

February 9, 2026

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

A **motion** to approve the January 12, 2026, minutes was made by Edwards, seconded by Lewis, 5/0.

Mayor Tartt presented a 2025 Friend of 4-H plaque to the Council that was awarded at the 4-H Clover Gala.

Craig Steinle is interested in putting a business in the library building located on the SHS property. Mr. Steinle estimates repairs will cost \$20-30,000. Vice-Mayor Edwards stated the property would need to be surveyed, sub-divided, and re-zoned. Mayor Tartt asked if the property would need to be offered to the public. Councilman Lewis asked if it could be sold without bids. Vice-Mayor Edwards made a **motion** to move forward with an appraisal, inspection, and survey to be performed by March, seconded by Lewis. Mr. Steinle stated he would pay for the inspection. After further discussion, Vice-Mayor Edwards amended her **motion** to let the interested party proceed with the inspection, seconded by Lewis, 5/0.

Abbigail Lawhon, Wakulla High School Softball, presented a sponsorship renewal to the Council for consideration. A **motion** to renew the sponsorship for \$200 was made by Edwards, seconded by Lewis, 5/0.

Bobby Guyer, Wakulla Christian School Softball, presented a sponsorship request to the Council as well. A **motion** to award a \$500 sponsorship was made by Lewis, seconded by Edwards, 5/0. Mr. Guyer also thanked the Council again for sponsoring the Wakulla Christian Girl's Basketball team this past season.

Mina Sutton, Wakulla Community Theatre, proposed a \$10,000 yearly fee to the Council for unlimited access to the school for the theatre's productions. The theatre currently has shows scheduled for May, September, and December. Rick Ott stated, if his proposal is approved, he will work with WCT when scheduling his shows. Council asked Attorney Dan Cox to draft a proposal to be presented at the March meeting related to the WCT rental of the SHS facility.

With the Sopchoppy Opry ending after almost 26 years, Rick Ott expressed interest in booking entertainment shows in the SHS auditorium either for a flat rate or on a sliding scale, and that Billy Dean is interested in hosting shows also. Mr. Ott asked about alcohol sales and Council stated more than likely he would have to adhere to the same policy as the current historic gym rentals (insurance policy). Mr. Ott would like to host a bluegrass event on April 25, 2026. Mr. Ott was given a copy of the fee schedule, and he will return to City Clerk Schilling with a proposal for Council consideration.

Nancy Paul, Discover Sopchoppy, asked the Council for input on the "Welcome to Sopchoppy" sign that was sent to them. Vice Mayor Edwards suggested removing the arrow and butterfly and stated a DOT permit will have to be acquired. Attorney Cox asked Ms. Paul to contact DOT and see if a permit will be required.

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

Vice-Mayor Edwards stated she wants it on record that the City has a lot more money on the books than what was budgeted for in the areas of meter sets and install fees, and the City is not a "for profit" company. The City also needs to double down on collections. She asked all Councilmembers to look at the numbers and stated the City could be looked at closely. Attorney Cox reminded the Council that the

funds are earmarked for future growth. Councilman McClendon stated the reserves are for new facilities. Mayor Tartt stated it will all balance out if the County continues to rubber stamp new subdivisions.

Administrative Assistant Ann Barton informed the Council that the 4th of July Committee decided to change the hours of the festival. The parade will now be held downtown at 4:00 p.m., and the park will open at the same time. All Council agreed with the change.

Public Works Director Seth Green stated well 7 is on track for March and the RFQ's related to the SRF loan are due by 11:00 a.m., February 20. Green requested a 10:00 Council workshop on February 25 to review, discuss and rank the proposals.

PWD Green stated he has a proposal for a Facilities Coordinator, but Edwards suggested moving it to the March meeting. Green also reminded the Council of the items in the SHS gym and wanting to hold a yard sale to benefit the school restoration and the Senior Center. Nancy Paul and Winky Rice stated they could possibly coordinate something with the monthly Sopchoppy Market Days.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. Motion by Edwards, seconded by Tartt, 5/0.

February 25, 2026
RFQ Workshop

The workshop began at 10:00 a.m. In attendance: Councilmembers Tartt, Westmark, and McClendon; staff: Schilling, Green, and Bonds and Attorney Cox.

The purpose of the workshop was to review and discuss the engineering firms that turned in RFQ's related to the SRF project engineering for water lines, wells, and storage.

The following firms submitted RFQ's: Inovia, North Florida Professional Services and Short, Elliott Hendrickson.

The Council discussed the packets and Attorney Cox stated the Council can award CEI to one firm and inspections and related duties to another.

Packets will be delivered to the absent Councilmembers.

Score sheets need to be returned to Clerk Schilling and a recommendation will be made at the March 9 meeting.

The workshop ended at 10:45 a.m.