June 8, 2026

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

A **motion** to approve the May 11 & 26, 2026 minutes was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 5/0.

Jason and Jace Perez with Wakulla County Youth Baseball Association presented an All-Star Sponsorship request to the Council. Vice Mayor Edwards made a **motion** to approve a Platinum sponsorship ($500), seconded by Westmark, 5/0.

Nancy Paul presented the final mock-up of the welcome to Sopchoppy sign to the Council. Once the Council decides on the size and exact placement, quotes will be requested from local companies for production and installation.

Jay Westmark submitted a Request for Conveyance of City Owned Strip of Land. Councilwoman Westmark recused herself from the discussion and left the dais. The strip of land in question is located at the backside of 125 Municipal Avenue, along the Depot Park fence. Vice Mayor Edwards made a **motion** to move forward with abandoning the strip and transferring ownership to the landowners, seconded by McClendon, 4/0.

Jeff Jones, Donovan-Hill Group (f/k/a BDI), presented the Council with updated Well 7 milestones and project completion dates. PWD Green and Council agreed to not spend $20-30,000 to get temporary power to the well for only a few months gain time, but to watch the contractor to ensure they don't get behind and if so, Attorney Dan Cox will address it immediately. Green received the chemical analysis, and everything was good except for one area, and the lab indicated they needed to get clarification on the result. Mayor Tartt suggested PWD Green repeat the sample.

At the May 26 meeting, a motion regarding the SHS AA fee reduction was withdrawn and the discussion was tabled to give time for members and Council to seek a resolution. Councilman Lewis made a **motion** to reduce AA's fees to $10/week, seconded by McClendon, 5/0.

Councilman Lewis inquired if the City must sell the SHS library building at the appraised price. Attorney Dan Cox stated the City can advertise for sealed bids, with a minimum bid required. Lewis would like to lease out the building, if possible, letting the lessor renovate the structure, however, if sold, the City should get right of first refusal, should the buyer want to sell it. Council members McClendon and Westmark agreed. Council instructed Attorney Cox to draft an RFP for lease of the library building.

Councilman Lewis also asked about plans for the SHS cafeteria and again suggested FEMA, Forestry, Red Cross, etc., could use the building for staging in times of need. Nancy Paul reminded Council that 4-H extension agents had previously toured the facility and are interested in the site. Council instructed Cox to draft an additional RFP for the cafeteria as well.

Councilwoman Westmark reminded the Council that the County is holding a celebration July 2 to dig up a time capsule buried in 1976 and bury a new one with a scheduled dig in 2076. Westmark asked if the

Council would like to donate towards the ceremony and reception. Vice Mayor Edwards made a **motion** to donate $250 towards the celebration, seconded by Mayor Tartt, 5/0.

Westmark presented PWD Green's City Park Management Proposal to the Council in an effort to establish a more formal system and generate revenue. City Clerk Schilling presented an income comparison to the Council for the last 4 years showing a decrease in revenue. Schilling suggested adopting an on-line reservation system, like campspot.com, that will incorporate taxes and fees that would be passed on to the guests instead of the City absorbing the costs. The Council asked CC Schilling to bring back information at the June 23 meeting related to an on-line reservation system. PWD Green and Lewis stated the current park host is interested in the management position should the City decide to move forward.

Clerk Schilling presented **Resolution 2026-03** for adoption - A Resolution Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Approving The Water System Asset Management And Fiscal Sustainability Plan; Authorizing The Mayor And City Clerk To Take All Actions Necessary To Effectuate The Intent Of This Resolution; Providing For An Effective Date. Vice Mayor Edwards made a **motion** to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Westmark, 5/0.

Attorney Cox stated the owners of Eden Springs have specified to renew the current lease, they want $25,000/yr, plus a fee per gallon pumped for anything over 1,000,000 per year, with a 10-year renewable lease with stipulations. Attorney Cox stated when looking at SRF loan requests, the state looks at 20+ year leases. Attorney Cox and PWD Green suggested placing a new well on nearby City property, and informing Eden Springs that the City does not plan to renew the current lease once it ends in 2031 and abandon the well.

Attorney Cox is working on the Capital Facilities Element data and hopes to present it at the June 23 meeting for transmittal hearings in July.

The City received the Sewer Billing Agreement from Wakulla County and will be responding with additions and changes. Vice Mayor Edwards wants to ensure the County will be charged for any monthly data transferred to the County.

The financials and adjustments were approved by signature of the Council.

Mayor Tartt has been contacted by citizens requesting more law enforcement presence in the city limits and asked if the other Council members want him to contact WCSO. Due to staff shortage, John Schilling stated the City will have to be willing to pay off-duty deputies to ensure deputies reserve time to solely police Sopchoppy. After discussion, no action was taken.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Motion by Lewis, seconded by Edwards, 5/0.