

March 11, 2019

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, and McClendon.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented by the Clerk. Motion by Roddenberry, second by Lewis, 4/0.

City Clerk, Ashley Schilling, recognized staff for installing the irrigation system at Depot Park. Ms. Schilling also reported the \$2,500 Duke Energy Grant has been used to rebuild the floating dock at the City Park, along with the attached walkway and work is being done on the boardwalk. The Clerk thanked employee Tom Barton for his hard work in accomplishing these tasks.

Auditor, Chris Cayer, with Brooks, Harrison & Cayer, presented the results of the 2017/18 audit and financial statement. The audit produced no findings or recommendations. The general fund balance has a carried forward account balance of \$730,419.00. The water fund has a carried forward account balance of \$9,736,542.00. A motion to accept the audit as presented was made by McClendon, second by Edwards, 4/0.

Leon Corbett with MGT Consulting, was contacted by Mayor Edwards, following a recommendation by Florida League of Cities, regarding eligible companies to perform a rate study. Mr. Corbett made a presentation to the Council, and if instructed, would prepare a study and return with an overview and recommendations to the Council and staff. MGT would perform a 55 hour study at a cost of \$7,875.00.

Before making a decision, and after further discussion, a motion was made by Roddenberry to table the discussion until full Council is present, second by Edwards, 4/0.

The City Clerk reported three bids were received for construction of the Depot Park music pavilion: Infrastructure \$198,750, Westcott \$117,955, Godfrey Builders \$91,170. Ms. Schilling met with CRA (architect) and Godfrey Builders to see how to decrease the cost. Changing the composite floor to concrete would greatly reduce the cost, and Godfrey will bring the figure back once they get the price change.

Councilman McKenzie and Ashley Shilling met with County Commissioner Chuck Hess regarding the sewer billing contract. Mr. Hess wants more detailed data to justify increasing the rate before recommending taking negotiations to the full County Commission. Attorney Dan Cox presented two letters (options) addressing the County; one notifying the County our wish to discontinue billing the sewer, and the other one of our wishes to continue, but renegotiate the price.

Nannette Watts, Wakulla County Revenue Collections, addressed the Council. Ms. Watts stated the city could charge a sewer admin fee for each sewer account or follow Panacea Water and charge an additional \$1.00 each month to each sewer customer at time of billing.

Vice-Mayor Lewis requested the matter be tabled until Councilman McKenzie is present.

The City currently charges \$15.00/night for camping (\$1.65 of that going to Department of Revenue, bed tax). Councilman Roddenberry recommended raising the camping fee to \$18.00/night. Attorney Cox will draft a park rate fee ordinance for consideration.

Ashley Schilling presented Caleb Brown, an Engineer with Dewberry, to the Council. Mr. Brown stated there are grants available through FWC to repair/reconstruct boat ramps. The Council instructed Ms. Schilling to move forward with Mr. Brown and explore the grant.

Ms. Schilling also reminded the Council of the final Community Stakeholder Engagement Strategy meeting March 20, 6:30. Vice-Mayor Lewis would still like a postcard mailed to homes in the 32358 area to possibly have more involvement. The City Clerk will work with ARPC and the Property Appraiser's office to create a mailing list and send the cards out.

Clerk Schilling reminded the Council deliverables 1 and 2 of the Competitive Florida Grant are due by April 5. The Council elected to move the regular April meeting to Monday, April 1, 6:30, to accommodate the deadline.

Attorney Cox gave a brief overview of the City's Capital Improvement Plan and the need to update it.

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

Councilman Roddenberry would like to get back to pursuing Sopchoppy becoming a golf cart community. Attorney Cox will draft an ordinance to be presented at the April 1 meeting.

Mayor Edwards stated the Worm Gruntin' Committee said all vendor spots are full for the festival. Verlie Q's requested permission to use four of the City parking spots. Approval was given by the Council for them to do so. Mayor Edwards reminded staff to contact WCSO regarding closing Rose Street for the festival.

In a previous City meeting, Councilman McClendon spoke of a wedding planner with clients that would like the City to allow alcohol in the Gym. Vice-Mayor Lewis asked if we should revised the ordinance for gym rental rates and permits to allow alcohol on the premises as well as other City properties.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Roddenberry.