

January 10, 2022

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

Richard Harden made a motion to approve the December 13, 2021, minutes, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, announced to the Council that City Clerk, Ashley Schilling has obtained her MMC Designation, and, per policy, will receive a 2.5% pay increase.

Leonard Tartt also presented Plant Operator, Seth Green to the Council. Since accepting the position and prior to beginning his employment, Mr. Green has obtained his Class B Water Operator License.

Jamie Martin, Depot & SPIA Committee's stated the Worm Gruntin' Festival will be held April 9.

Mrs. Martin also requested approval to appoint Colleen Skipper-Mitchell to the Depot Committee. Council approved the appointment. Clerk Schilling requested a schedule of the Depot Committee meetings as it must be advertised.

Mrs. Martin also inquired about installing Wi-Fi at the Depot. Council instructed staff to look into cost and installation requirements.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-01** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy Amending Section 14-1, City Of Sopchoppy Code Of Ordinances, Charges For Facilities For Myron B. Hodge Park, To Include An Annual Pass For Use Of The Boat Ramp, To Codify Existing Charges For Other Recreational Facilities, Providing For Severability And Providing An Effective Date. The ordinance is being amended to include fees associated with special events held at Depot Park. City Clerk, Ashley Schilling read the ordinance by title only. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-01 was made by Harden, second by McKenzie, 5/0. Event hosts will be responsible for restroom supplies and clean-up.

The Council held the **1st Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-02** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Amending The City Of Sopchoppy Code Of Ordinances Sections 4.4 And 4.5 Related To Sale Of Alcoholic Beverages And Consumption Of Alcoholic Beverages Including To Allow The Consumption Of Wine In Taprooms And Revised Hours During Which The Sale Of Alcoholic Beverages For Consumption On Premises Is Allowed.; Providing For Severability; Repealing All Ordinances In Conflict; And Providing An Effective Date. Clerk Schilling read the Ordinance by title only.

Attorney Cox will edit the operating hours in the ordinance and prepare an advertisement for the 2nd hearing to be held in February.

Attorney Dan Cox discussed several legislative bills that he is tracking and as they progress through the committees will prepare comment letters for the mayor if needed.

Attorney Cox also stated there are four categories available for spending the recovery act funds. Cox stated the water line extension on Surf Road/Family Circle would be a good project for these funds.

Attorney Cox reminded the Council if the City moves forward with the Sand County Studios and Keith Engineering proposed changes to the Design Guidelines and Development of Design Standards and Overlay Zones for the 319 corridor, it will require amendments to the land development code and comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan amendment will also need to include updates to comply with the "Property Rights Element" requirement recently enacted by the legislature.

The City is still waiting on a response to the request for Declaratory Statement as it relates to Councilman Harden and Vice-Mayor Lewis continuing to serve on the Council upon exiting the Florida Retirement System. Attorney Cox stated the City may need to apply for a rule waiver.

Grants Coordinator Andy Easton would like to poll residents on Surf Road in anticipation of applying for a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant that could improve drainage or upgrade the existing water line. Council gave approval to proceed with the grant application.

The financial and adjustments reports by was approved by signature of the Council.

Clerk Schilling received a quote from Anytime Electric to install outlets at Depot Park as well as pavilion lights. Total cost is \$6,887.00 (4 outlets in the front half of park - \$3,850.00, lighting at stage- \$1,450, pavilion light - \$1,587.00, 2 directional spotlights - \$425.00). The Council approved the cost to install the outlets and lights at Depot Park but exclude the 2 spotlights.

Leonard Tartt stated the public works staff will begin moving the 8" water main along the bike path on Hwy 98. The projected cost to the City is \$10-15,000.00.

Mr. Tartt would like to raise the salary of the Maintenance Technician to match the current salary of the last Distribution Technician hired. The Maintenance Tech holds a distribution license as well. Mr. Tartt would also like to look at the Plant Operator salary. McKenzie made the motion to adjust the Maintenance Tech salary to equal the Distribution Tech. second by Harden, 5/0.

Council would like staff and Attorney Cox to look at the salary study that was presented in August and bring back a proposal.

Mayor Edwards would like to submit a Trail Town Designation application. Elizabeth Carter with The Friends of Sopchoppy began the procedure in 2019. Council agrees and is supportive of Mrs. Carter applying for the Designation.

Wakulla County submitted a request for a letter of support for their Transportation Alternative Grant Program application.

Vice Mayor Lewis asked if the owners of the 4th of July overflow parking lot might be interested in selling the property or giving the City right of first refusal.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by McKenzie.

Following the meeting, beginning at 8:20 p.m., the City Council held a workshop at which time Sand County Studios and Keith Engineering presented a final draft of Design Guidelines and Development of Design Standards and Overlay Zones for the 319 corridor and downtown overlay.

The west boundary needs to be changed to Camilla Avenue. Council to send comments or suggestions to Jim Sipes within the next month.

The workshop ended at 9:05 p.m.