

January 13, 2014

The City Council held its January Meeting. The meeting was opened by Mayor Martha Evans and led in prayer and a salute to the flag. In attendance were: Mayor Evans; Council members: Lara Edwards, Glenn Rudd and Nathan Lewis.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved in written form on a motion by Lara Edwards, seconded by Glenn Rudd, with Edwards, Evans, Rudd and Lewis voting for the motion.

Lara Edwards informed the Council that the Park Board held its first meeting in December and came to a general agreement on what should be included in the design of the downtown park. Some discussion took place on the possibility of purchasing a couple of adjacent properties. The Council requested an appraisal on the two parcels next to the Beasley property which are currently owed by S. Early and the Geiger family.

1ST PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2014-02, REPLACING ORDINANCE 2013-05, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE LENGTH AND THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL; CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THAT PURPOSE AND SPECIFYING AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE AMENDMENT IF IT IS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORATE – **the date set in the Ordinance would not allow sufficient time for advertisements, closing of the books, printing etc., THEREFORE, the council must REPLACE the Ordinance with the new date for referendum vote.**

1ST PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2014-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY COUNCIL MEMBER TO FILL VACANCIES CAUSED BY THE DEATH, RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF INCUMBENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND FOR APPOINTING A REPLACEMENT CANDIDATE IN THE EVENT OF VACANCIES IN CANDIDACY CAUSED BY DEATH, WITHDRAWAL OR REMOVAL FROM THE BALLOT OF A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOLLOWING THE END OF THE QUALIFYING PERIOD AND WHICH LEAVES FEWER THAN TWO CANDIDATES FOR AN OFFICE PROVIDING THAT THE SEAT HELD BY THE TEMPORARY COUNCIL MEMBER SHALL BE AT CONTEST IN THE NEXT SCHEDULED CITY ELECTION CYCLE AND THAT THE WINNER OF THAT ELECTION SHALL FILL ONLY THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE SEAT VACATED PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Legal Items: (Councilman Eddie Evans joined the meeting at this time)

Dan Cox reviewed with the council the error in the legal description of the State owned land referred to as the "DOT Maintenance Yard". A State surveyor discovered that the survey does not correspond to the fenced area. One acre of land on the North boundary which was thought to be owned by the State is owned by the Logan family. The acre on the South boundary, thought to be owned by the Logan's is owned by the State. This property has been in use and fenced by the State for more than 50 years. The property line actually takes in part of one of the State Maintenance buildings. The Council discussed ways that this problem can be corrected and concluded that the City should purchase the acre to the North if a price can be negotiated. The council requested Attorney Cox negotiate the purchase not to exceed the price set by the council. The City has a long term lease on this land from the State and it is currently operated as a City Maintenance Yard.

Public Works:

The City received the Consumptive Use Permit which is effective until 2031 (17 years).

Mr. Tartt reported that he has been contacted by GH2 Engineering regarding geo-thermal wells at the TCC property. He was informed that TCC would like at least one building on the campus be designed with an open loop system geo-thermal well system that will pump 60 gallons per minute. Mr. Tartt stated that he still has concerns with the effects the geo-thermal wells could have on at least two (2) existing city wells and any new wells the city may build in the area.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve the financial and adjustment reports, seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed by a unanimous vote of the council.

General Business:

Golf Cart Community – After looking at the statute requirements for a golf cart community, the council did not act on this request.

Lara Edwards made the motion that the City Co-Sponsor the University of Florida Extension Office use of the Old Gym for a public education program on Earth Day and to waive the use fee, seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 5/0 by the Council.

The Clerk discussed changes in the City Administrative Manual with the Council. The Council members were in agreement with the changes and will vote on adopting the changes at the February meeting.

The Council accepted the resignation of Linda Langston as Deputy Clerk effective February 28, 2014. The Council made the decision to promote from within for this position and to advertise the position of Customer Service Representative.

Eddie Evans and Martha Evans each stated a conflict of interest, filed a form 8B and left the meeting.

The Council considered the resumes of Page Evans and Ashley Schilling. Page Evans currently holds the position of Administrative Assistant and has been employed by the City since October 1999. Prior employment included Staff Assistant for the State of Florida HRS, Central Finance Department and Medicaid Third Party and Secretary Specialist for Medicaid Third Party. Ashley Schilling has been employed as a Customer Service Representative for the City since May 2006. She is currently enrolled in St. Petersburg College on-line studying Business Administration/Accounting. Councilmembers Edwards, Lewis and Rudd each felt the natural progression would be to promote each of them into the next position and give a 5% increase in salary. Lara Edwards made the motion to promote Page Evans to Deputy Clerk and Ashley Schilling to Administrative Assistant, seconded by Nathan Lewis, and passed on an affirmative vote by Edwards, Lewis and Rudd. The Clerk was instructed to begin advertising the Customer Service Representative Position at an annual salary of \$24,500.

Meeting adjourned