

March 10, 2014

The Council met in regular session. In attendance: Mayor Martha Evans, Councilpersons: Lara Edwards, Eddie Evans, Nathan Lewis and Glenn Rudd. The meeting was opened in a salute to the flag and prayer.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by the Council, as presented, on a motion by Lara Edwards, seconded by Nathan Lewis.

1st Public Hearing and reading of Ordinance 2014-03, A Ordinance of the City of Sopchoppy, Florida Amending the City of Sopchoppy Land Development Code. Key changes to the amendment establish a downtown overlay and establish an industrial category. James Tinghitella, landowner of a parcel affected by the industrial change, was in attendance to ask questions and stated his support of the change. The Clerk reported that Clayton Lewis, owner of the second parcel affected by the industrial change, came by the office prior to the meeting to ask questions and state his support.

Big Bend Scenic Byway – matching grant. The clerk reported that she had received an email from Del Suggs, City of Tallahassee Planner, who is coordinating the installation of the informational kiosk that were requested in a 2010 grant application filed by the Big Bend Scenic Byway Committee. At the time the grant was prepared, Pam Portwood and Dianne Delaney spoke to the council regarding supporting the grant which would require \$5,500 match money for the informational kiosk. The minutes do not reflect that a vote was taken and further stated that the council had until September of 2010 to take action. Match funds would not be needed until 2012. A review of the 2012 minutes does not reflect a formal vote on this request. The grant has been approved, funds are available and the committee has plans to place a kiosk at the Sopchoppy Depot and is asking the City of Sopchoppy for a 20% match in the amount of \$5,500. Ensuing council discussion regarding no formal action by a prior council in the minutes and no signed agreement being produced, resulted in a motion by Eddie Evans, seconded by Glenn Rudd to not participate in the grant request for the City to pay \$5,500 in matching funds for a kiosk/portal. The motion passed on a 5/0 vote.

Sopchoppy Pizza Company – Resolution 2013-01 approving the sale of alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption at Sopchoppy Pizza was approved July 8, 2013 with the proviso that a six month review of the Council be performed to ensure that the ration of food to alcoholic beverages stated in the Ordinance is being met. A copy of the sales receipts for the first six months of operation was presented to the council showing 13% alcoholic beverage sales. Motion by Nathan Lewis seconded by Lara Edwards to grant permanent approval with no additional reviews unless problems are reported, passed 5/0 by the council.

Matt Scaringe, President of H-2 Engineering and Daniel Henderson of H-2 Engineering spoke to the Council regarding use of geo-thermal wells in the Welcome Center at the Tallahassee Community College Environmental Institute. The geo-thermal system is planned as a way of educating people on environmental friendly methods of efficiently heating and cooling buildings and the use of other types of energy. A closed loop thermal system has been dis-regarded in favor of an open loop system due to the cost and the Karst features of the area. Council members shared with the representative of H-2 Engineering and Bill Hunter, TCC staff representative, concerns regarding the competition for ground water and contamination risk to the water supply being used by the Sopchoppy system by raising the temperature of the water supply. Leonard Tartt shared his concern that the proximity of this system to the City's largest well supply, could negatively impact our wells. Mr Scaringe indicated that the underground temperature of the water could be raised as much as 8 degrees. City Attorney Dan Cox

shared his experience with a open-loop thermal system and indicated that the water temperature could be impacted as much as 25 degrees. Mr. Cox stated that since we only have one time to get this right and not have a negative impact that we need some data presented to the council regarding the depth of the wells and all other data that can be gathered to bring back to a future meeting.

Legal:

Dan Cox presented the council with a Creek Enterprise offer of \$2,500 to cover the \$17,000 sewer main damage done in July 2012. Eddie Evans made the motion that the City accept the settlement and authorize the Clerk to sign the settlement agreement, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 5/0.

Mr. Cox reported to the Council that he has not been successful in getting a response from the Logan's regarding the McKenzie place property transfer/purchase. He will continue to try to complete a successful cooperative transfer before proceeding with eminent domain as a method of acquiring the property.

Motion by Eddie Evans, seconded by Nathan Lewis for the City of Sopchoppy Water Department to sponsor the 2014 4th of July Fireworks display in its entirety, the motion passed 5/0.

Eddie Evans made the motion that the City be a \$300.00 corporate sponsor of the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin Festival 5-K run, seconded by Lara Edwards and passed 5/0.

Eddie Evans made the motion to approve the financial and adjustment reports, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 5/0.

The Council approved changing the date of the June Council meeting to June 2, 2014 and the July Council meeting to July 7, 2014.

No further business, the meeting adjourned.