

June 12, 2023

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, and Harden.

A motion to approve the May 8, 2023, minutes was made by Rudd, second by McClendon, 4/0.

Allison Delong and Ashley Balkcom, North Florida Glory Softball, presented a sponsorship request to the Council to offset costs associated with a tournament. Vice Mayor Rudd made a motion to award \$500, second by Harden, 4/0.

Chris Salak, with James Moore and Company presented the results of the 2021/22 audit and financial statement. The audit produced no findings or recommendations. The general fund has a carried forward balance of \$1,073,572. The water fund has a carried forward balance of \$11,400,482. A **motion** to accept the audit as presented was made by Rudd, second by McClendon, 4/0.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing and Adoption for Ordinance 2023-03** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Amending The City Of Sopchoppy Zoning Map; Providing For Severability; Repealing All Ordinances In Conflict; And Providing An Effective Date. The Ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Schilling. A **motion** to adopt Ordinance 2023-03 was made by Edwards, second by Rudd, 4/0.

At this time, Clerk Schilling presented the sealed bids for the two trucks advertised for surplus. Two bids were received for the F150; Leonard Tartt, \$3,501.00 and Josh Langston, \$3,501.00. There were no bids received for the F250. Council instructed Clerk Schilling to contact the two bidders and ask if either was interested in the 250. If not, then the decision would be made with a coin toss. If neither is interested in the F250 then staff is to find a way to dispose of it.

Attorney Dan Cox received a reminder from DEO of the EAR report needing to be done. Attorney Cox is to prepare an ad for a transmittal hearing to be held at the July meeting.

The financial and adjustment reports were approved by signature of the Council.

Clerk Schilling reminded the Council of the budget workshop, Wednesday, June 14, 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Schilling also reminded Council that Form 1's are due by July 3.

Some Councilmembers will not be in town for the July 4 festival and elected not to have a float in the parade this year, but for one of the maintenance trucks to represent the City.

Sarah Strickland has some trees on the ROW and on her property at her house on Dickson Street and asked if the City would be willing to pay to have the ones on the ROW removed. Council denied the request.

Ric Delp, BDI presented some test data of the hydraulic model which was calibrated with flow data from 2022. There are several areas of concern identified in regard to pressure and the rapid growth of Wakulla County in our service area. Mr. Delp will re-run the data using a 3% growth rate and identify landmarks and streets and bring the updated model to the July meeting. As it stands, using the data presented, BDI sees a need for a well and ground storage tank, or a well and elevated tower.

Attorney Cox suggested updating costs associated to run the new line on Hwy 319 from Medart to Wal-Mart and resubmit a request for financial assistance to DOT.

Councilman McClendon asked if the City has reserves that would work in the bond market. Atty Cox stated, if interested, the City would need to talk to investment bankers for options.

Councilwoman Harden asked if the City is actively looking for property to place a new well on. PWD Green stated any property found is being sent to BDI to plug into the hydraulic model for simulation.

Mayor Edwards would like to look at sail shades over the Depot Park playground. Mrs. Edwards would also like to leave the flags on Rose Street from Memorial Day until after the July 4 festival.

Nathan Lewis asked about the survey stakes located on the Sopchoppy school property and if it indicated progress on the possibility of the City acquiring the property. Corey Benedict was told by WCSB a survey was needed for the District as there is no survey on file.

Vice Mayor Rudd asked if the City is still interested in the property. The City has a lot going on with upcoming expenditures in the water system and would hate to see the City strapped with costs associated with the school.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Motion by Rudd, second by McClendon.

June 14, 2023
Budget Workshop

The workshop began at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmembers in attendance: Rudd, McClendon, and Harden.

Staff in attendance: PWD Green, Clerk Schilling, Deputy Clerk Evans

General Fund:

Rudd – potential projects: additional speed hump past Methodist Church, replacing the boardwalk across the river at the City Park

Schilling – replacing the rotting railing at the Depot; possibly use ARPA funds for the Depot deck, Surf Road water line upgrade project, picnic tables at the small pavilion at City Park.

Green – park host has inquired about a stipend or salary

Street expense – decrease to \$20,000

Depot operating expense – increase to \$9,000

Water Fund:

Following discussion, Rudd proposed a 4% across the board raise; McClendon and Harden agreed

Green - what can be done about comp hours; staff is losing a lot of time by not being able to take off, not paid for it; looking at a capacity analysis that will include water rate recommendations; SCADA will have to be upgraded within the next two years; interior of tank 2 needs to be rehabbed at a cost of \$220,000; well 4 looking at a large repair in line however no estimate received yet

McClendon - has someone who will conduct a survey on the City power bills for no charge

Contract labor – should be \$20,000 not \$200,000

Truck expense – decrease to \$50,000

Office expense – increase to \$100,000

Donations & sponsorships – increase to \$18,000

Capital outlay/expense – increase to \$500,000

The workshop concluded at 7:30 p.m.