that Town Council approve the application.
- 8 Roy See, 3000 ODI Street, West Point, Virginia stated that this project will improve the dust and help the mill to operate economically. Mr. Sees supports the application and asks that Town Council approve the application.
- 9 Carol Hamner, WestRock Environmental Manager advised that changing the language in the conditions does not change the current drainage issues. WestRock has established a Hotline so the public can call 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Ms. Hamner supports the project and asks that Town Council approve the application.

Jim Hudson asked if anyone else that did not sign up to speak would like to comment on the advertised public hearing.

- 10 Vernon Carter, 228 15th Street, West Point, Virginia asked to speak a second time and stated that he has listened to some wonderful comments, but we all want to be good neighbors and we hope that what WestRock is saying is accurate and that it will improve the drainage in the area. Mr. Carter is also concerned with the gas facility that is located in the area.

Jim Hudson asked if there was anyone else that would like to comment on the advertised public hearing. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

IV. ACTION

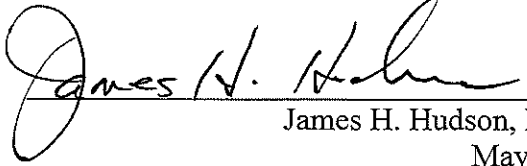
Jim Hudson advised that a study will need to be done regarding the drainage and that it will take a combined effort from the Town, VDOT and WestRock to address the drainage issues at 15th & 16th Streets. The Hotline has been set up, Town Council urges the public to call the hotline with any questions you might have.

Jim Hudson stated that the Planning Commission is recommending that Town Council approve the amendment as presented.


Mrs. Ball made a motion that Town Council accepts the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approves the Special Use Permit Amendment, SUP2017-01, WestRock, CP, LLC, to amend condition #4, that was originally approved on May 30th 2017. Seconded by Mr. Lawrence, upon roll call Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Gulley, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Nichols and Mr. Vincent all voted "Aye". The motion was unanimously approved.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Hudson adjourned the meeting at 7:16 P.M.


James H. Hudson, III
Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk