

September 13, 2021

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

Richard Harden made a motion to approve the August 17, 2021, minutes as presented by the Clerk, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

City Clerk, Ashley Schilling, introduced newly hired, Amanda Langston, Utility Billing Clerk, to the Council.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, informed the Council, Luke Steinle will be attending a Water Distribution Licensing program in October.

Vice Mayor Nathan Lewis joins the meeting.

John and Ansley Schilling presented a volleyball sponsorship request from Wakulla Aces. A motion was made by Harden to approve a sponsorship of \$500, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing & Adoption of Ordinance 2021-04** - An Ordinance To Adopt The Operating Budgets For The General Fund Of The City Of Sopchoppy And The Water Fund Of The City Of Sopchoppy. To Provide A Reasonable Anticipated Revenue And Expenditure Schedule For The 2021-2022 Operating Year. Clerk Schilling indicated one change to the General Budget. ARPA funds from the state totaling \$246,420 was added. The City will receive 50% of the funds now and 50% at a later date. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-04 was made by Harden, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing And Adoption Of Ordinance 2021-05** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Vacating The City's Interest In Those Portions Of The Alley Lying Between Sheldon Street And Gulf Street In The Block Bounded By Orange Avenue And The Unopened Southern Extension Of Faith Avenue, As Shown On The Map Of The Town Of Sopchoppy West Side, As Recorded In Plat Book 1 Of The Public Record Of Wakulla County, Florida. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-05 was made by Edwards, second by Harden 4/0. As an adjacent property owner Vice Mayor Lewis abstained from voting and previously filed a form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict.

The Council held the **2nd Public Hearing & Adoption of Ordinance 2021-06** - 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 Ordinances, 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. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-06 was made by McKenzie, second by McClendon, 5/0. The new fees will be effective October 1, 2021.

Clerk Schilling received one response (James Moore & Co.) to the RFP for Auditing Services. Clerk Schilling, Deputy Clerk Evans, and Auditor Chris Cayer met via phone. The committee recommends accepting the proposal from James Moore & Company. Should the City be dissatisfied, Attorney Cox stated the contract can include an option to request proposals again after 1 year. With that said, a motion was made by McKenzie to accept the proposal from James Moore & Company, second by Edwards, 5/0.

Attorney Cox has the declaratory statement ready to file with the state regarding Vice Mayor Lewis and Councilman Harden continuing to serve on the Council after exiting the state retirement program.

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

Clerk Schilling reported the SCOP Grant funds to resurface Park Avenue have been awarded and the CDBG Grants have been applied for.

Mrs. Schilling reminded the Council of the Downtown Overlay Design Workshop September 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

PW Director Leonard Tartt updated the Council on several projects; 319 waterline relocate, clearing site for new tank, new subdivisions in franchise area.

Councilman McClendon asked if Wakulla Aces would send a picture to the Council for the sponsorship.

Councilman Harden asked for an update on tearing down Mom's Restaurant. Clerk Schilling stated the funds are allocated in the upcoming fiscal year and demolition will be performed after October 1.

Mayor Edwards stated the Mullet Festival is postponed until November 13. Mrs. Edwards would like the Welcome To Sopchoppy sign pressure washed. Also, the Mayor would like to have a regular schedule in place for upkeep of mowing, maintaining streets, pressure washing sidewalks, etc. Attorney Cox suggested staff put specs together and get pricing from local companies and bring back to next meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by McKenzie.