

December 8, 2014

The Sopchoppy City Council met for the regular monthly meeting. In attendance were Mayor, Martha Evans and Councilmen Lara Edwards, Nathan Lewis and Glenn Rudd.

The meeting was opened in prayer and with a salute to the flag.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved in written form on a motion from Lara Edwards seconded by Nathan Lewis and passed 4/0 by the Council.

Lara Edwards made the motion to adopt **Ordinance 2014-09: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) PURSUANT TO THE SMALL SCALE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ACT, CHAPTER 163, PART II, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** The motion was seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/0 by the Council.

The Council held the 1st Public Hearing and Reading of **Ordinance 2015-01: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF SOPCHOPPY ZONING MAP BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE ZONING FOR THE AFFECTED PARCEL FROM RESIDENTIAL (R-3) TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL (C-2); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Council reviewed and discussed the process for choosing a Design and Engineering firm to design the Sopchoppy Depot Park. Each Council member ranked the Statement of Qualifications of the presenting firms and were compiled in the following order: 1. Genesis Group, 2. Wood Partners, and 3. Wilderness Graphics. Nathan Lewis made the motion to approve the three firms in the order determined by the Council and to begin the process of engaging Genesis Group for the scope of work, budget and fees. The motion was seconded by Glenn Rudd and passed 4/0 by the Council.

Individual Rankings:

Glenn Rudd:	1. Genesis	2. Wood Partners	3. Wilderness Graphics
Nathan Lewis:	1. Genesis	2. Wood Partners	3. Wilderness Graphics
Martha Evans:	1. Genesis	2. Wood Partners	3. Wilderness Graphics
Lara Edwards:	1. Genesis	2. Wilderness Graphics	3. Wood Partners

The Council held further discussion on the special Legislative funding request. A determination was made to request funding for the Stormwater II project including project management fees.

Lara Edwards made the motion to approve Resolution 2014-02: **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SOPCHOPPY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT THAT THE DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY (RAO), FORMERLY KNOWN AS RURAL AREA OF CRITICAL ECONOMIC CONCERN(RACEC) CONTINUE TO APPLY TO THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION INCORPORATING CALHOUN, FRANKLIN, GADSDEN, GULF, HOLMES, JACKSON, LIBERTY, WAKULLA, WASHINGTON AND THE CITY OF FREEPORT (INCLUDING THE CITIES, TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES WITHIN EACH); AND, THAT ALL ENTERPRISE ZONES IN THESE COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO EXIST; AND THE CONTINUATION OF ALL STAFFING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INCORPORATED, D/B/A OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA, THROUGH FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND ADMINISTERED THROUGH FLORIDA'S DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, AND PROVING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 8, 2015.** Glenn Rudd seconded the motion which was passed by the council 4/0.

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

The Clerk reported to the Council that the current cost for the automatic meter read change-out program is exceeding the approved amount by \$95,716.44. The cost over-run is due to the system having more meters than previously estimated, changing out meters currently not in use, and meter size differences as well as contracting out all installation costs. The City expects to return approximately \$10,000 of wrong size meters for credit, therefore reducing the overage cost and selling the old meters to re-coup some costs. Lara Edwards made the motion to approve the overage costs, seconded by Nathan Lewis and passed 4/0 by the Council.

Eddie Evans joined the meeting at this time.

Staff was given permission to come back to the council with a revision to Ordinance 2002-01 which regulates water rates.

Eddie Evans verbally resigned from the Council effective tonight due to moving outside the City Limits. The Council discussed Ordinance 2014-01 providing for appointment of a council member to fill vacancies. Council members decided to wait a few months to act on an appointment.

Leonard Tarrt reported that he has had inspections and wash downs on all the tanks and towers within the system.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.