

April 12, 2021

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

Richard Harden made a motion to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes as presented by the Clerk, second by McClendon, 4/0.

Councilman McKenzie joins the meeting.

County Administrator, David Edwards, provided the Council with an update on County projects/infrastructure.

Chris Cayer, with Brooks, Harrison & Cayer, presented the results of the 2019/20 audit and financial statement. The audit produced no findings or recommendations. The general fund balance has a carried forward balance of \$811,565. The water fund has a carried forward balance of \$10,318,636. A motion to accept the audit as presented was made by Harden, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, reported 5 applications were received for the Plant Operator position, 3 of which he will be scheduling interviews with and have the selected applicants shadow him for a day. The applicant hired will move into the Public Works Director position once Mr. Tartt retires.

Mr. Tartt also reported the advertisement for the Well 3 tank bid is available, and the bids are due by Friday, April 16.

Mr. Tartt stated 3 applicants applied for the Park Resident position. Of the 3, staff recommended the Council offer the position to Thomas Arrington. A motion to hire Mr. Arrington as the Park Resident was made by Harden, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Mr. Tartt received an estimate of \$6,500 to install a concrete sidewalk along Rose Street from Bernard to Mom's Restaurant. He also received an estimate of \$10,000 to install a concrete path behind the RV sites along the river at the City Park.

The Council held the **2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing for Ordinance 2021-02** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Vacating The City's Interest In Those Portions Of The Alley Lying Between Winter Street And Summer Street In The Block Bounded By Blossom Avenue And Yellow Jacket Avenue, As Shown On The Map Of The Town Of Sopchoppy West Side, As Recorded In The Public Record Of Wakulla County, Florida. – The Ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Schilling. Mrs. Schilling informed the Council she received a letter from the adjacent property owner, Ms. Haynes, supporting the alley closing. Receiving no further public comment, a motion to close the alley was made by Harden, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

The Council held the **2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing for Ordinance 2021-03** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Approving A Special Exception For Construction Of Multi-Family Dwellings On Lots 189-194, Inclusive, Sopchoppy West Side; And Providing An Effective Date. The Ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Schilling.

Martha Evans spoke against approving the ordinance and David Roddenberry requested clarification regarding what the applicant is requesting.

During the discussion, the applicant, Mr. Marshall, waived on exactly what he would construct on the property (duplexes or single-family dwellings). Without clear direction from Mr. Marshall, the Council tabled the discussion and advised Mr. Marshall to speak with Attorney Dan Cox for clarification on what exactly Mr. Marshall needs to have when he returns to a future meeting with a definite plan.

With upcoming festivals, Mayor Edwards would like to establish a fee schedule for Depot Park. For reference, Mrs. Edwards provided the Council with Wakulla County's park fees. Attorney Cox stated organizers must provide liability insurance for each event. Following a lengthy discussion, the item was tabled.

Jim Sipes with Sand County Studios presented the Council with projected costs and elements associated with the Downtown Design Standards. The initial presentation establishes a 4-5 month timeline with projected cost of \$47,000. The Council requested Mr. Sipes work with Clerk Schilling and Attorney Cox and return with a contract for review.

Attorney Cox told Council there is no need to change the ordinance related to Flood Plain Management.

Attorney Cox also reported the City closed on the sale of the old bank building and he is working on the closing for the Mom's Restaurant property.

The financial and adjustments reports were approved by signature of the Council.

The Council approved the letter for the JAG funds to WCSO.

Clerk Schilling verified the cost of handrails for the large pavilion at the City Park is still \$4,500.

Mrs. Schilling stated all elements submitted with the FRDAP Grant for the City Park must be addressed in some fashion, or the City can submit an amended list of elements to DEO. The renovation of the basketball court alone would be more than the monies awarded. The Council instructed Clerk Schilling to contact the Grant Administrator, Fred Fox, and submit an amended element list to only include the large pavilion and the walking path/sidewalk by the river.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by McKenzie.