

January 12, 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, and McClendon.

A **motion** to approve the December 8, 2025, minutes was made by Lewis, seconded by McClendon, 4/0.

Councilman Lewis stated the city looked great for the holiday season.

Jeff Green requested clarification on the zoning of his property at 2002 Sopchoppy Highway and the adjacent vacant parcel. Currently the overlay shows 2002 as being P1 (Public) and the vacant lot, residential. Attorney Cox stated 2002 should be Highway Commercial and that SEH is in the process of updating and correcting new zoning maps for the Council to adopt and will make the correction.

Callie Quigg, Sopchoppy Opry, gave a brief history of the SHS restoration efforts made possible through grants and revenue brought in by the Opry. The next show is scheduled for January 31, and following that production, the Opry will only be held for special events. Councilwoman Westmark praised the Opry volunteers for their amazing dedication the last 25 ½ years. Attorney Cox suggested commemorating the organizers and volunteers with something at the school.

Attorney Dan Cox presented **Ordinance 2026-01 for 2nd Public Hearing and Adoption** – An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida. Establishing Connection And Capacity Fees, Fire Hydrant And Fire Suppression Requirements, Data Log Policies, And Road Bore Responsibilities; Providing For Definitions, Severability, And An Effective Date. The ordinance was read by title only by Mayor Tartt. Attorney Cox explained the ordinance is for cost recovery only and not a money maker. City Clerk Ashley Schilling asked to change the effective date to state immediately upon adoption. A **motion** was made by Lewis to adopt the ordinance, changing the effective date to immediately upon adoption, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.

Attorney Cox presented for **Ordinance 2026-02 for 2nd Public Hearing and Adoption** – 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 The Use Of The Boat Ramp, To Codify Existing Charges For Other Recreational Facilities, Providing For Severability And Providing An Effective Date. The ordinance was read by title only by Mayor Tartt. CC Schilling presented a draft fee schedule to the Councilmembers that Councilman Lewis had prepared. Following discussion, a **motion** was made by Lewis to adopt the ordinance, changing the gym rental fee to \$600 for weddings and large events (if ticketed, \$600 plus 10% of sales), \$300 for all other events, \$800 a day for the SHS auditorium and \$150 for additional days, plus 10% of sales for ticketed events, consider recurring events on a case by case basis, waive the room fee for recovery groups, and lower the corner room rate to \$40/day, seconded by Tartt, 4/0.

Attorney Cox and PWD Green presented an Amended and Extended Well Lease and Easement Agreement between the City and owners of Eden Springs related to Well 4. Attorney Cox stated the current lease expires in 2031, and the new agreement will expire in 2081. Each year, October 1, the city will calculate the prior year water bills and pay Eden Springs that amount for the upcoming fiscal year. Only the water portion will be considered, not sewer or PST. Council approved the lease agreement and Green will present it to Eden Springs for review.

CC Schilling reminded Mayor Tartt and Councilman Lewis they are registered to attend the 4H Clover Gala at Wakulla Springs the evening of January 29.

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

PWD Green reported the following: he is in the process of updating the water system standards, moving forward with the planning of well site at SHS, drilling should begin on well 7 this week, Daniel Crowson turned in his resignation and his position is advertised, the city did not receive the RIF Grant, and he would like to readdress the surplus sale at the SHS gym.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion by Lewis, seconded by Westmark, 4/0.