

September 11, 2023

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

A motion to approve the August 14, 2023, minutes was made by McKenzie, second by Harden, 4/0.

Rachel Pienta and members of Wakulla 4-H submitted a sponsorship request to the Council for consideration for the upcoming fiscal year. The sponsorship will go towards a Senior Center project, care boxes to benefit the Senior Center, Blessing Boxes, etc. A **motion** was made by McKenzie to award a Platinum Clover Sponsorship (\$1,000), second by McClendon, 4/0.

Stewart Haire, D. R. Horton, attended the meeting at the request of the Council to discuss Horton's offer to donate land to the City for infrastructure in exchange for a water capacity letter. Once purchased, D. R. Horton is offering to donate 2 acres (possibly more) in the proposed Forbes Farm Subdivision for a well site.

Attorney Cox stated the City is willing to work with D. R. Horton but must complete the updated Master Plan first. PWD Seth Green stated DEP does not see any apparent issues with the property. FRWA liked the location. Green also stated 2 acres would accommodate a well site, however a larger parcel would be better for a larger facility. County Administrator, David Edwards, suggested a general agreement between the City and Horton to allow studies on the property.

The Council held the **2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-04** - 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 2023-2024 Operating Year. A **motion** to approve Ordinance 2023-04 was made by Edwards, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

The Council held the **1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-05** - An Ordinance Of The City Of Sopchoppy, Florida Vacating The City's Interest In Those Portions Of The Alley Lying Between Wakulla Street And The Abandoned Portions Of Mill Street In The Block Bounded By Municipal Avenue And Railroad 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 read by title only by Clerk Schilling.

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

Light the Night would like to hold a festival at Depot Park October 28, 5–8 p.m. The Council approved the request.

PWD Green reported the contract for the Harvey Pittman property by Well 7 has been signed. A **motion** to proceed with purchasing the property was made by Edwards, second by McKenzie, 4/0.

Green reported the City is still waiting for the County to meet DEP standards in order to move forward with the intended use of the property once it is purchased. He also reported the upgraded lines have been installed on Surf Road, the hydrants are in, and pressures tests are being done.

BDI is still working on the Master Plan and hopes to have it done by the end of this year.

The City is testing a new SCADA system. Units have been installed at two wells to test the system. The new system could potentially save the City \$100,000.

Councilwoman Harden stated several citizens have asked her about progress on the City acquiring the Sopchoppy School. Clerk Schilling reported WCSB has not indicated when or if they will move forward.

Mayor Edwards presented the Trail Town Designation sign to the Council. There are only 11 towns in Florida with this prestigious designation, Sopchoppy being the smallest.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Motion by McKenzie, second by Edwards.