

January 9, 2017

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

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

Seth Oaks was present to express his concerns with the 4-H Poultry Club being located directly behind his home. Commissioner Roddenberry explained the program will teach children responsibility and leadership while caring for their poultry. The intention of the community coop is to house chickens for those children who do not have a coop at their home. If the noise, smell, etc. becomes an issue, the Council will re-address the situation.

Bryson Bard and Ben Gantt, Northwestern Mutual, presented the Council an overview of their services and the possibility of investing City funds at a higher yield than CD's and money markets. The Council could oversee the investments and dictate how the funds should/will be invested. The Commission would like to compare their services with other companies before entertaining a proposal from Northwestern Mutual.

At this time, the Council entered into the **2nd public hearing on the CDBG**. The proposed project is for the construction of drainage improvements in the vicinity of Orange Avenue and Gulf Street. Also funds will be used for recreation improvements at the Myron B. Hodge City Park. Andy Easton gave an overview of the CDBG program and presented minutes from the 1st public hearing and the Citizen Advisory Task Force meeting, held in October, 2016. With no further comments or questions, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudd to adopt **Resolution 2017-01** – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING CITY FUNDS TO BE USED AS LOCAL MATCH FOR THE PROPOSED FFY 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION GRANT APPLICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Second by Nichols, passed 5/0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudd to adopt **Resolution 2017-02** – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR APPROVAL OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Second by Lewis, passed 5/0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudd to adopt **Resolution 2017-03** – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART; AMENDING THE POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, DEPUTY CLERK, CITY CLERK, MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN, DISTRIBUTION TECHNICIAN AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR; AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN TO REFLECT NEW SALARY RANGES AND CLASSIFICATION GRADES AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Second by Nichols, passed 5/0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis to increase the Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt's salary to \$60,000, effective February 1, 2017. Second by Rudd, passed 5/0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Roddenberry to increase Deputy Clerk, Page Evans' salary to \$42,500, effective February 1, 2017, and to receive a 5% increase once the CMC designation is achieved. Second by Nichols, passed 5/0.

Attorney Dan Cox reported sending letters to two of the tax certificate holders for the property located adjacent to Depot Park. Once an agreement is reached with one of the holders we can proceed with application to buy the tax certificates. The City would be responsible for paying the outstanding certificates.

Attorney Cox also reported he is working on a declaratory statement to send to DEP regarding the grinder issue. As this has been an ongoing matter, the Council instructed Mr. Cox to cease the process.

Attorney Cox spoke on behalf of a letter that was sent to the City regarding the FCAC report by the State Floodplain Management Office, following a meeting with Leonard Tartt and Ashley Schilling. Mr. Cox stated he will speak with David Edwards regarding the County implementing the changes to our current inter-local agreement. (See attached letter for details.)

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

When the City moved the Water Operating Fund from Centennial Bank to Prime Meridian, \$565,235.00 was left at Centennial Bank. Clerk Schilling inquired if the Council wants to move these funds to the Prime Meridian Water Operating Fund. Council is in agreement to leave the funds at Centennial Bank for the present time.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, informed the Council he has signed the DEP permit allowing the inter-connect with Panacea Area Water System.

Mr. Tartt has also spoken with Cleve Fleming in regards to speed humps on Rose Street. Council instructed Mr. Tartt to also speak with Pigott's Asphalt to get an idea of how many are needed and pricing.

Commissioner Lewis inquired regarding the progress of the internet/bandwidth capabilities. Clerk Schilling stated CenturyLink is coming to do a site survey to address the bandwidth issue, and staff along with Cale have been viewing demo's from various utility billing companies that should address the on-line payment issue as well as being very beneficial to the City compared to the billing software we are currently using.

Commissioner Rudd stated he has received complaints regarding Councilmembers posting on social media, signing as a City of Sopchoppy Commissioner. Members were reminded by Attorney Cox that by doing this it becomes public record. Councilmembers were asked not to make posts on their personal social media pages giving the appearance of signing/speaking as a City of Sopchoppy Councilmember.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Rudd.