

August 14, 2023

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

A motion to approve the July 10, 2023, minutes was made by Rudd, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

Kinsey Miller, Wakulla County Public Information Officer, addressed the Council regarding the possibility of the City being designated a Trail Town. Mr. Miller, along with Elizabeth Carter and Elizabeth Hughes will travel to Mt. Dora in anticipation of the designation. Mayor Edwards shared a letter she wrote in support of the award. If awarded, Discover Sopchoppy will announce the designation at Depot Days, September 9, 2023.

Clerk Schilling received a request from Matt Edwards to close the alley that runs between Municipal and Railroad and Wakulla and Mill St. The Council agreed to move forward with the closing and will hold public hearings in September and October.

If feasible, Vice Mayor Rudd would like to have a list of all open alleys and then close them all at one time.

Ric Delp, BDI, presented a Task Order Memorandum to the Council for a Scope of Work to provide an Update to the Water Master Plan. The proposed cost to development the Master Plan is \$57,400. The plan was scheduled to be updated in 2026, however due to County growth and the impact to the water system, staff and Attorney Cox stated the plan needs to be updated now. Mr. Delp indicated with previous information provided and new information on hand, the update could be completed within 90 days. A **motion** to approve the Task Order for the Master Plan Update by BDI was made by McKenzie, second by Rudd, 4/0.

The Council held the **1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-04** - 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 2023-2024 Operating Year. Vice Mayor Rudd asked that the Capital Outlay line item in the Water Fund be increased \$100,000, making it \$600,000. No other changes were made.

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

Sheriff Miller and Command Staff would like to hold an Outreach Program on October 21 at Depot Park. The Council approved the request.

Deputy Clerk Page Evans proposed changing the current office hours to Monday – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Friday 8:00 – 12:00. With maintenance staff working four 10-hour days, all work orders are currently being scheduled for Thursday's and Monday's. A motion to change the office hours as presented was made by McKenzie, second by Rudd, 4/0.

PWD Seth Green presented a map indicating land (minimum of 2 acres) in the Forbes Farm Subdivision that D.R. Horton is proposing to donate to the City for infrastructure. The developer would like to exchange the property for a capacity letter, even if restrictions are placed on the land and it cannot be developed until Well 7 is upgraded. Mayor Edwards suggested staff meet with County officials and walk the property. The Council requested a representative from D.R. Horton attend the next meeting.

PWD Green asked the Council about a stipend for the park manager. The manager stated he needs an income to supplement his living expenses, or he may have to resign. Green proposed combining the City's Maintenance Tech position with the park position, moving the current City employee into Water, and hiring someone to fill the Park/City position. Mayor Edwards recommended Green talk to the City employee and see what he wants to do and to the park manager and see what his plans are. After several questions and discussion amongst Council and staff, Council decided to re-address the request at a later date.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. Motion by McKenzie, second by Edwards.