

March 9, 2026

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

A **motion** to approve the February 9, 2026, minutes was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 5/0.

Public Works Director Seth Green informed the Council two employees from maintenance are currently at the Treco Center in Gainesville obtaining their backflow certification.

Carrie Cedeno, water system customer, was on the agenda to appear before the Council to request an adjustment to her water bill, however she was not present and no action was taken.

Steve Sullivan, Wakulla Girls Softball Association, presented a sponsorship request to the Council for consideration. A **motion** to sponsor WGSA for \$500 was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 5/0.

Rick Ott presented a 12-month proposal to the Council to manage the SHS auditorium as well as market the facility as a conference center, bringing in extra revenue to the City. Working with Billy Dean, they would like to continue using the Sopchoppy Opry title and expand on it. When scheduling entertainment, Mr. Ott stated he will work with the Wakulla Community Theater and their schedule. In exchange for taking care of renting, managing, and janitorial duties of the facility, Ott requested a reduced cost for the first few (possibly six) scheduled shows. Following discussion, a **motion** was made by Edwards to enter a 12-month contract with Rick Ott to oversee the Sopchoppy Theater and Conference Center, seconded by McClendon, 5/0. Rick Ott will work with staff and Councilmember Westmark on the logistics.

Attorney Dan Cox presented a lease agreement between the City and WCT for use of the SHS facility for productions for \$10,000/year. A **motion** was made by Edwards to approve the lease agreement, seconded by McClendon, 5/0.

Marcia Mathis, Wakulla Giving Hands Ambassador and Board Member, updated the Council on the organizations 2025 accomplishments. WGH will be holding three events at the historic gym in 2026 and asked if the City would be willing to waive the rental fees for these events. A **motion** to waive the gym rental fees for the three events was made by Westmark, seconded by Lewis, 5/0.

City Clerk Ashley Schilling presented a letter to Governor DeSantis for Council approval to support the potential nomination of a Census Tract within Wakulla County as an Opportunity Zone. Much of the tract encompasses the City of Sopchoppy. If granted the designation of an Opportunity Zone, it will encourage private investments in the community through the deferral, reduction, and potential elimination of taxes on capital gains. A **motion** to sign the letter of support was made by Edwards, seconded by Westmark, 5/0.

Alan Hart and Jeremiah Wendt, SEH, presented a task order to begin work on SRF funding projects. The funds will not be available until June 2026, and SEH will not invoice until reimbursements are approved. A **motion** to approve the task order was made by Lewis, seconded by McClendon, 5/0.

Craig Steinle presented an inspection report for the library building located on the SHS site. Attorney Cox stated the next step is to have an appraisal done, and if the appraisal comes in higher than Mr. Steinle's proposal, the building will need to go out to bid. A **motion** to proceed with an appraisal was made by Westmark, seconded by Lewis, 4/0. Vice Mayor Edwards stepped away and was not present when the motion was made.

Attorney Cox is working on the comp plan update as well as the Inovia engineering agreement. Russell, with Inovia, will get with Cox regarding questions and potential changes to the document.

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

CC Schilling presented a letter to the Council from Wakulla High School asking if the City would like to donate towards Teacher Appreciation Week. A **motion** was made by Lewis for \$600 to be divided equally between WHS, WMS, and MES, seconded by Edwards, 4/1, with McClendon voting against.

PWD Green reported that the sanitary survey has been completed, and well 7 is actively drilling (progress meeting with BDI on the 10th at 1:00 p.m.) and Talquin will be connecting the power on March 23.

The Council requested a notice be placed on the water bills to conserve water and reference the NFWFMD notice that was released.

Councilwoman Westmark requested the Council consider an additional monthly meeting or workshop to discuss City and/or water items. Attorney Cox suggested adding a meeting on the 4th Monday of each month. A **motion** was made by Westmark to hold Council meetings on the 2nd Monday each month at 6:30 p.m. and on the 4th Monday each month at 3:00 p.m., seconded by Lewis, 5/0. The extra meeting will begin April 2026.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. Motion by Lewis, seconded by Westmark, 5/0.