

February 12, 2024

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

A motion to approve the January 8, 2024, minutes was made by Rudd, second by Edwards, 5/0.

Abbigail Lawhon, representing the Wakulla High School softball team, presented a sponsorship renewal request to the Council. A motion to award the 4' x 6' sign renewal for \$200 was made by Edwards, second by McKenzie, 5/0.

Wade Brown with Edwin Brown and Associates presented a water capacity letter to the Council for consideration and approval. It specifically addresses 49.9 acres on Barber Road. The letter does not guarantee or promise capacity once the project begins but is needed by Wakulla County for the developer to move forward with the project.

Attorney Dan Cox stated at this time the city does not have the capacity available but potentially will in late 2025, early 2026 with the upgrade of Well 7. Attorney Cox will work with Public Works Director Seth Green to compose a letter that will include specific conditions but still meet the needs of the developers and County requirements.

Dyana Stewart with Florida Rural Water Association presented the rate study to the Council. The Council was given three scenarios to choose from. The Council agreed on S2, which makes inside and outside rates the same, with no use of reserves. Attorney Cox will draft the ordinance for a 1st reading in March and 2nd reading and adoption in April. Cox recommends advertising the increase in the paper and on the website and possibly a separate mailout to customers.

Attorney Cox will draft an ordinance for 1st public hearing in March to adopt the approved capacity fee of \$7,900 per meter purchase.

Attorney Cox presented the Council the EAR Report, Chapter 9, Property Rights Element, and the Capital Improvement Plan for consideration. Councilmembers are to contact Cox with any changes or questions prior to the Transmittal Hearing in March.

The Depot Committee submitted a request to remove Chris Brown from the committee and appoint Danny Flynn to take his place. The request was approved.

The financials and adjustments were approved by signature of the Council.

Attorney Cox discussed employee's earning comp time and how much can be earned and how and if it should be paid. After much discussion, Attorney Cox will reach out to an attorney pool and bring his findings back to the Council.

PWD Green reported well 7 was down for repair but in the process of coming back on-line.

Mayor Rudd stated since the culverts were installed at the end of Municipal and Ben Isler the dirt is washing into the ditch and road and the developer needs to come fix the issue.

Councilmember Edwards stated the city park needs to be edged, weeded and buildings washed for the season.

Vice Mayor McKenzie and Nathan Lewis spoke to School Superintendent Bobby Pearce and the School Board is ready to proceed with transferring the school property to the City. Pearce is not asking for a commitment from the city but looking for interest from the city before moving forward. The council discussed the need for more financial information including expenses, upkeep, grant progress, etc., before making a decision. McKenzie and Lewis will contact Mr. Pearce with the Councils interest and request.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. Motion by Edwards, second by Rudd.