

April 11, 2022

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

Councilman McClendon made a motion to approve the March 14, 2022, minutes, second by McKenzie, 3/0.

Four citizen's (Michele Harden, Nancy Paul, Samantha Isaacs, Theo G. Rudd) submitted letters of interest to fill the two vacancies on the City Council. Each one spoke briefly to the Council.

Martha Evans, resident, and former Councilmember spoke in support of Glenn Rudd and Michele Harden. Mrs. Evans also stated this would be a good time to appoint new Mayor and Vice-Mayor.

Councilman McClendon does not agree with the appointment process, stating citizens should have a say in who serves on the Council.

Mayor Edwards made a motion to appoint Michele Harden and Nancy Paul. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilman McClendon made a motion to appoint Glenn Rudd and Michele Harden, second by McKenzie, passed 2/0, Mayor Edwards, nay.

Glenn Rudd and Michele Harden are sworn in by Attorney Dan Cox.

Evelyn Evans addresses the Council concerning the Worm Gruntin' Festival traffic and parking. Private driveways were blocked, commercial business lots were at capacity and cars parked in the 319 curve, along both sides. Parking signage and control is needed.

Arlene Vause, Depot Committee, expressed concern regarding the Committee not being consulted about the City replacing the Depot roof and stated the planned metal roof is incorrect.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt stated prior to the restoration of the Depot, it had a metal roof and reminded the Committee the City owns the building. Mr. Tartt said the shingled roof was not installed properly and has developed issues over time.

Nelson Martin, Depot Committee, questioned the roof needing to be replaced at all. Mr. Martin said the grant may prohibit a metal roof. Clerk Ashley Schilling said the grant requirement was for only 10 years.

Mayor Edwards explained the metal roof was voted on and approved in the March meeting and will move forward.

Elizabeth Carter, Friends of the Sopchoppy River, asked the Council to consider a resolution to have a County maintained park within the City limits. Mrs. Carter was instructed to get with Dan Cox to format the resolution and bring back for consideration.

Clerk Schilling presented **Resolution 2022-02** - A Resolution Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Amending The City Of Sopchoppy Administrative Manual Job Classifications And Salary Ranges And Providing An Effective Date. The Resolution will change the job classifications and salary ranges to the recommended changes established by the salary study.

Councilman McClendon expressed his concerns with current salaries. As the Councilman is speaking, Nelson Martin returns with some of the Depot shingles and interrupts the meeting, still expressing his displeasure with the roof being replaced. Attorney Cox calls order and Mr. Martin stormed out.

A **motion** to adopt Resolution 2022-02 was made by Harden, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Attorney Dan Cox presented **Resolution 2022-03** – A Resolution Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida, Authorizing The City's Participation In The Wakulla County Disaster Risk Analysis And Adaptation Plan And Providing An Effective Date. Attorney Cox explained participation is required, however it is funded by the state and administered by the County. A **motion** to adopt Resolution 2022-03 was made by Edwards, second by Harden, 5/0.

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council of the need to elect a Vice-Mayor. Councilman McKenzie made a motion to appoint Councilman McClendon as Vice-Mayor. Councilman McClendon asked if anyone else wanted the position. Councilman McClendon made a motion to appoint Councilman Rudd as Vice-Mayor, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

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

The City Clerk was contacted by a group regarding the possibility of placing a public safety communication tower at the City Park. The company is submitting an RFP to the County but must have a location secured. There is an existing tower located at the DOT yard and Clerk Schilling will contact the company to see if it can be utilized and/or upgraded or if another area within the DOT property would suffice.

Clerk Schilling requested approval to have James Moore & Company handle all ARPA reporting. The fee would be \$4,900 and can be paid out of the ARPA funds received by the City. The Council agreed to the request.

PWD Tartt reported the new water tower is up and painted and waiting on electrical and the new trucks are in. Mr. Tartt also stated BDI submitted a task order for \$17,000 to re-do the 2004 standards for contractors building into the water system.

Councilman McClendon suggested to help with Worm Gruntin' issues, trolleying festival attendees from the city park. Councilwoman Harden suggested parking at the gym and city park as well. Councilman McKenzie stated parking at the Mom's restaurant lot needs to be maximized.

Mayor Edwards agreed festival traffic needs to be addressed and thanked staff and SPIA for all the hard work preparing for the festival and suggested placing cones at residential driveways.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. Motion by McKenzie, second by Edwards.