

January 8, 2024

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, Harden, and McKenzie.

A motion to approve the December 18, 2023, minutes was made by McKenzie, second by Rudd, 5/0.

Mayor Edwards has taken the position of Executive Director of the Wakulla County Senior Center, and as such feels the need to step down as Mayor, however, remain on the city council. A motion was made by Harden to appoint Vice Mayor Glenn Rudd to Mayor, second by Rudd, 5/0. Mayor Rudd made a motion to appoint Roger McKenzie to Vice Mayor, second by Harden, 5/0.

Nancy Paul thanked Mrs. Edwards for all her hard work and the time she spent as Mayor.

Katherine Van Zant, Florida Rural Water, presented a Water Capacity Fee Study to the Council. According to the study, the water system will run out of capacity within the next five years. The system is currently using 72% of its capacity, allowing for approximately 2,000 more homes. Looking ahead, FRWA gave two options: remaining useful life basis and replacement value basis. FRWA recommended replacement value basis. Attorney Cox recommends adopting the proposed capacity fees.

Florida Rural Water is also working on a rate study for the city and should present it to the Council at the February meeting. Ms. Van Zant stated there should be no more than a 25% differential between inside and outside city limit rates and currently the city's rates are greater than the 25% variance. Attorney Cox stated the current difference is justifiable and defensible.

Last month, Ric Delp, BDI, presented a Task Order Memorandum for Sopchoppy Water System Phase 1 Improvements for consideration. The total fee was \$340,781.00, with \$140,000 being reimbursable from the grant. Clerk Schilling presented an amended Phase 1 Task Order, with a reduced fee totaling \$323,779.00. Attorney Cox recommended approving the Task Order as presented. A **motion** to approve the amended BDI Phase 1 Task Order was made by Vice Mayor McKenzie, second by Edwards, 5/0.

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

Clerk Schilling stated there have been some complaints by fishermen with the operation hours of the new gate at the City Park. It is set to open at 7 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. Council decided to leave the hours as is and push the yearly boat ramp pass as passholders will be given the gate code.

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