

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 6:00 PM 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, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Gracie O'Neal, Sally Williamson, Joe Taylor, Mike Standley, Liz Kelsey, Steve Bonifay, Anita Grove, James Baker, Geoffrey Hewell, Ken Schroeder, Clarice Powell, Caty Greene, David Adlerstein, George Watkins, Barbara Holmes, Carrie Kienzle, Jim Waddell, Uta Hardy, Dan Rosier

Regular meeting opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve March minutes made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve February bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Anita Grove submitted written report to Commission.

TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM REPORT

James Waddell submitted verbal report to Commission. Mr. Waddell stated the Traffic Safety Team is reviewing the language for the Traffic Circulation Element of the comprehensive plan per Ms. Webb's request. The grant to obtain school supplies is moving forward. The reimbursable grant for the police department has fallen through.

FRANKLIN'S PROMISE REPORT

Joe Taylor submitted written report to Commission.

Ms. Webb outlined summer recreation program stating she wants to work with Mr. Taylor's volunteer group to help with summer program.

HISTORIC APALACHICOLA, INC. REPORT

Joe Taylor submitted written report to Commission.

LIBRARY REPORT

Caty Greene submitted written report to Commission.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Geoffrey Hewell gave verbal report to Commission.

Mayor Johnson asked if he and Ms. Webb have yet discussed permit enforcement.

Ms. Webb stated she and Mr. Hewell have not yet met to discuss enforcement issues.

Lawrence Sangaree fence issue discussed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

George Watkins submitted verbal report to Commission. Mr. Watkins stated the fire department members voted to dedicate the new truck to all the deceased members who served on the fire department.

Commissioner Ash asked if there was going to be an official grand opening of the new police/fire station.

Ms. Webb stated she was trying to get the roof secured and let the police department get moved in before an official dedication ceremony is held.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Varnes submitted written report to Commission.

Clarice Powell stated there are people driving golf carts while holding young children.

Chief Varnes stated golf cart ordinance will need to be modified to address this issue, but officers will be made aware of problem.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Ms. Webb stated she met with Willoughby Marshall to discuss Lafayette Park renovations.

Sally Williamson asked if a fee has been discussed for use of Lafayette Park.

Ms. Webb stated a fee will be addressed when renovations are complete.

2. George Watkins addressed non-working street lights.

Mr. Hewell stated he addressed this issue with Bobby Pickles and was told that trees are in the power wires. Once trees are trimmed then wires can be repaired.

3. Ms. Webb stated that contracts have been signed for Holy Family.

Commissioner Ash stated she would like to get the community involved in doing some landscaping activities around Holy Family.

4. Ms. Webb stated that Ken Schroeder is present to discuss issues involving the alleyway and parking area around his residence.

Mr. Schroeder stated the City put some material into the parking area today, but it is really dirty and is afraid there will be a lot of mud when it gets wet. Mr. Schroeder stated the cement curbing is draining the water off perfectly but something permanent needs to be done with ditch draining to manhole.

Ms. Webb stated she plans to visit site tomorrow to determine what needs to be done to get problem permanently resolved.

5. Ms. Webb stated the City has a vacancy for a WWTP operator. DEP has given the City an extension until position can be filled. There has been one application received for this advertised position. Ms. Webb stated that Carl Mayo has retired, and would like to fill that position in-house.

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to fill WWTP operator position and to fill position vacated by Carl Mayo in-house made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

6. Motion to authorize payment for Attorney Floyd's March services rendered made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

7. Commissioner Ash asked about the status of the TDC signage project.

Ms. Webb gave update on progress.

8. Commissioner Ash asked the timeline for completions for Lafayette Park.

Ms. Webb stated renovations should be completed sometime in June.

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

1. Dan Rosier addressed issue regarding land trust. Mr. Rosier stated that when the City and County did the land swap, there was a revert clause included. There are homes being built on 4 lots in the land trust, and USDA can't give loan due to reverter clause.

Attorney Floyd stated the reverter clause makes sure the property is going to be used for what is stated. The deeds were executed and recorded and now a change needs to be made so loans can be issued. Attorney Floyd stated he has no objection to the change because the land trust is to be used for affordable housing. Attorney Floyd stated he will contact USDA to see what actually needs to be done so people can obtain the loans, and will have an answer to Mr. Rosier by Friday.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

1. James Baker addressed cars playing loud music.

Chief Varnes stated he will give Mr. Baker his cell phone number so he can call when incident happens.

2. Clarice Powell thanked the police department for securing the Ed Cass property.

3. Barbara Holmes requested permission to set up a small produce stand in Battery Park.

Motion to allow Barbara Holmes to set up small produce stand in Battery Park contingent upon meeting all health regulations and limit to local people only made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mayor Johnson stated the County is seeking a CDBG grant to extend fire protection to Southland sub division. The County needs City approval because it will have to hook into the City water system.

Commission in favor of extending fire protection and allowing the County to hooking into the City's water system.

Commission authorized Ms. Webb to write letter showing Commission support of project.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk