

December 13, 2021

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, McClendon, Harden, and McKenzie.

Richard Harden made a motion to approve the November 8, 2021, minutes, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Mr. Trussell and members of the Wakulla Girls Softball Association presented the Council with a plaque in appreciation of support of the championship series. The Association also has a plaque for Sand County Studios & Keith Engineering.

Attorney Dan Cox stated there is a proposed bill in the upcoming Legislative Session that states if an entity is subsidizing a general fund with a water fund, then you cannot receive grant funds to expand a utility. Mayor Edwards asked Attorney Cox to email related information to take to local Representatives prior to the upcoming Session.

Attorney Cox also stated Sand County & Keith did an excellent job on the recommendations for the Design Guidelines and Downtown Overlay District.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, reported Luke Steinle passed the distribution license exam and per policy will receive a 5% salary increase.

Elliott Seidler, Civic Brewery, would like to begin serving wine and open earlier (possibly Noon or 2:00) Monday – Saturday and Noon-5:00 on Sunday. Currently, the brewery is open M-Th 4-9 p.m. and F-Sat Noon-9 p.m., closed Sunday. The City will hold 2 public hearings in January and February.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-07** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Extending A Moratorium On Commercial Site Plan Approval Providing For Severability; And Providing An Effective Date. A motion was made by Edwards to extend the moratorium until March 31, 2022, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-08** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Vacating The City's Interest In Those Portions Of The Alley Lying Between Byrd Street And Mill Street In The Block Bounded By Municipal Avenue And Yellow Jacket Avenue, As Shown On The Map Of The Town Of Sopchoppy West Side, As Recorded In Plat Book 1 Of The Public Record Of Wakulla County, Florida. The Ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Schilling. A motion to vacate the alley was made by McKenzie, second by McClendon, 4/0. Councilman Harden owns land adjacent to the alley, abstained from voting and filed a form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict, which is incorporated in these minutes.

The Council held the **1st Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-01** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy Amending Section 14-1, City Of Sopchoppy Code Of Ordinances, Charges For Facilities For Myron B. Hodge Park, To Include An Annual Pass For Use Of The Boat Ramp, To Codify Existing Charges For Other Recreational Facilities, Providing For Severability And Providing An Effective Date. The ordinance is being amended to include fees associated with special events held at Depot Park. City Clerk, Ashley Schilling read the ordinance by title only.

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

Clerk Schilling reminded the Council the Christmas dinner is scheduled at Angelo's, December 16, 6:30 p.m.

Clerk Schilling and Leonard Tartt met with Duke Energy at 2164 Sopchoppy Highway, old Mom's Restaurant, to see if the existing poles can be relocated on the property. To install 10 LED lights around the perimeter of the property the cost would be \$5,430 plus monthly fees. After further discussion, Council does not want to proceed at this time.

Mrs. Schilling received a quote of \$12,225.00 to install an electric gate at the entrance to Myron B. Hodge City Park. The City budgeted \$10,000. A motion to approve the installation of the gate at a cost of \$12,225.00 was made by Edwards, second by Harden, 5/0.

Duke Energy met Clerk Schilling at Depot Park to look at installing electrical outlets throughout the park. Duke will not install them. Mrs. Schilling contacted additional electricians and is waiting on quotes.

Leonard Tartt received a quote of \$9,800 each for calming devices downtown. Mr. Tartt will get more quotes and report back to the Council.

Mr. Tartt expressed his gratitude to the coordinators of the Christmas Festival for the quick cleanup following the event, however, stated for future events held at Depot Park, coordinators need to have adequate restrooms available and someone to clean and stock the existing ones located at the Depot.

Resident, Chris Brown, Byrd Street, presented the Council with his concerns related to the old Mom's Restaurant property; design plan and number of lights, sustainability of proposed elements, drainage, garbage, signage, etc. Mr. Brown would like the Council to entertain public input.

Mr. Heinrich, Fonigan Road, stated whatever the City decides to do with the property it should cause people to want to visit Sopchoppy.

Robert Seidler stated UCF has conducted studies on drainage, permeable surface, lights on timers, etc. Mr. Seidler offered to contact or provide contact information to the Council if they are interested in the findings.

Mayor Edwards presented renderings to the Council for ideas related to the Mom's property. Mrs. Edwards stated Justin Ford, Dewberry, would provide his engineering services for free and if the proposed elements are done properly, the project could potentially be totally grant funded. The City would need a topography map. Thurman Roddenberry could provide a topo map for \$900.00. Mrs. Edwards suggested installing a few lights and some initial parking and then work towards something more.

Councilman McClendon suggested a committee, including citizens, to gather public input. Councilman Harden stated the lot needs night lighting for festivals. Councilman McKenzie questioned having a pavilion on the property. Mayor Edwards reminded everyone the presentation is just ideas/renderings.

Vice Mayor Lewis remembers all discussions until now for the space to be a parking lot only and does not need a pavilion, bathrooms, trailhead, etc. Although Mr. Lewis is supportive of a nice and inviting parking lot, he has concerns spending City funds creating another park and the upkeep of it.

Resident, Nick Marino, Blossom Avenue, stated lights and a permeable surface are important and landscape architecture could be beneficial.

Vice Mayor Lewis informed staff the plexiglass is missing on the little library located in Depot Park.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by McKenzie.

Following the meeting, beginning at 8:23 p.m., the City Council held a workshop at which time Sand County Studios and Keith Engineering presented a 95% draft of Design Guidelines and Development of

Design Standards and Overlay Zones for the 319 corridor and downtown overlay. The workshop ended at 9:30 p.m.