

August 17, 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 July 12, 2021, minutes as presented by the Clerk, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Public Works Director thanked Mayor Edwards and Councilman McClendon for trimming the trees at the Dollar General.

Nancy Paul, Discover Sopchoppy, stated the Mullet Festival will be held September 17 & 18 at Depot Park. The 17th will consist of seminars and a mullet fry to benefit Jeff Tilley. The 18th will have vendors, games, contests, etc. The Committee requested approval to close Rose Street between Winthrop and Municipal on Saturday. The Council approved the request and asked the City Clerk to contact WCSO.

Lindsey Sparkman requested use of Depot Park on October 30 for a community Light the Night festival. Mrs. Sparkman is coordinating the event with local churches. The Council instructed Mrs. Sparkman to obtain event liability insurance listing the City, stating most churches should already have such and an existing policy could be amended to cover the festival.

Mark Holcombe, Evergreen Solutions, presented findings and recommendations related to the salary study. The Council requested a copy of the presentation be sent to each of them along with current salaries.

The Council entered into the **1st public hearing for 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. The Ordinance was presented by Clerk Schilling and read by title only.

The Council entered into the **1st public hearing for 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. The Ordinance was presented by Clerk Schilling and read by title only. Vice Mayor Lewis owns land adjacent to the alley and filed a form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict, which is incorporated in these minutes.

The Council entered into the **1st public hearing for 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. The Ordinance was presented by Clerk Schilling and read by title only. The increase is in meter set fees due to market costs rising. Clerk Schilling will work with staff and MuniLink on return check fee recommendations.

Clerk Schilling presented the Council with Amendment #2 related to the Sewer Billing Agreement between the City and County. Currently, the County pays the City \$1.50 per sewer account and offered a

\$0.25 per sewer account increase. A motion to accept \$1.75 per sewer account was made by Harden, second by Edwards, 5/0.

Attorney Cox is preparing to send Florida Division of Retirement a Declaratory Statement related to Councilmembers Lewis and Harden continuing to serve on the Council upon their exit from the DROP Program. The state will have 60 days to respond.

Effective July 1, a Privacy Rights Element must be included in Comp Plans. A Transmittal Hearing must be held in September to submit the City's Comp Plan by the end of the year.

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

With auditing laws and regulations changing, Chris Cayer, with Brooks, Harrison and Cayer, informed Clerk Schilling BHC will no longer conduct the City's yearly audit. Mr. Cayer will continue to be the City's outside certified auditor and prepare the City for each yearly audit. Laws require an Audit Selection Committee. A motion was made by Mayor Edwards to appoint Chris Cayer, Clerk Schilling, and Deputy Clerk Evans to the Committee, second by McKenzie, 5/0. Clerk Schilling will advertise a Request for Proposal for Auditing Services.

A request was sent to the City to sponsor the annual Storywalk held at Azalea Park. However, the Council would like to sponsor and participate in the Light the Night festival being held at Depot Park.

Operation Santa contacted Clerk Schilling, looking for early commitment from sponsors this year. The Council approved a sponsorship of \$500.00.

Clerk Schilling reminded the Council Sand County Studios along with Keith Engineering will be conducting a workshop to kick off the downtown overlay and 319 corridor project, Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30.

Leonard Tartt informed the Council while a city employee was mowing the right of way's, he was approached by a citizen, who threw trash on the employee. WCSO was called and a report filed.

Mr. Tartt was contacted regarding servicing a potential 861-acre subdivision off Rehwinkel Road and Alexander. Baskerville-Donovan would have to conduct a study to see if the City can support it with cost of study being paid by developer. Attorney Cox stated the developer should also pay a proportionate share of infrastructure costs.

Citizens have contacted Mr. Tartt regarding traffic calming devices for downtown. Mr. Tartt will contact Tim Potter, City of Tallahassee, to obtain specs.

Councilman Harden asked about the next phase of the stormwater grant. Alan Hart, BDI stated the City will be applying for a CDBG Mitigation Grant along with a CDBG grant. The next phase will depend on funding.

Marva Preston contacted Mayor Edwards requesting to install a Blessing Box (food pantry) somewhere along Rose Street.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by McKenzie.