

April 1, 2019

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

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented by the Clerk. Motion by Roddenberry, second by McClendon, 5/0.

Mr. Wood, a resident of Sopchoppy, thanked the Council for making the 2017/18 audit available for public review and it appears the City is doing a good job.

Caleb Brown, Dewberry, working with City Clerk Ashley Schilling, presented the Council with an opportunity for the City to apply for a Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant through FWC. The grant would assist with repairs to the boat ramp and the washout by extending the ramp 8', and adding a walkway out of the river on the south side of the ramp. No match is required, however more points are awarded for 20% and higher. Mr. Brown and Ms. Schilling estimated the cost to be \$103,218.89. Vice-Mayor Lewis made a motion to apply for the grant with a 20% match, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Alan Hart, BDI, updated the Council on the CBDG stormwater grant. All documents have been submitted, permits acquired, and they are waiting on the release of funds. BDI is moving forward with obtaining affected property owner agreements as well as working on the bid package. Vice-Mayor Lewis stressed the importance of reaching out to property owners and making them aware of the project and what they can expect.

Caroline Smith, ARPC, gave a progress report on the Competitive Florida Grant. Deliverables 1 and 2 (community outreach process and asset mapping) are complete and scheduled for submittal. Mayor Edwards made a motion to submit Competitive Florida Grant, Deliverables 1 and 2, second by Roddenberry, 5/0.

An Economic Development Strategy workshop will be held Monday, May 6 @ 6:30 p.m. ARPC will present renderings/draft of what they have been working on. Ms. Smith will work with Clerk Schilling to mail postcards the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup> to all 32358 homes, inviting them to the workshop. Mayor Edwards volunteered to work with Ms. Smith on an article/advertisement for the Wakulla News.

Attorney Cox will present an update to the Land Development Regulation at the May 13 Council meeting.

Clerk Schilling received a request from Edward Goodman (114 Rose Street) and Lynn Walker (116 Rose Street), to close the portion of Orange Avenue that runs between the two properties. A motion was made by McKenzie to move forward with public hearings to close the street, second by Roddenberry, 5/0.

Last month, the discussion was tabled regarding a water rate study. Ms. Schilling has been in contact with Florida Rural Water Association and they have agreed to conduct a study at no cost to the City. Mayor Edwards made a motion to proceed with having FRWA perform the water rate study, second by Roddenberry, 5/0.

Sewer billing was also tabled last month until all Council was present. Councilmember McKenzie asked Attorney Cox if the length of the contract could be shortened from 3 years and renegotiate as a full Council the next time. The City is providing the County a great service and Mr. McKenzie feels the City

should be paid fairly. A lot of time in the office is spent each week on sewer related issues, and as such, the position it affects the most should be compensated. With that said, at this point, McKenzie suggests moving forward, sign the sewer billing contract as is, and look at raising the Administrative Assistant's salary. Councilman Roddenberry is in favor of signing another three year contract with the County. Vice-Mayor Lewis feels the City should renew the three year contract and approach negotiations differently next time.

Councilmembers McKenzie and Lewis requested Clerk Schilling and Attorney Cox look at reclassifying the Administrative Assistant position if needed and bring back salary recommendations for the position to the May meeting.

Attorney Cox presented a draft ordinance related to park rates. Council suggested changing the proposed nightly rate from \$18.00 to \$20.00. Based on the draft, Mr. Cox was instructed to proceed with advertising the first public hearing for May 13, on the proposed park rate changes.

Attorney Cox also presented a proposed golf cart community ordinance. After much discussion regarding liability, requirements, and who will be responsible for enforcement of rules and upon hearing all information provided by Attorney Cox, Councilman Roddenberry withdrew his request to make Sopchoppy a golf cart community.

Mr. Cox is also working on an update to the Capital Improvement Plan. Approval was given by the Council to move forward with advertising public hearings for this as well.

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

Godfrey Builders, lowest bidder for Depot Park pavilion, contacted Clerk Schilling regarding the proposed flooring change. They are in the process of submitting the updated cost to the Clerk.

The County has scheduled Rose Street for resurfacing. The City would like to have crosswalks stamped downtown at that time. A motion was made by Roddenberry to have the crosswalks stamped on either side of Municipal/Rose and Yellow Jacket/Rose (total of 4), at a cost of \$11,000.00, second by Edwards, 5/0.

Councilmember Lewis asked if the City could piggyback on the County's contract and resurface Park Avenue while the contractor is in the area. Mr. Tartt will provide measurements to the County and see if it is possible.

Leonard Tartt will be taking part in a DEP grant providing a Vulnerability Assessment Test of the City's water system. The assessment is designed to help water systems identify security weaknesses; focusing on defined threats (terrorist acts, vandalism, pranks, etc.) that could compromise the ability to provide adequate water.

Department of Corrections met with Leonard Tartt and Ashley Schilling. Beginning April 2, the City will consistently have inmate labor 4 days a week.

Councilman McClendon asked what/if anything can be done to better the acoustics at the gym. Council agrees the sound needs improving, however, they have looked into it in the past. Mr. McClendon is welcome to get citizen/community ideas and bring back to the full Council for consideration.

Attorney Cox reported finding alcohol is allowed at the City Park, provided campers contain it to their site, however, the rules do not address length of stay, or fees for usage of all facilities. Mr. Cox will work with Clerk Schilling and Deputy Clerk Evans to draft rules and fees for all City facilities.

Councilman Roddenberry would like to hang antique plats of the city on the wall behind the dais. Mr. Roddenberry will check into getting copies of the plats.

Mayor Edwards reminded everyone to maintain proper meeting protocol at all times and also informed the other Councilmembers the Florida League of Cities magazine has an article about Sopchoppy this month.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Roddenberry.