April 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Leonard Tartt with prayer and salute to the flag. In attendance: Tartt, Westmark, Lewis, and Edwards.

A **motion** to approve the March 9, 2026, minutes was made by Lewis, seconded by Westmark, 3/0.

Public Works Director Seth Green informed the Council that Luke Steinle and Jack Santamarina obtained their backflow certifications and according to policy, each will receive a 5% raise.

Vice Mayor Edwards joined the meeting.

City Clerk Ashley Schilling presented **Resolution 2026-01** - A Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of An Application For Funding From The Florida Wildlife Commission Florida Boating Improvement Program To Fund The Myron B. Hodge City Park Boat Ramp Upgrades Project. The resolution was read by title only by Clerk Schilling. A **motion** to adopt the resolution was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.

City Clerk Ashley Schilling presented **Resolution 2026-02** - A Resolution Of The City Of Sopchoppy Approving The Wakulla County Local Mitigation Strategy And Providing For An Effective Date. The resolution was read by title only by Clerk Schilling. A **motion** to adopt the resolution was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.

Jeff Jones, BDI, updated the Council on the well 7 upgrade. The well has been dug, and testing will begin this week. PWD Green would like to do two wet taps in lieu of draining, cutting lines, and refilling the well. This would speed up the testing process. Green and Jones are obtaining quotes and requested approval of a change order up to $12,000 ($6,000/ea.) for this process. A **motion** to approve a change order up to $12,000 for wet taps was made by Westmark, seconded by Edwards, 4/0.

Alan Hart, SEH, presented a Supplemental Letter Agreement for approval related to the City of Sopchoppy Vulnerability Assessment project. A **motion** to approve the agreement was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark 4/0

SEH has begun the planning process for the water line upgrade on Hwy 319 and will present related action items at the April 27 Council meeting.

Hart and Jana Williams also met with SHS Alumni President, Callie Quigg, toured the school and will be working on a grant to renovate the final wing needing to be restored.

Hart presented a grant opportunity to the Council called Safe Streets 4 All Program. It's a $300,000 grant with a 20% match; however, the match can be paid with Council time spent at related meetings, workshops, mileage, etc. A **motion** was made by Edwards to allow SEH to proceed with the grant application, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.

CC Schilling received the appraisal for the SHS library building. According to documentation submitted by Carroll Appraisal, the building and property are valued at $135,000. Attorney Cox stated a new Florida statute states that a municipality cannot sell a property for less than the appraised value without justification. Since the appraisal listed all necessary repairs in the report, the property would have to be sold for the appraised value. Attorney Cox advised the Council to send Craig Steinle the appraisal and see if he is still interested in the property. Clerk Schilling will send Mr. Steinle a copy.

Per an agreement between the County and the City, dated September 2025, the County was to take back the sewer billing on May 1, 2026. Last week the County asked for an extension until June 1. Vice Mayor Edwards stated her concern for the customers, and if the County needs more time, grant the extension, but increase the per account billing cost. A **motion** was made by Edwards to move ahead with the June extension, at a rate of $4.00 per account, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.

Several years ago, the City opted into a PFAS lawsuit. A settlement has been made, and the City meets the criteria to be included. Attorney Cox recommends hiring Attorney Richard Harrison to represent the City in the claim and have a 3rd party pull the necessary samples. PWD Green stated Pace Labs will be conducting quarterly samples in regard to PFAS. A **motion** to engage with Attorney Richard Harrison to represent the City was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.

The financials and adjustments were approved by signature of the Council.

CC Schilling stated Mike Porter will be retiring in May 2026, and staff would like to host a catered luncheon and present Mr. Porter with a gift for his 34 years of service to the City.

At the March 2026 meeting, Councilwoman Westmark requested the Council consider an additional monthly meeting to discuss City and/or water items and the Council approved holding a 2nd meeting on the 4th Monday, each month, at 3:00 p.m. PWD Green asked if Council is willing to move that meeting to the 4th Tuesday each month. The Council agreed, beginning May 2026, to hold the second scheduled monthly Council meeting on the 4th Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.

PWD Green stated staff are ready to install the exercise pod at Depot Park.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. Motion by Edwards, seconded by Lewis, 4/0.