

June 14, 2021

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

Nathan Lewis made a motion to approve the May 10, 2021, minutes as presented by the Clerk, second by Harden, 4/0.

Nancy Paul, Discover Sopchoppy, reported the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Oyster Festival was very successful, with over 60 vendors and a large crowd. The committee is planning to hold a Mullet festival in October, and a Bird's and Bees in January. Ms. Paul presented the Friends of the Sopchoppy River a check for \$500 to help with the river access project; and the City of Sopchoppy a check for \$1,000 to enhance Depot Park.

The City Clerk, Ashley Schilling, presented **Resolution 2021-03** – A Resolution of the City of Sopchoppy, Florida, amending the City of Sopchoppy Position Classification Plan to Reflect New Salary Ranges and Classification Grades and Providing an Effective Date. - To hire the Plant Operator, with the proposed salary, the position needs to be moved from a Class C position to a Class E. A motion to hire Seth Green as the Plant Operator with a salary of \$53,000 was made by Lewis, second by Harden, 4/0. Attorney Cox stated the City should explain to Mr. Green the Council is in the process of adjusting the salary ranges and will ensure the pay raise to Public Works Director will be commensurate to that position.

Attorney Cox will be holding ethics training July 17 in Sneads, FL. Mr. Cox reminded the Council their Form 1 is due to the Supervisor of Elections by July 1.

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

Clerk Schilling reported 32 people applied for the Utility Billing Clerk position. Mrs. Schilling will be interviewing 10 of those and requested approval of a starting salary of \$15.00/hr, \$31,200 annual. Council approved the request.

Council would like a salary study done to incorporate with the budget workshop this year.

Clerk Schilling recommended the Council pay-off the 2 SRF loans and finance only the new well 3 tank with Prime Meridian for 60 months, with a 2.25% rate.

A motion was made by Harden to pay off the 2 SRF loans and finance the new tank, second by Lewis, 4/0.

Councilman Harden reported Patsy Roberts is good with the sidewalk being installed in front of the Lawhon house. Attorney Cox suggested an easement. Roddenberry Surveying will need to provide a legal description of the sidewalk placement.

Councilman Harden inquired about the path and handrails at the City Park. The sidewalk path is included in the FRDAP grant and the handrails for the stage need to be ordered.

The Council set Monday, July 19 and Monday, August 2, 2021 (if necessary), for budget workshops. With rising costs, the Council instructed staff to track the price of pipe and employee time to install new meters, to ensure the current meter set fee is adequate.

Councilman McClendon asked about the downtown design and zoning changes. Clerk Schilling stated the City just received the contract from Sand County and once signed, they will provide a notice to proceed.

Councilman McClendon reported the Wakulla Girls Softball Association tournament that the City sponsored, was well attended. Thirty-seven teams participated. Mr. McClendon assisted in passing out rings to 4 teams. If possible, he would like the City to sponsor the event again.

Mayor Edwards reminded the Council if the City had a fee schedule for Depot Park in place, the Oyster Festival would have provided \$1,300 in income thru vendors. Mrs. Edwards will send Attorney Cox her thoughts on a fee schedule for Depot Park. Attorney Cox will present something at the next meeting.

Mayor Edwards also stated the Depot Park irrigation expansion for the Wildflower Grant needs to be installed. The City will supply all material and Derek Allen Lawn Service submitted a \$1,500 labor cost. Once the grant is final, Mrs. Edwards would like to hire a photographer to take photos for the website.

Vice Mayor Lewis stated there are several holes in streets that need to be addressed by Wakulla County Public Works. (Gulf/Yellow Jacket, Yellow Jacket/Dickson, Faith/Dickson)

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. Motion by Lewis, second by Harden.