

September 14, 2015

The Sopchoppy City Council met in regular session. Vice Mayor, Lara Edwards opened the meeting with prayer and a salute to the United States flag. In attendance: Lara Edwards, Nathan Lewis and Glenn Rudd

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Rudd/Lewis, 3/0

Recognitions: Leonard Tartt commended Dale Rushton, Ashley Schilling and the other Sopchoppy Volunteer Fire Department members for working so diligently on the upcoming ISO inspection.

2nd Public Hearing Ordinance 2015-03, 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 2015-2016 OPERATING YEAR. No public comments were made but several concerns of Council members were addressed during the discussion period. Mayor Martha Evans joined the meeting at this time and entertained a motion by Lara Edwards to adopt Ordinance 2015-03, setting the operating Budgets for City of Sopchoppy for 2015-16, seconded by Nathan Lewis, passed, 4/0.

Councilman Lewis asked the Clerk to request a street light analysis from Duke Energy.

Citizens to Be Heard: David Harrell came before the Council regarding a trespass warning that was issued to his son and two other juveniles on August 17 at 9:15 p.m. in the Myron B. Hodge Park. He stated that his son and two others were sitting in his truck while he went down the road to retrieve his daughter when a deputy saw the truck, smelled alcohol on the boys and issued the trespass warning. Mr. Harrell stated that he had spilled the alcohol on the youth earlier in the evening. He also stated that his son was given probation earlier that same day for "car hopping" in another part of the County. The Council informed Mr. Harrell that since they didn't issue the warning they cannot remove the warning and were not inclined to second guess the deputy.

1st public Hearing on Ordinance 2015-04, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA VACATING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN THOSE PORTIONS OF CLERMONT AVENUE LOCATED NORTH OF U.S. HIGHWAY 319, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF THE TOWN OF SOPCHOPPY EAST SIDE, AS A RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OF WAKULLA COUNTY, FLORIDA. No public comments were made, no action, reading only.

Lara Edwards made a motion to purchase a 61" cut Husqvarna zero turn mower in the amount of \$7,350 for use on the city streets and park, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 4/0.

Leonard Tartt advised that he has received prices on labor for repairing approximately 50 broken sidewalk sections. The costs range from \$4.00 per foot to \$1.50 per foot. The City Council voted 4/0 to allow the repair of the sidewalks and to authorize Mike Turner to complete the finish work at \$1.50 per foot.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve Welch Land Clearing to clear and haul off land clearing debris at the Depot Park for the cost of \$7,000.00, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 4/0.

City Attorney, Dan Cox informed the council that he will presenting a Capital Improvement Plan update at the next meeting.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve the financial and adjustment reports as presented, seconded by Glenn Rudd, passed 4/0.

The Clerk reviewed the City policy that addresses Non-Payment of Accounts with the Council.

Commissioner Nathan Lewis requested that a comprehensive review of water rates be ready for the Council to address by December.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tarrt informed the Council that he had 21 applicants for the Maintenance Technician position. He interviewed 5 applicants and felt that any of them would be a good choice, although one of the interviewees could not work for the salary offered. He stated that he was looking for the applicant that he felt would take pride in their work and perform tasks independently. Mr. Tarrt recommended Tommy Barton for the position. Luke Steinle would be the 2nd choice should Mr. Barton not accept. Lara Edwards made the motion to hire Tom Barton, seconded by Nathan Lewis, passed 4/0.

Council Items:

Lara Edwards informed the council that she will not be attending the October meeting

Nathan Lewis requested that the bamboo on the walking trail at Myron B. Hodge Park be removed.

Glenn Rudd brought to the Council the face book postings of Commissioner Roddenberry. Commissioner Rudd was delivered a copy of a post that Mr. Roddenberry made that was critical of a local business owner. The situation that resulted was explained to the rest of the Council. Mr. Rudd stated that he would like Mr. Roddenberry to remove any reference of being on the City Council from his personal face book page. He asked about the process for having a councilmember censured or reprimanded. Attorney Cox stated that social media policies are an attorney's nightmare and a "slippery slope". The Council requested that the Clerk further address the situation with Councilman Roddenberry.

No further business, the meeting adjourned.