

August 10, 2015

The Sopchoppy City Council held its regular August meeting. In attendance were: Mayor, Martha Evans, Councilmembers Glenn Rudd and Becton Roddenberry.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved in written form as presented. Rudd/Roddenberry, approved 3/0.

Citizens to be heard:

Shawn Lawhon, owner of C&L Construction – expressed his concerns with the bike trail crossing behind his business. There is 30’ between the business and the ditch, with the trail taking 25’ leaving him 5’. If this happens, he will have to move equipment and materials to the front of his shop, taking the parking area that is currently used by himself and patrons of Verlie Q’s. Mr. Lawhon also expressed safety concerns with the trail crossing on such a dangerous curve.

Councilmember Lewis joins the meeting at this time.

Harry Reed – CRPTA – Discussed options related to the bike trail crossing. He also proposed DOT do a feasibility study.

Options:

Clermont to Dickson

Byrd to Bernard

Clermont to Winter to Municipal

Closing the unopened street beside C&L Construction

Councilmember Edwards joins the meeting at this time.

Councilman Lewis would like to hear what DOT and CRPTA proposes but also instructed Dan Cox to proceed with closing the unopened road that runs between C&L and the Will Haynes property.

Councilman Lewis goes on record approving minutes of last meeting.

WCSO - Lorne Whaley – Deputy Whaley gave an update on the problems with the unsupervised youth in town and informed the Council that the Sheriff’s Department rescinded the trespass warnings due to miscommunication. Patrols are in progress and will continue until the end of August as requested by the Council. The parents of the children (except for one, who could not be located) have been contacted and informed that the warnings would be reissued if there is any further trouble.

At this time, the Council held the 1st public hearing on 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 2015-16 OPERATING YEAR (reading only).

David Edwards, resident of Sopchoppy, requested to speak on the budget. He would like to see tax dollars returned to the citizens in the form of improvements made within the City. Instead of “parking

the people's money" he feels we should have an ongoing project list and try to complete various projects (i.e., sidewalk repair, additional street lights on Municipal at Sopchoppy Pizza, downtown streetscape, pavilions at park in need of repair, etc.). Doing this could improve downtown viability. Commissioner Roddenberry agrees with Mr. Edwards, but be smart and spend wisely. Commissioners Rudd and Lewis indicated the need to get a grasp of the Depot Park before spending elsewhere.

The Council is to come back at the next meeting with ideas to adjust the budget or not, to incorporate any projects.

2nd public hearing on changes to the Maintenance Coordinator position description – motion to approve changes as presented which included changing the position title to Maintenance Technician. Edwards/Roddenberry – approved 5/0.

Justin Ford, Preble-Rish – Commissioner Edwards had approached Mr. Ford regarding a SCOP grant to pave dirt roads located inside the City limits. It is a 100% grant with no match funds needed. Mr. Ford has been working with Ms. Edwards and the City Clerk to complete the application to have Clermont/Dickson paved. The decision was made to change the application to Clermont/Winter or Roddenberry Road in trying to route the bike trail that direction, putting the crossover further away from the 319 curve. The application will be submitted with Clermont/Winter. (Note: After the meeting Mr. Ford looked at Roddenberry Rd. and determined the estimate exceeded the amount Preble-Rish recommended pursuing.)

Additionally, Mr. Ford spoke to the Council regarding the \$50,000 FRDAP grant application that he has put together for the Depot Park. Motion to proceed with submitting both grants. Edwards/Lewis, passed 5/0.

Commissioner Roddenberry presented six City logo options to the Council. After much discussion, and a few changes, Commissioner Roddenberry is to display 2 options in the lobby at City Hall to gather community input.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:15. Motion – Lewis/Rudd – 5/0.