

March 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by vice-mayor Lara Edwards. In attendance: Edwards, Rudd, Lewis and Roddenberry.

The minutes from the previous meetings were approved as presented by the Clerk.

The Clerk read to the council the resignation of Martha Evans as Councilmember of the City of Sopchoppy that was received on March 7, 2016. The Council accepted the resignation and thanked Ms. Evans for her years of service to the City.

Nathan Lewis made the motion to appoint Lara Edwards to serve as Mayor, the motion seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/0. Glenn Rudd made the motion to appoint Nathan Lewis to service as vice-mayor, seconded by Lara Edwards and passed 3/1 with Becton Roddenberry voting against.

The Council asked the Clerk to advertise for interested parties to fill the vacant council seat.

1st public hearing: ORDINANCE 2016-01; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 18-51, CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO CHARGES FOR WATER SYSTEM CONNECTION AND METER SET FEES; SECTION 18-53, CODE OF ORDINANCE, PERTAINING TO CHARGES FOR FIRE HYDRANTS AND CONNECTIONS FOR FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS AND SECTION 18-54, CODE OF ORDINANCES, PERTAINING TO CHARGES FOR RETURNED CHECK FEES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. The Ordinance was read by title and opened for public discussion. No one spoke on the Ordinance.

1ST Public hearing: ORDINANCE 2016-02, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA VACATING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN THOSE PORTIONS OF MILL STREET LOCATED BETWEEN LOT 3, BLOCK 1 AND LOT 9, BLOCK 5, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF THE TOWN OF SOPCHOPPY EAST SIDE, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. The Ordinance was read by title and opened for public discussion. No one spoke on the Ordinance.

The Clerk introduced to the council some proposed options for linking the bike trail from Clermont Avenue to the Depot Park. Kimley Horne has requested a public meeting to discuss the options. The Council requested a meeting be held on April 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Lara Edwards requested that the City staff link other government sites to the City's web site.

Nathan Lewis made the motion to allow staff to issue the 319 relocation payments when presented after approval of the City's engineer/inspector, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 4/0.

Becton Roddenberry made the motion that the City hire Ashley Schilling as the City Clerk effective June 1, 2016 contingent upon a background check and drug testing, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 4/0 by the Council.

Glenn Rudd made the motion to approve the financial reports and the adjustment reports as presented, seconded by Becton Roddenberry and passed by the council.

The council voted to move the April meeting from Monday, April 11 to Tuesday, April 12.

Attorney Dan Cox reported that he has completed his required Ethics Training and is ready to set a date for the Council training. Council member Lewis requested that the training not be held until a new council member can be appointed.

Leonard Tartt reported on current water system projects.

Staff reported that County Administrator, David Edwards met with the Clerk and agreed to leave the sewer billing with the City if the City agreed to reduce the cost from 2.50 to 1.25. City staff has agreed to reduce to the break-even point of \$1.50.

Becton Roddenberry informed the Council he had received a call from Sheriff Creel regarding Maxwell Campbell. Sheriff's deputies were again dispatched to Mr. Campbell's residence on Saturday, March 12, 2016 after Mr. Campbell set off several loud explosions. Mr. Campbell informed the Sheriff that he is declaring himself a sovereign citizen and giving up citizenship of the United States. The Sheriff stated to Mr. Roddenberry he will be speaking to the county commission regarding some changes that are needed in the county noise ordinance. It was suggested that the residents of Sopchoppy petition the county to make the changes. Commissioner Harden was in attendance and informed the Council he will address the changes that are needed with the commission.

Council member Nathan Lewis thanked the City for their cooperation and support of the Jesus River Festival. He noted that the 2016 festival was a success and estimated around 400 in attendance with a sizable donation of canned goods for local food pantries.

Glenn Rudd noted the need to hire or request the Sheriff to have a deputy to issue tickets in the downtown area to those drivers not stopping at the 4-way stops and that are speeding. Noting that most problems are occurring between 6:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Becton Roddenberry agreed to speak to Sheriff Creel regarding this problem.

Becton Roddenberry made a motion to approve a budget for a retirement party for retiring clerk Jackie Lawhon, as presented by Mayor Edwards, the motion was seconded by Glenn Rudd and approved 4/0 by the Council

The meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.