

September 14, 2020

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, McKenzie, Roddenberry, and McClendon.

Councilman Roddenberry made a motion to approve the August 10, 2020 minutes as presented by the Clerk, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Mayor Edwards began the meeting instructing those in attendance how the public hearing on the proposed changes to the alcohol ordinance would be conducted; speaker forms, 2 minutes to speak, and hearing is being recorded.

At this time the Council entered the **1st public hearing** on changes to **Ordinance 2020-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Sopchoppy, Florida, amending the City of Sopchoppy Code of Ordinances Sections 4.5 and 4.6 Related to Sale of Alcoholic Beverages and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Premises; Providing for Severability; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict; and Providing an Effective Date.** Mayor Edwards read the proposed changes to the ordinance.

Elliott Seidler addressed the Council and those present, explaining what a taproom is and his proposal to open one within the city limits. Mr. Seidler stated the taproom would not serve beer on Sunday's and there will be food available (vendors/food trucks) anytime the taproom is open.

Pastor John Dunning presented a petition to the Council with 232 signatures opposing the establishment. The petition included residents from both inside and outside the city limits.

Pastor Bruce Taylor stated again he is 100% opposed to any sale of alcohol and definitely opposed to the proposed location.

Additionally, the following people addressed the Council, speaking either in favor of or against the ordinance change and/or location of the taproom:

Opposed

Billy Roddenberry
Richard Harden
Jennifer Bradley
Robert Jetton
Joyce Waldrop
Greg James
Susan Kitchens
Martha Evans
Michelle Harden

In Favor

Caroline Smith
Ace Haddock
Tyler Rice
Rachel Pienta
Paul Sheddan
Robert Seidler
Dave Pierce
Heather Buckingham
Brandon Willingham
Clayton Mathis
Andrea Cayson
Jack Rudloe

Mayor Edwards read emails received by City Clerk Ashley Schilling, addressed to the Council, from people either opposed or in favor of the change and/or location:

Opposed

Willard & Joyce Waldrop
Karen Moody
Cynthia Durrett
Richard & Joan Ganey

In Favor

Dean Grubbs
Mary K. Westmark
Matt Edwards
Maria Carter

Christie Holland
Frank & Evelyn Evans
Debbie & Johnny Moody
Brenda Anderson
Arlene Vause
Jennifer Raker
Regina Strickland
Patricia Shook
David Moody
Danita Pope

Councilman McKenzie proposed a referendum for the Council to consider the residents desires since it directly affects the citizens of the City of Sopchoppy.

Councilman Roddenberry asked if the ordinance would have to be amended if Mr. Seidler were selling food.

Attorney Dan Cox stated the property is zoned commercial and if Mr. Seidler meets the food sale requirements within the City ordinance, no amendment would be needed.

Mayor Edwards said the existing ordinance requires 75% food sales and 25% alcohol sales.

Councilman McClendon inquired how the City regulates food sales. Mr. McClendon was told the City could request a record of sales from the taproom.

Vice Mayor Lewis asked Mr. Seidler if he had a back-up business model that included the sale of food or does he need to come back to the Council with a revised plan.

Mr. Seidler stated since you can have a brewery in a restaurant, and he was going to ultimately sell food, he would go ahead if that is what it takes to open.

Attorney Cox told Mr. Seidler to get with County Planning and Zoning and make sure he meets all conditions they would require and then come back to the Council for approval of location.

Attorney Cox also told the Council they could approve the changes to the ordinance, but still not approve the location. Attorney Cox said he did not recommend holding a referendum, however, if the Council wanted to, he would recommend a straw ballot, non-binding referendum.

Vice-Mayor Lewis, Mayor Edwards, and Councilman Roddenberry indicated the majority of people who contacted them did not approve of the taproom but would approve of an establishment selling food and alcohol.

Councilmen McKenzie and McClendon feel more citizens would be heard if a referendum is held.

Mayor Edwards asked Attorney Cox, since Mr. Seidler is changing his business model does the Council need to proceed with the 2nd public hearing. Attorney Cox said no.

Several citizens spoke out regarding the change in plan.

Mayor Edwards stated the October public hearing would be cancelled since Mr. Seidler's plan is to now sale food.

After a short recess, the Council entered the **2nd public hearing and adoption for Ordinance 2020-01 – 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 2020-2021 Operating Year.** The ordinance was read by title only by Mayor Edwards. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by McKenzie, second by Roddenberry, 5/0.

Attorney Cox is working on an evaluation and appraisal report for the Comp Plan and will have it at the October meeting.

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

Clerk Schilling informed the Council one of the units at city hall needs to be either repaired (\$2,600) or replaced (\$6,400). Mrs. Schilling suggests replacing the unit as there has been a lot of repairs since installation. The Council approved replacing the unit.

Clerk Schilling also presented the Council with the one bid received for cleaning city hall. The Council approved to hire Handy Mandy at a cost of \$150 weekly. The cleaning will be done during normal business hours.

Mrs. Schilling received the FRDAP contract for the Myron B. Hodge City Park and will be submitting it.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tarrt said the plans are 75% complete related to the new tank close to Wakulla Middle School. DEP reported no findings during the 2020 sanitary survey of the water system.

Mr. Tarrt will be asking the state to incur costs associated with relocating approximately 340' of pipe along the bike trail running from Panacea to Wakulla High School.

North Florida Construction asked for a 10-day extension to complete the CDBG stormwater grant. All lines have been installed and Alan Hart, BDI, will ask the contractor to work thru the weekend.

Vice-Mayor Lewis asked if there is enough easement in front of the Lawhon House on Rose Street to install a sidewalk. Thurman Roddenberry told Leonard Tarrt the sidewalk may extend all the way to the right of way, but it could be installed. The Council instructed Mr. Tarrt to get prices for project. Mr. Tarrt said the sidewalk in front of the Masonic Hall needs to be replaced too.

Mayor Edwards received a price of \$16,000 to tear down Mom's Restaurant at the corner of Rose Street and Bernard Avenue. The City has inquired about leasing the property and putting down gravel for a parking lot to be used for the bike trail. Mr. Tarrt will contact the property owner again.

Mr. Lewis also asked Ashley Schilling to contact the owners of the property located across the street from the Myron B. Hodge City Park and see if they are interested in selling the property to the City so the City can extend the Park.

At this time Councilman McClendon left the meeting.

Councilman Roddenberry has heard concerns regarding his residency the remainder of his term in office. Mr. Roddenberry will still be residing at 77 Roddenberry Road until his term expires.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Roddenberry.