

February 9, 2015

The City of Sopchoppy met in regular session. In attendance: Mayor, Martha Evans; Councilpersons, Lara Edwards, Nathan Lewis and Glen Rudd. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and opened with prayer and flag salute.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented in written form on a motion made by Lara Edwards, seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed by the Council.

The Council held the 1st Public Hearing on Ordinance 2015-02, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA VACATING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN THOSE PORTIONS OF FAITH AVENUE LOCATED SOUTH OF GULF STREET AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF THE TOWN OF SOPCHOPPY WEST SIDE, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

The Council, by written ballot, voted to appoint a member to fill the vacated at-large council seat. Three residents sent letters to the Clerk submitting their names as a candidate. The vote was tallied by City Attorney Dan Cox and resulted in a tie between Becton Roddenberry and T. L. Strickland. Candidate Roddenberry was in attendance. Council members revealed that they had been contacted by several residents regarding the social media postings of Roddenberry. A discussion regarding the apprehension expressed by members of the Council, incurred and resulted in Roddenberry promising to maintain integrity by not posting anything that would potentially compromise the image of the City of Sopchoppy. The Council then voted 3 to 1 to appoint Becton Roddenberry to complete the term of office vacated by Eddie Evans resignation, with Evans, Edwards and Lewis voting in favor of the appointment.

Becton Roddenberry was administered the oath of office by City Attorney, Dan Cox.

Brooks, Harrison and Cayer, CPA, partner Chris Cayer presented the Audit of the City of Sopchoppy for the year ending September 30, 2014. Lara Edwards made the motion to accept the audit as presented, seconded by Nathan Lewis and passed 5/0 by the Council.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve the audit engagement of Brooks, Harrison and Cayer to cover the period of 2014, 2015 and 2016, seconded by Glenn Rudd, the motion passed 5/0.

Genesis Group – Echo Gates: Agreement for Professional Services, Sopchoppy Downtown Park was presented to the Council. The agreement included the scope of work and fee schedule which was 73,400.00. A discussion of the project scope of work and cost resulted in the Council asking Ms. Gates, Commissioner Edwards and Clerk Lawhon to meet and discuss minimizing the scope of work and the fees to an affordable cost.

Clerk Lawhon discussed with the Council the State mandated requirements for elected officials to receive two hours of Florida Ethics Law, one hour of Open Meetings Law and one hour of Open Records Law. The Florida League of Cities offers these courses in regional workshops and the Institute of Government offers on-line courses. Dan Cox will contact the Ethics Commission regarding his teaching these courses to the Council in a workshop meeting.

Clerk Lawhon informed the Council that she has submitted an advertisement for the Customer Service Representative position and will be making a recommendation to the Council at the March meeting.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve the financial and adjustment reports as presented, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 5/0 by the Council.

The Clerk informed the Council that members of the Revell Family have met with her and offered the City the first opportunity to purchase their property across from the City Park. The property consists of 48 acres and the family is asking the assessed value, \$180,000 for the land. The City was also informed by the family that due to the liability, the City will no longer be allowed to use the land for over-flow parking on the 4th of July. Council members indicated that the City currently had no need to purchase more land and no action was taken.

Clerk Lawhon reported that the new computers that were a budget item for this fiscal year have been ordered to replace the existing ones.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, reported that the City Well at Eden Springs had an electric fire in the panel box. He was on site when the fire occurred and was able to extinguish before it spread. The repairs have been done and the well is back on line.

It was reported that the DOT has released the RFP for the portion of the Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail from Surf Road to Sopchoppy.

Council Items:

Becton Roddenberry thanked the Council for his appointment to the Board and for the chance to serve his community.

Lara Edwards stated that the Right of Ways are looking incredible, and thanked those responsible. She also informed the Council that while trying to load her small son into the car and a local restaurant, the speed of the local traffic concerned her to the point that she placed a call to the Sheriff and the Highway Patrol asking them to monitor and slow traffic in that area.

Martha Evans requested that a culvert on Yellow Jacket be replaced. Staff will contact Wakulla County Public Works.

Nathan Lewis reminded everyone of the Sopchoppy Jesus River Festival which will be held at the City Park on March 14, 2015.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:30 p.m.