

December 10, 2018

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.

Councilmembers Edwards and McClendon were sworn into office for a 4 year term ending November 2022.

Mayor Edwards and Roddenberry wanted to clarify the health insurance policy as recorded in the minutes for the November 2018 meeting. Attorney Dan Cox stated the policy was recorded as presented and passed by the Council. The minutes were approved as presented by the Clerk. Motion by McKenzie, second by Lewis, 5/0.

Martha Evans, citizen, reminded the Council now would be the time to reorganize and elect new Mayor/Vice-Mayor if they would like too. Also, with new committee members running the Christmas in Sopchoppy and Worm Gruntin' festivals, the new members need to be told vehicles are not allowed inside Depot Park.

Mayor Edwards and Clerk Schilling met with Brett Hammond regarding a master plan for the Myron B. Hodge City Park. Mr. Hammond returned an estimate to take all elements of the upcoming FRDAP applications and place them on a master plan at a cost of \$6,946.00, or to produce a 3-D study of the current pavilion at a cost of \$3,900.00. Councilmember McKenzie recommended waiting to see if the City is awarded the FRDAP grant before proceeding with master plan. Mayor Edwards suggested re-addressing McKenzie's recommendation on spending park revenue on future park improvements.

Clerk Schilling reminded the Council the SCOP application cycle opened December 10 and asked if Council would like to submit any paving/resurfacing requests. Council instructed Mrs. Schilling to contact Justin Ford, Dewberry, and start application process to request resurfacing of Park Avenue.

Attorney Cox is working on the lease for 110 Municipal Avenue between the City and Manna Mission.

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

The City received a sponsorship request from Wakulla High School Basketball. A motion was made by Lewis for a 3' x 5' wall sign (\$250.00), second by Edwards, 5/0. With more sponsorship requests coming in, the Council would like to discuss and set procedures for future requests.

Public Works Director, Leonard Tartt, and Clerk Schilling visited the Wakulla Environmental Institute. When the Institute project began the City proposed placing a 250,000 – 300,000 gallon elevated water tank on the property, benefitting WEI and their expansion plans, and with County growth, the City could benefit citizens with fire flow, safety and health. Sopchoppy could apply as a municipality for Triumph funding to assist with construction of the tank. Mr. Tartt suggested collaboration with TCC/WEI to apply for funds. Councilmember McClendon suggested looking at water rates in case the City has to pay for the new tank.

Mayor Edwards and Leonard Tartt will meet regarding the hydraulic modeling received from Baskerville-Donovan and possibly present it to the Council in January.

Councilman Roddenberry expressed his appreciation to Councilman McClendon for cleaning/washing the wall at the Express Lane.

Roddenberry stated the Christmas lights downtown are festive; maybe work with Duke Energy to have a power source installed on the pole at Rose/Municipal so lights can be placed there as well. He also suggested placing a nativity scene and Christmas tree in Depot Park in the future.

Mr. Roddenberry inquired about the Depot Park music pavilion. The bid process should begin sometime in January.

Councilman Roddenberry would like to look at improvements planned for the City Park as well as profit/loss statements for the last two years. He has researched a lot of parks and Sopchoppy is on the low end of the spectrum (nightly - \$15 City, \$18 Ochlocknee, \$27 Newport). Increasing rates could benefit park improvements. Mr. Roddenberry would like to discuss this at the February meeting.

Roddenberry addressed complaints regarding upkeep at the City Park. Mr. Tartt as well as other staff, on several occasions, has spoken to Mr. Spears, the park resident, about neglecting his duties. Councilman Roddenberry proposed presenting Mr. Spears with a written disciplinary action. Leonard Tartt and Tom Barton will prepare the reprimand and present it to Mr. Spears, and at same time, make sure he is fully aware of what his duties entail. Once signed, if Mr. Spears continues to neglect his responsibilities, then he will be asked to appear before the full Council.

Mayor Edwards recognized the Depot Park native planting volunteers as well as all involved with the project. Lynn Artz thanked the City for purchasing the plants, as well as Sammy Tedder and David Roddenberry for their many extra hours, and Betsy Smith for the design.

Councilmember McKenzie would like to have the sewer billing cost information presented at the January meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Roddenberry.