

April 13, 2015

The Sopchoppy City Council met in regular session. In attendance were: Mayor Martha Evans, Councilpersons; Lara Edwards, Glenn Rudd and Becton Roddenberry. Also in attendance were staff members: Clerk, Jackie Lawhon; Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt; Deputy Clerk, Page Evans; and City Attorney, Dan Cox. The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag and prayer.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved on a motion by Lara Edwards, seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/0.

Citizens to Be Heard:

Sara Henderson, a camper at the City Park, reported that they are experiencing problems with some of the teens using the park. She stated that on a recent Saturday night, two young teen girls, who were non-campers, used the shower to rid themselves of mud, leaving the showers in a muddy condition and also threw-up in the showers. Clerk Lawhon reported that staff have recently received numerous compliments from campers regarding the beauty and upkeep of the park but, it is the fear of staff members that the actions and abuse of facilities by a group of local teens that use the park as their hang out location, will ruin the reputation of the park with campers and other users. The council discussed the importance of keeping the shower rooms locked except to paid campers, locking the park gate at a designated hour, placing a camera system in the area and several other options for controlling the use of facilities and identifying ones abusing park facilities.

Lara Edwards made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-01, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA REQUESTING THAT THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EXTEND THE OCHLOCKONEE BAY TRAIL SEGMENT OF THE CAPITAL CITY TO THE SEA TRAILS FROM ITS PLANNED TERMINUS AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLERMONT AVENUE AND U.S. 319 TO THE DOWNTOWN SOPCHOPPY PARK AND HISTORIC DEPOT. The motion was seconded by Becton Roddenberry and the resolution passed 4/0 by the council.

Camping regulations for the Myron B. Hodge Park were discussed by the Council. Currently, city staff follow guidelines that has never formally been adopted by the Council. Council members were given a copy of the guidelines which will be addressed and voted on by the Council at the May, 11, 2015 meeting.

The City Clerk reported that she has spoken with a member of the Wakulla County planning staff and obtained a copy of county ordinances regarding their process for identifying and acting on code issues. Currently the County does not address overgrown grass in their code of ordinances. They do however address nuisance accumulations and inoperable vehicles by ordinance. City Attorney Dan Cox, verified that the Clerk was correct in informing the Council that if the City does not have a specific ordinance addressing code issues, that the Wakulla County Code applies to properties within the city. Wakulla County does not investigate any anonymous code complaint. Clerk Lawhon stated that she has identified the owners of four different properties that were named in prior meetings. No action was taken by the Council.

Dan Cox set Saturday, May 30 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the state mandated ethics training for elected officials.

Attorney Cox reported that the City Clerk has spoken to a member of the Wakulla County Tax Collectors staff regarding the tax deed sale of the Geiger property that the City is interested in obtaining to complete the land needed for development of the downtown park. The tax deed sale will be listed in the Wakulla News and on the Tax Collectors web site.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve the financial reports and the corrections reports as presented by staff, seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/0.

Leonard Tartt discussed the PAWS interconnect agreement and attorney Cox reported that the 45 year term listed in the agreement gave him some concern. Attorney Cox and Mr. Tartt will set a meeting with the PAWS attorney and representatives before the next council meeting to work out the agreement.

Council items:

Council member Becton Roddenberry reported that he is working with Wakulla Sign Company on a seal and logo to be presented to the Council possibly at the May meeting.

Council member Lara Edwards reported that she is working with CTST Committee regarding flashing speed sign placement on 319. Currently WCSO has a portable sign in place which has been effective in slowing traffic.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.