

March 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Edwards with prayer and salute to the flag. In attendance: Edwards, McClendon, Harden, and McKenzie.

Councilman Harden made a motion to approve the February 15, 2022, minutes, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

Carl Sharp, Spirit Life Church, would like to hold a community Easter egg hunt at Depot Park, Saturday, April 16, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Council granted permission and asked the church to provide City Clerk Schilling a copy of the liability insurance.

Mayor Lara Edwards presented **Resolution 2022-01** to the Council – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Recognizing The Contributions Of The Sopchoppy Preservation And Improvement Association, LLC To The City Of Sopchoppy And Surrounding Community And Declaring April 9, 2022, And Thereafter The Second Saturday Of Each April As Sopchoppy Preservation And Improvement Association, LLC, Appreciation Day. A motion to approve was made by McKenzie, second by Harden, 4/0.

Mayor Lara Edwards presented a spreadsheet to the Council regarding the salary study by Evergreen Solutions. Mayor Edwards recommended approving the new pay grade schedule, bring the Utility Billing Clerk up to the recommended pay grade minimum, and give a 2% COLA increase across the board in October.

Evergreen Solutions recently conducted a salary study for the County and County Administrator David Edwards worked with the Mayor and explained to the Council how the Mayor's recommendation to the City Council was reached.

Councilmember McClendon asked about the 2 options given by Evergreen and Councilman Harden asked about possible step raises. After much discussion the Council decided to proceed with updating the pay grade schedule recommended by Evergreen Solutions.

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

Clerk Schilling stated we still need people to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Task Force for purposes of the upcoming CDBG grant application.

Staff reviewed the applicants for the Park Manager position and Clerk Schilling recommended hiring Victor Spencer. Mr. Spencer is familiar with the park and assisted Frank Spears when Mr. Spears was the manager. Council approved the hire.

Public Works Director Leonard Tartt received a quote to replace the Depot roof from McKeithen and Son's, giving three different options. The City will have the roof replaced following the Worm Gruntin' Festival.

Mr. Tartt stated the City is on North Florida Asphalt's schedule to install the two traffic calming devices on Rose Street. Mr. Tartt suggested placing one between Blossom and Faith and one in front of the oak trees before the Depot.

The City will need to install four new fire hydrants in the Magnolia Gardens Phase 3 sewer expansion. The County agreed to pay for the hydrants with County MSBU funds.

Councilman McClendon stated the City has raised water rates once in 20 years and because of inflation and expansion of the system, the Council should maybe consider another increase.

Due to the FRS ruling on Councilmembers continuing to serve after retirement, Councilman Harden read and submitted his resignation from the Council effective March 18, 2022.

Mayor Edwards thanked Councilman Harden for his service.

Councilman McKenzie also thanked Harden. McKenzie reminded the Council a CPI was built into the last rate study as an option and possibly raise rates based on that.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Motion by McKenzie, second by Harden.