

August 12, 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, Roddenberry, McKenzie, and McClendon.

Councilman Roddenberry made a motion to approve the July 8, 2019 minutes as presented by the Clerk, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

Bob Mearns, Florida Rural Water Association, attended the meeting to present the Council with the water rate study findings and recommendations.

At this time, Vice-Mayor Lewis joined the meeting.

Mr. Mearns and FRWA found the City has not raised water usage rates since 2001. Considering future needs of the system at an estimated cost of \$3.7 million, FRWA found current water rates are not sufficient to support a financially viable system with built-in reserves. FRWA recommends adjusting the current inside and outside base rates (0-3,000 gallons); \$2.00/month in year one and followed by an additional \$1.00/month per year for 2 years. The per-1,000 gallon rate would remain unchanged. Following the 3 year increase, FRWA suggests considering either the CPI or FL Public Service Commission 2.23% to adjust rates yearly.

Attorney Cox and Mayor Edwards feel the Council should hold a workshop, advertise, and get public input before proceeding with a rate increase. The Council will add the water rate discussion to the agenda for the September 2019 regular Council meeting.

The Council was scheduled to hold the 2nd Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-02 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY AMENDING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT PURSUANT TO THE PROCEDURES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING ACT, CHAPTER 163, PART II, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Attorney Dan Cox requested to table adoption until the September 2019 meeting to allow himself time to meet with Public Works Director Leonard Tartt on the CIP items.

The Council held the **1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing for Ordinance 2019-04 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY AND THE WATER FUND OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY. TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE ANTICIPATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2019-2020 OPERATING YEAR.** (Read by title only.) No discussion.

Attorney Cox requested the Council reschedule the September 8 Council Meeting. The Council meeting will be held Monday, September 16, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Clerk Schilling and Deputy Clerk Evans will be attending the FACC Fall Academy the week of October 14. The October Council meeting will be rescheduled to October 7, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Due to November 11 being Veteran's Day Holiday, the November Council meeting will be moved to Monday, November 4.

The Council will incorporate the water rate increase workshop into the September 16 meeting as an agenda item. Staff was instructed to advertise for public input on the August 31 water bills.

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

Leonard Tartt stated materials for the Council Moore Road project will be delivered August 13 and should be completed before the September deadline. Also, Mr. Tartt asked the Council to seriously consider the findings of the FRWA rate study.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Roddenberry.