

The budget public hearing of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola held on September 13, 2011 at 6:00 PM was recessed and continued on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 6:00 PM with a special meeting following at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Brenda Ash, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Cindy Summerhill, Robert Graham, Denise Roux, Stephanie Howze, Megan Andrews, Megan Newell, Anthony Croom, William Cox, Chet Turner, Pam Lewis, Susan Clementson, Shirley Byrd, Tom Gray, Judy Stokowski, Marjorie Solomon, Steve James, Javion Whitfield, Caty Greene, Joe Taylor, David Adlerstein, Timmy Davis, Lynda Smith, Tami Ray Hutchins, Zach Armistead, Polly Holmes, Tiffany Varnes, Morgan Newell, Ed Springer, Sally Croom, Marilyn Hogan, Judy Cook, Virginia Cole, Candace Springer, Clarice Powell, Shirley Taylor, John Layne, Paulette Moss

Prayer and pledge.

Mayor Johnson opened the recessed budget public hearing held on September 13, 2011.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2011-2012 BUDGET

Commissioner Ash stated she has had the opportunity to listen to City staff and return phone calls. This is not an easy process. Times are hard and everyone is all trying to do the will of the City. Commissioner Ash stated that she is hearing that City employees should not have a raise, but the City is willing to keep the revenues down and keep the employees happy. Commissioner Ash stated she recommends reimbursing employees the 3% retirement payroll deduction for this year and readdressing next year, and taking the millage down to 9.1735 mills. Commissioner Ash stated she would like to keep the idea open that the Commission looks at giving some type of bonus at the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year if the funds are available.

Commissioner Bartley stated what is the City going to do when the millage rate is maxed out at 10 mills.

Commissioner Ash stated everyone knows that property values are not increasing at this time. There are things the City can do to increase revenues. There is still a lot of work to do. This is about the betterment of the City and we all have to look at the whole picture.

Commissioner Elliott asked when the City had to lay off before, was it one person from each department.

Ms. Webb stated yes, it was one person from each department.

Commissioner Elliott stated he agrees with Commissioner Ash. Economic times are tough.

Commissioner Cook stated he concurs also. The Commission is just going to have to evaluate the situation as the year goes on. The City can find ways to increase savings throughout the year. If the City can save sufficient money, then it will help our situation and we will have a better product if we all work together.

There being no further comment, public hearing closed.

SPECIAL MEETING

TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2011-2012 MILLAGE RATE – RESOLUTION 2011-05

Motion to tentatively adopt FY 2011-2012 millage rate at 9.1735 mills made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

1ST READING ORDINANCE 2011-04 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2011-2012 BUDGET

Ms. Webb read Ordinance 2011-04 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA ADOPTING THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Motion to not reimburse employees 3% for retirement deduction and not authorize 2% employee pay raise made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion failed 2 to 3.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Bartley

Voting Nay: Cook, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Motion to tentatively adopt 2011-2012 budget with 9.1735 mills with reimbursing employees 3% retirement payroll deduction made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 3 to 2.

Voting Aye: Cook, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Denise Roux expressed concern about using Key Estate Funds to use for Library operation expenses.

Commissioner Cook stated the Key Funds are being used to pay for the full time Library employee.

Motion to eliminate \$30,000 Key Estate Fund from General Fund revenue and pay the Library \$20,000 per year for operation expenses, with the librarian being paid from the \$20,000, made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Commissioner Ash asked who runs the library, the Library Board or the Commission.

Denise Roux stated the Library Board is an advisory board to the City. The Library Board does interact closely with the Library on a daily basis.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk