

A special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

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

Visitors: Mike Standley, Liz Kelsey, Geoffrey Hewell, William Poloronis, Uta Hardy, Carrie Kienzle, Anita Grove, Robin Vroegrop, Jim Bachrach, John Hawkin

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Motion to approve May bill list made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

### **PLANNING & ZONING REPORT**

Geoffrey Hewell gave verbal report to Commission.

William Poloronis stated he is requesting to install an awning over the City right of way on building located on Avenue F and Market Street. Planning & Zoning conceptually approved plans but still needs to get approval for awning over City right of way.

Mr. Poloronis explained sidewalk modifications.

Mr. Hewell stated that Planning & Zoning has requested a complete set of plans.

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Attorney Floyd stated the only thing Mr. Poloronis is asking Commission permission is to install awning over City right of way.

Discussion held concerning plans.

Motion to approve William Poloronis to install awning over City right of way on building located on Avenue F and Market Street made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Bartley, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Motion to confirm May Planning & Zoning minutes made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. Ms. Webb stated the City has been declared area of public assistance which qualifies the City for FEMA funding. Ms. Webb recommends hiring a cleanup crew to help remove debris from the entire town. Ms. Webb stated that the City crews need some additional help in removing debris.

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to proceed with hiring cleanup crew to help remove storm debris to be paid with FEMA funds made by Commissioner Bartley.

Commissioner Bartley asked if the City has to put this out for bid.

Ms. Webb stated it does not have to go out for bid in an emergency situation. Ms. Webb stated she will try to use all local people.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Robin Vroegrop asked if the County assisted the City in debris removal.

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Mayor Johnson stated the City could pay overtime to get it done, but the landfill will not be open to dispose of debris.

Ms. Webb stated the City doesn't have the manpower at this time to do this clean sweep of the entire City. Ms. Webb stated she is waiting on FEMA to get process on how City should proceed and to get approval.

2. Ms. Webb presented the City of Apalachicola Museum Trail Brochure & Map that was paid for through TDC funds.

3. Ms. Webb presented plaque to Commission from U. S. Operations Command to thank Commission for their support.

4. Ms. Webb submitted written department reports to Commission.
5. Motion to authorize payment for Attorney Floyd invoice made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Bartley, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

6. Mayor Johnson asked Ms. Mathes the status of the budget process.

Ms. Mathes stated a special meeting will have to be held later in month to tentatively set the millage rate but did not know the School Board or County hearing dates at this time.

7. Geoffrey Hewell asked the status of the kiosks.

Ms. Webb stated the map is being finalized and should be completed shortly.

#### **ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT**

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on ACOE litigation. Attorney Floyd stated letter requested by Tom Daly to Progress Energy is being drafted. Attorney Floyd outlined the Restore Act which offers preservation for coastal restoration.

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#### **OTHER VISITORS AND COMMENTS**

1. Anita Grove submitted article *Oyster Town* to Commission. Ms. Grove stated in the past the City has partnered with the Chamber on several events. Ms. Grove stated she is working on TDC applications for the Chamber of Commerce and would like to know if the City would like to continue partnering on Chamber events.

Mayor Johnson stated absolutely.

#### **MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

1. Mayor Johnson thanked the City staff for all that was done for the fireworks.
2. Anita Grove stated the palm trees on Commerce Street need to be trimmed.

Ms. Webb stated she thought the crews just trimmed them, but will check.

3. Robin Vroegrop commended the Fire Department on their jaws of life training and knowledge and stated the Police and Fire Departments have done a marvelous job dealing with the accidents on the bridge.

4. Mayor Johnson asked when the Police/Fire Station open house will be held.

Ms. Webb stated just as soon as the Fire Department is completely moved in.

5. Commissioner Bartley thanked Police Department and all City workers for a job well done after the storm.

6. Commissioner Elliott stated that the Battery Park basin needs dredging and was wondering if it would be possible to use Progress Energy's crane because it is already here and docked at the basin.

Ms. Webb stated she was going to check with the Corps of Engineers to get a timeline when they would be dredging, but Progress Energy may be willing to swap rent for a little dredging.

Commissioner Elliott stated maybe the City could take advantage of this opportunity while the crane is here.

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

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Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk