

May 12, 2014

The City Council met in regular session. In attendance: Mayor, Martha Evans; Councilmembers: Lara Edwards, Nathan Lewis and Glenn Rudd. The meeting was opened with prayer and a salute to the flag.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved in written form on a motion made by Lara Edwards and seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 4/0 by the Council.

Announcements and recognitions:

Nicole Zema was introduced to the Council as a new reporter for the Wakulla News.

The Clerk announced a public hearing on the re-alignment of Highway 319 which will be held at Medart Assembly of God Church on Thursday, 5/15/14 from 5 – 6 p.m.

Public Hearings:

The Council held the 2nd and final public hearing on Ordinance 2014-04 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY AMENDING CHAPTER 8, CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE CITY ELECTIONS; SET CORRESPONDING DATES FOR CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION; EXTEND TERMS OF CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS TO COINCIDE WITH THE NEW ELECTION DATES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. There were no citizens in attendance for comment. The public hearing closed.

Lara Edwards made the motion that the City adopt Ordinance 2014-04, the motion was seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/0.

Commissioner Eddie Evans joined the meeting at this time.

The Council opened the 1st public hearing on Ordinance 2014-05, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 107; TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 107 "FLOODS"; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS, TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR, TO ADOPT PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT IN FLOOD HAZARD AREAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; TO ADOPT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Attorney Dan Cox explained that the National Flood Program has modified the criteria for the flood program which requires changes to local flood ordinances. Since Wakulla County administers the City permits, we have informed the Department of Emergency Management that we would like to mirror the county ordinance. The Department has provided the County Ordinance along with additional criteria that they are recommending. Dan Cox has agreed to summarize this lengthy ordinance along with his recommendations for review of the Council.

Presentation of Automatic Meter Reading System – Billy Carter, Municipal Water Works: Mr. Carter presented to the Council a proposal for changing out the residential meters within the Sopchoppy System to an automatic read system. The Council requested that the Clerk present them with a budget analysis and finance options at the June meeting.

Lara Edwards requested approval of a Topo Survey for the downtown park at a cost of \$400. She stated that Wilderness Graphics is working with her to prepare a 5 year build out plan for the park. Eddie Evans made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Nathan Lewis, the motion passed 5/0.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Wakulla County Tourist Development Council has voted to pay 75% of the local share of the Scenic By-way secondary portal which is to be placed next to the Depot if the City will pay 25%. Lara Edwards made the motion that the City pay 25% (\$1,375.00), the motion was seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/1 by the Council with Eddie Evans opposing.

The Clerk informed the Council that Duke Energy requested that the City apply for a grant on behalf of the Sopchoppy Preservation Committee (SPIA), which sponsors the Worm Gruntin Festival and the Sopchoppy 4th of July Committee for the July 4th celebration. Duke has sponsorship money for these type events but the funds must be applied for by a non-profit or municipality. Duke approved the grant and awarded \$1,000 to each festival which will be passed on from the City General Fund to the respective festivals.

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

Dan Cox gave an overview of legislative changes that affect local government. One change will require 4 hours of ethics training annually for elected officials.

Council Items:

Eddie Evans brought before the Council a letter he had received from Murray McLaughlin regarding a donation of \$1,500 from the City for the Wakulla County Historical Society, no action was taken.

Lara Edwards requested an update on the City Park and staff reported that we have not been given a price on the repairs that were previously discussed. The park attendant is being instructed on needed improvements.

Glenn Rudd requested that the live oak limb overhanging Rose Street be removed. Duke Energy has made numerous reports to City Hall regarding their trucks not being able to go under the limbs without damaging the trucks. School buses and delivery trucks also cannot travel under the limb.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.