

September 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Lara Edwards with prayer and salute to the flag. In attendance: Edwards, Lewis, Rudd, Nichols and Roddenberry.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented by the Clerk. Motion by Roddenberry, second by Rudd, passed 5/0.

Clerk Schilling read two anonymous letters from a citizen regarding cars parking on the sidewalks and the safety walkers having to walk out into the streets to go around them.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, reported Tommy Barton completed the school for his distribution license and will be sitting for the state exam in the near future.

Martha Evans addressed the council with concerns at the City Park. She asked when the pavilions are rented having the park attendant clean under the tables to rid of pests, possibly purchasing shades/covers for the existing playground equipment and an annual fee for boat ramp. Also, she requested the city contact Duke Energy and request they trim trees/limbs from power lines.

The City received four bids for the Depot Park grading, walking path, and pavilions. The bids are as follows:

Pigott Asphalt & Sitework - \$61,825.00
North Florida Construction – \$86,969.00
Infrastructure, Inc. - \$162,500.00
Duggar Excavating – \$111,940.00

A motion to award the bid to Pigott Asphalt & Sitework was made by Nichols, seconded by Roddenberry, 5/0.

Andy Easton updated the Council on the upcoming CDBG grant. The City needs to have a Citizen Task Force in place by October 5. (Refer to attached guidelines/deadlines for more information).

The 2nd public hearing was held for Ordinance 2016-04 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY AND THE WATER FUND FOR THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY. TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE ANTICIPATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2016-17 OPERATING YEAR. A motion to adopt the ordinance as presented was made by Rudd, seconded by Lewis, 5/0.

As a result of the budget hearing, discussion was had regarding holding a workshop to address certification/license incentives, annual leave/comp excess, evaluating employee base pay, purchasing a notebook/tablet for Councilmembers. The workshop will be held, Wednesday, September 21, 5:30-9:00.

Attorney Cox reported sending another email to DEP on the grinder pump issue; receiving no response. The Council instructed Mr. Cox to proceed with sending them a formal Request for Declaratory Statement.

Mr. Cox also informed the Council, with the adoption of the 16/17 budget, the CIP needs to be updated.

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

Clerk Schilling reminded the Council the October meeting is moved to Wednesday, October 5.

Mr. Tartt recognized and thanked citizens who came together and helped clear streets in Sopchoppy following Hurricane Hermine. He also updated the Council on several projects; 319 relocation; county's Lawhon Mill Road bridge repair, and widening of 319 to four lanes.

Mayor Edwards informed the Council the 30 year agreement with Duke Energy to collect the 6% franchise fee is expiring May, 2017. Attorney Cox will compose a letter to Duke Energy to address renewing the agreement.

Mrs. Edwards would like the Council to consider raising camping rates at the City Park. She also requested the City participate in the 2nd Annual Trick or Treat Story Walk at Hudson Park on October 29.

For safety reasons, the rocking horses at the park need to be removed or replaced, depending on the City's agreement of the FRDAP grant that provided the structure.

Commissioner Lewis expressed his desire to have flashing lights or beacons installed to alert drivers to the bike path on 319. The City will contact DOT about the possibility of having them installed.

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Nichols, seconded by Rudd, 5/0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45.