

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 6:00 PM in 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, City Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Jim Bachrach, Shirley Taylor, Joe Blan, Tom Morgan, Jack Wells, Lynn Spohrer, Bill Spohrer, Liz Kelsey, Mike Standley, Anita Grove, Gene Osburn, Geoffrey Hewell, Norma Hewell, Jan Thomas, Ginny Griner, Will Rosenbaon, George Watkins, Paulette Moss, Ed Springer, Rhonda Smeby, Steve Smeby, Jim Philyaw, Rita Sawyer, Beverly Hewitt, Kevin Scott, Themo Patriotis, Fred Sawyer, Susan Richardson, Jean Gerard, Susan Clementson, Lucrita Siprell, Julie Sizemore, Nina Marks, Robin Vroegrop, Carol Barfield, Jimmy Creamer, Carolyn Creamer, Patsy Philyaw, Joe Taylor, David Adlerstein, Jenny Trammell

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

* Shirley Taylor stated that Denise Roux has resigned from the Library Board. Ms. Taylor submitted Deborah Beard and Sue Cronkite as possible replacements.

Motion to appoint Deborah Beard to the Library Board made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

* George Watkins submitted verbal Fire Department monthly report to the Commission. Chief Watkins also expressed concern over an incident he had with the Franklin County Sheriff Department.

Commissioner Elliott stated a letter should be written to the Sheriff Department regarding the incident.

Mayor Johnson stated he has placed a call in with Sheriff Shiver but has yet to hear back from him.

Commissioner Ash stated she also placed a call with the Sheriff Department but has not heard back either.

Motion to write letter to Sheriff Department regarding incident with Chief Watkins made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

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

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Webb stated advertisement was placed in paper for Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning vacancies. There is one vacancy on Planning & Zoning, one vacancy on Board of Adjustment, and two vacancies on Housing Authority Board. Ms. Webb reported that Selena Noblit, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, has submitted names of two applicants, Gene Osburn and Jinny Trammell for the Housing Authority Board and that two additional applicants have contacted the City directly after making a request to Ms. Noblit with their desire to be considered for the vacancies, Ginny Griner and Rhonda Smeby. Ms. Webb stated she has prepared a tally sheet with all the names for all the boards if the Commission chooses to go that route. Ms. Webb stated there has been a recommendation to appoint an alternate to the Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment Boards.

Tom Daly stated that having alternates provides a training tool.

Commissioner Cook stated being appointed to the Planning & Zoning or Board of Adjustment Boards requires a lot of studying and reading on the rules and regulations.

Attorney Floyd asked if the alternate would attend the meetings and not have voting privileges.

Ms. Webb stated the alternate would probably attend the meetings, but if there was a quorum then they would not need to participate.

Commission filled out tally sheets and submitted to Ms. Webb. Appointments will be made later in meeting once tally totals are complete.

METHODIST CHURCH DRAINAGE PROJECT

Ms. Webb stated that this project was previously approved to be completed when the Local Option Gas Tax fund was replenished, the fund now has sufficient amount to fund the project that will costs approximately \$23,000, with expenses coming from LOGT.

Motion to allocate approximately \$23,000 LOGT funds for Methodist Church drainage project made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

William Rosenbaon stated he lives next to Methodist Church and he does not want the drainage project to flood his property worse than it already does.

Ms. Webb stated the drainage project covers the entire alley; therefore it should improve any flooding problems that occur.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Ms. Webb stated the Main Street project was approved with one opposing, and also the fish cleaning structure in Neels Addition that does not meet 5' setback requirement from City easement was approved to remain in its existing location.

Tom Morgan outlined the Main Street project design. Mr. Morgan stated project will be funded through private donations. Planning & Zoning Board approved project with a 5 to 1 vote.

Motion to approve Main Street project as outlined by Mr. Morgan made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Jim Bachrach asked if the motion could be amended to include technical assistance from the City's water department.

Ms. Webb stated motion also should be amended to include authorization to allow work on City right of way.

Commissioner Elliott amended motion to include technical assistance from City's water department and to authorize work on City right of way, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on lease agreement for barge facility with Department of Agriculture.

Motion to authorize Mayor Johnson to sign lease agreement with Department of Agriculture for barge facility when lease agreement is finalized made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Attorney Floyd stated he is also finalizing revolving loan documents.

VISITORS & COMMENTS

- * Joe Blan stated a new American flag needs to be placed at Riverfront Park.
- * Anita Grove stated that Representative Bemby will not be able to attend the Chamber luncheon.
- * Joe Taylor gave each Commissioner a copy of the Plein Air magazine.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- * Ms. Webb stated the tally sheets have been totaled for the board appointments.

Planning & Zoning Board – Jim Bachrach, Lynn Spohrer Alternate
Board of Adjustment – Katie McFarland
Housing Authority Board – Rhonda Smeby, Ginny Griner

Motion to appoint Jim Bachrach to Planning & Zoning Board, appoint Lynn Spohrer as alternate to Planning & Zoning Board, appoint Katie McFarland to Board of Adjustment, and appoint Rhonda Smeby and Ginny Griner to Housing Authority Board made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

- * Ms. Webb outlined stop sign map for 3 way and 4 way stops that she and Chief Varnes feel are necessary.

Mayor Johnson stated the speed bumps need to be thinned out.

Ms. Webb stated that Chief Varnes is not in favor of speed bumps.

Commissioner Ash stated that 9th Street and Avenue H needs to be added to list.

Ms. Webb stated that 12th Street and 24th Avenue and 11th Street in the Housing Authority complex also need to be added to list.

Ms. Webb stated that an advertisement will be placed in newspaper informing public of where 3 and 4 way stops will be placed.

Motion to proceed with the addition of 3 and 4 way stops as outlined by Ms. Webb made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Webb stated that 12th Street & 24th Avenue and Shadow Lane & Prado will have to go before the County because they are County roads.

* Ms. Webb outlined City owned rental facilities proposed fee schedule for Franklin Square Rec Center, Community Center, and Holy Family.

Commissioner Bartley stated the City should charge for the use of Lafayette Park.

Ms. Webb gave status update on Lafayette Park project.

Commissioner Ash stated the City is losing revenue for not renting out Lafayette Park. Commissioner Ash stated to complete the project we need to prioritize the things that need to be done with what funds we have available and then work on additional funding.

Ms. Webb stated it is going to be difficult to control the entire park to prevent other people from using the park, but paying a fee would ensure that no one else uses the pavilion.

Commissioner Ash stated the rental fees for these facilities go right back into the facilities for maintenance and upkeep.

Proposed rental fees are as follows:

Franklin Square Rec Center - \$100

Community Center - \$200

Holy Family - \$300

Above sites require \$100 refundable deposit and proof of insurance or purchase coverage through City insurance.

Ms. Webb stated that anything that has been booked prior to rate increase will not be affected.

Motion to approve rental facility fee schedule as outlined by Ms. Webb made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

* Ms. Webb submitted written department reports to Commission.

* Motion to authorize payment for Attorney Floyd's invoice made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

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Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk