

August 13, 2018

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, McClendon, and McKenzie.

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

Citizen, Sara Beth Henderson, requested the Council declare Sopchoppy an official golf cart community. Mayor Edwards said she has spoken to the Community Traffic Safety Team and the Sheriff's Office has made this an agenda item. WCSO will be mapping the streets. Clerk Schilling will draft an official letter of request to WCSO and Attorney Cox will draft an ordinance.

The city held the 1st **public hearing for Ordinance 2018-05 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY AND THE WATER FUND OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY. TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE ANTICIPATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2018-2019 OPERATING YEAR.** Discussion as follows:

Mayor Edwards asked for an update on park projects dedicated from the current year's budget. Clerk Schilling stated Duke Energy and Anytime Electric has begun the process to install the 200 amp service at Depot Park; repair work has started on the showers at the City Park; Bob McKeithen and Son's is scheduled to re-roof the City Hall Annex; and the deck boards will soon be replaced on the dock.

Mrs. Edwards requested to use leftover street expense funds in current year budget to replace broken sidewalks in front of Depot Park and by the tennis courts.

Councilmember McKenzie reiterated that once anticipated revenue is met at the City Park and the overage is transferred to a line item earmarked for future enhancements at the parks; the parks improvements will be done within the line item.

Clerk Schilling presented Capital Health Plan costs to the Council. Currently the City pays 100% for an employee and 0% for family/dependents and with costs rising, would the City consider covering a portion of those costs? An employee is facing out-of-pocket expense of \$1,055.00 for their children. Councilmember McKenzie is in favor of paying a portion of dependents. Mayor Edwards and Councilmember Roddenberry would like more information from cities comparable to Sopchoppy regarding their policy.

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

Mrs. Schilling was contacted again by a representative from the Gateway Communities Program asking if Sopchoppy would be interested in entering into a partnership with them and place a kiosk either at Depot Park or the Depot. Vice-Mayor Lewis stated it could potentially bring visitors to the area and the Council asked Mrs. Schilling to verify any fees or conditions associated with the program before committing.

Dollar General received their conditional Certificate of Occupancy and the Council was asked if the privacy fence originally discussed was needed along the rear property line or was the landscaping sufficient. The Council agreed no fence was needed as long as the landscaping shown on the plans was completed.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tarrt reported the City's work in Magnolia Gardens related to the County sewer installation should be completed soon. Also, Mr. Tarrt is moving forward with having the towers repainted before the end of this fiscal year.

Attorney Cox stressed in the future the County needs to be more diligent when applying for grants in areas that will fiscally affect the City, to include some of the City's costs in their grants to eliminate some of the financial hardship like the Magnolia Gardens project caused the City.

Councilmember McClendon stated with new water system projects and park projects being needed or desired, the City may need to look at increasing the base water rate to help with the costs. Councilmember McKenzie suggested increasing the base rate across the board by \$2.00 to help with water projects and increase the water fund donation to the general fund (currently \$15,000 per year) to help with City projects.

As stated in previous meetings, Councilman Roddenberry would like to look at revitalizing downtown and with Council approval Richard Fetchick, Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC), attended and presented a Beautification/Placemaking Plan Proposal. Councilmember Roddenberry would like to use as many grants as possible to achieve the project. Mr. Roddenberry would like to establish a Sopchoppy Revitalization and Beautification Committee to gain community input and support. A motion was made by Roddenberry to adopt an Interlocal Agreement with ARPC, changing the effective date to October 1, 2018, second by Lewis, passed 5/0.

Mayor Edwards volunteered to draft a letter to downtown businesses and property owners to make them aware of the project. If possible, the Council would also like to incorporate the area on hwy 319 entering the City from the north all the way to the bridge on Rose Street.

Councilman Roddenberry has talked to citizen's who are willing to serve on the Sopchoppy Revitalization and Beautification Committee. A motion was made by Roddenberry to establish the Committee as an advisory only committee, second by Edwards, passed 5/0

Mayor Edwards presented a contract to hire Fred Fox Consulting to apply for FRDAP grants for the City Park on behalf of the City. There are 2 grants available in the upcoming fiscal year. If the City is awarded a grant, Mr. Fox receives 3%, if the City does not receive a grant, Mr. Fox is not paid. The City Council will work with Mr. Tarrt and Mrs. Schilling and have a plan for the funds in place prior to applying for the grants. A motion was made by Edwards to enter into the contact with Fred Fox Consulting (with an addendum drafted by Attorney Cox regarding records retention), second by McKenzie, passed 5/0.

Councilman McKenzie would like to look at raising camping rates at the Park. This would also help offset costs of future projects at the Parks. A new fee schedule will be discussed at the September meeting.

McKenzie also reported he asked staff to provide an estimate of time spent and costs associated dealing with County sewer. The sewer billing contract expires in 2019, but if the City wants to re-address it, the County has to be notified by March.

Vice-Mayor Lewis asked for an update on moving some reserves to high yield accounts. Clerk Schilling contacted all 3 banks and they all offered slightly higher interest rates to leave funds in place. Mrs. Schilling recommends leaving funds where they are and take the offered increases from existing banks and accounts. The Council instructed the Clerk to proceed in that manner.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Motion by Roddenberry, second by McKenzie.