

March 13, 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, McKenzie, and Harden.

A motion to approve the February 13, 2023, minutes was made by Rudd, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Nelson Martin, Depot Committee, presented a list of upcoming projects and wishes for the Depot. Although Councilman McClendon agreed with some of the requests, he reminded everyone the Council just approved \$27,000 for new decking on the Depot. Mayor Edwards made a motion to amend the Depot budget by \$2,000 to manage the upcoming projects and exhibits, second by McClendon, 4/1, with Vice-Mayor Rudd opposed.

Winky Rice and Nancy Paul, Discover Sopchoppy, updated the Council on the upcoming Worm Gruntin' Festival. There will be additional food vendors this year along Rose Street, stretching from Winthrop to Yellow Jacket Avenue. With the additional vendors, the City, assisted by WCSO, will close Rose Street from Winthrop to Yellow Jacket, Municipal at Byrd Street and Railroad Avenue between Air Supply and City Hall. WCSO and EMS will be staging all day. There will not be a 5K this year, but a fun run will take place throughout the City with signage at points of interest.

Attorney Dan Cox and Councilman McClendon stated residents on Park Avenue, across from the city park, have expressed interest in annexing into the City. Attorney Cox will prepare a Request for Voluntary Annexation packet to present to the landowners. If residents agree, Council would like to annex the east side of Park Avenue all the way past the DOT yard. In the meantime, Council requested Clerk Schilling contact the owners of the property the City uses for overflow parking for the 4th of July and see if they are interested in annexing.

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

Clerk Schilling reported the Wakulla County School Board has multiple steps to complete before they can proceed with transferring the Historic Sopchoppy School property to the City.

The City will be holding Dale Rushton's retirement luncheon at noon on March 31, 2023. Council approved staff closing City Hall at noon for the remainder of the day.

Clerk Schilling received a quote of \$21,409 for composite decking for the Depot. Due to timing, the decking will not be replaced before the Worm Gruntin' Festival, however prior to the festival, City staff will make sure there are no issues that need to be addressed.

PWD Green received a quote of \$7,000.00 each for two additional speed humps on Rose Street. The Council would like one placed between the existing humps and one just past Blossom Avenue.

Well 4 is located behind Eden Springs and the City's 50 year lease is set to expire in 8 years. Recently, the City located a 4" galvanized main that needs to be addressed. PWD Green would like to approach Eden Springs now and see if they are willing to go ahead and extend the lease before the City spends a lot of money on repairs and then the lease end. Attorney Cox will draft a letter to the owner seeking assurance of a lease extension.

Mayor Edwards inquired about the upcoming CDBG Stormwater Grant. Clerk Schilling stated the advertisements for RFP have been placed.

Vice Mayor Rudd asked where the additional \$2,000 the Council voted to give the Depot will come from. Clerk Schilling stated after fireworks, there is only \$2,000 left in the donation and sponsorship line item. Attorney Cox stated the Depot Committee needs to be more prepared this budget year when submitting their requests. After discussion, the additional monies will be charged to the Depot Expense line item in the General Fund.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. Motion by McKenzie, second by Rudd.