

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 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 Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, City Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Joe Taylor, Deborah Belcher, Sally Williamson, Krystal Hernandez, Donna Duncan, George Watkins, Tammie Ray-Hutchinson, Marissa Getter, David Adlerstein, Uta Hardy, Jim Bachrach, Bryce Ward, Caty Greene, Heather Henderson, Sherry O'Neal, Dan Tonsmeire, Carl Duncan, Heather Friedman, Ella Friedman, Ron Copeland, Melanie Copeland, Colin Amison, Fred Vogt, Daniel Itzkovitz, C.J. Weyrich, Merrill Livingston, Carrie Jones, Beth Wright, Caty Greene, Juel Cronkite, Christopher Brown, Holly Brown, Christian Everett, Tim Mills, Chris Atkins, Susan Clementson, Bryce Ward

Regular meeting opened followed by prayer and pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. Joe Taylor gave an overview of the Oyster Cook Off and thanked the Community for all their support. Mayor Johnson presented certificates to children who helped raise money for Oyster Cook Off and to Marissa Getter for all her hard work over the years for the event.

2. Tammie Ray-Hutchinson requests permission to hold the 12th Annual African American Festival on February 20th and 21st at the 6th Street Recreation Center. Ms. Hutchinson stated parade route and road closures will be the same as in previous years.

Motion to grant permission for HCOLA to hold 12th Annual African American Festival on February 20th and 21st at the 6th Street Recreation Center with parade route and road closures the same as in previous years made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

3. Krystal Hernandez expressed concern regarding the condition of the parks and playgrounds in Apalachicola. Ms. Hernandez stated the playground equipment needs to be upgraded, and broken glass and drug paraphernalia haven been found in the parks.

Heather Henderson also expressed concern with issue regarding the parks and playgrounds.

Mayor Johnson asked Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Henderson what they would like to see in the parks and playgrounds.

Ms. Henderson stated new playground equipment would be very nice and also some signage addressing hours of operation and loitering.

Mayor Johnson thanked Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Henderson for bringing their concerns to the Commission's attention, and the City will begin working to resolve the issues addressed.

4. Debbie Belcher stated the City will be having an economic grant monitoring tomorrow and if that grant gets closed out then the City will be eligible to apply for another economic block grant. Ms. Belcher stated the City will need to appoint a Citizen Advisory Task Force, which must have a minimum of 5 people from Apalachicola with 3 members being from the low to moderate income range. Ms. Belcher recommends making appointment at next Commission meeting. Ms. Belcher stated the City will need to decide what project to apply for, either the sewer project or another housing grant. Ms. Belcher stated the lack of design funds will lower the score for the sewer project, but the City can get SHIP funds as leverage for the housing grant.

Mayor Johnson stated the City has made a commitment to try to get City sewer to those who don't have sewer available.

Ms. Belcher because of the economic grant application deadline, the Commission needs to appoint the Citizen Advisory Task Force and decide what project the City wants to pursue. Ms. Belcher stated the State is not funding FRDAP grants this year.

Ms. Webb asked if the City were to apply for the sewer project will the grant include the tap fee.

Ms. Belcher stated the tap fee is normally not included, but if the City waives the tap fee then that can be used as leverage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

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

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

PLANNING & ZONING

Sally Williamson gave update on the stormwater workshops.

Motion to confirm December Planning & Zoning minutes made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Scipio Creek – Ms. Webb stated the Scipio Creek Committee recently had a meeting and George Watkins is now the new Chairman. The Committee is concerned about letting contractors run the whole Scipio Creek operation and would like to advertise for an operator for the Haul-Out Travel Lift and for work in the repair yard.

Commissioner Ash asked about the status of the St. Vincent lease.

Ms. Webb stated they have asked for an extension but she has heard nothing further from them.

Ms. Webb stated the Scipio Creek Committee would like to change the name of Scipio Creek back to its original name Mill Pond and name the travel lift Apalachicola Repair Yard.

Motion to change name of Scipio Creek back to Mill Pond and name travel lift Apalachicola Repair Yard made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Discussion held concerning term lease of contractor of Scipio Creek operator and collections of past due boat fees at Scipio Creek.

2. Ms. Webb stated the Corps of Engineers will be here March 9-12. The Commission is invited to a dinner on March 11th which will be catered by George Floyd, and a breakfast will be

hosted by the City the following morning. Ms. Webb stated it is important for the Commission to be in attendance if at all possible.

3. Motion to hire Carl Duncan for the vacant Public Works position made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

4. Ms. Webb presented list of roadways for inclusion in the County's upcoming Road Paving Project.

Mayor Johnson stated he would like to include the unpaved portion of 23rd Street as it passes Prado.

Ms. Webb stated she will add this to the list before submitting to the County.

5. Ms. Webb stated she has put in two Senate District 3 2015 budget requests. The first one is requesting that the remaining balance of \$157,957.21 left over from Wet Weather Storage Pond Project be reverted and re-appropriated to the Apalachicola Drinking Water Treatment Improvement Project for the installation of a Calgon Carbon Filter. The second one is asking for forgiveness of interest only on the State Revolving Loan.

Beth Wright asked what the March meeting with Corps of Engineers will be about.

Ms. Webb stated the U.S. Coast Guard stationed out of Eufaula will no longer be providing maintenance of the navigational water way.

Attorney Floyd stated this meeting will help answer all the questions.

Dan Tonsmeire commented on activity regarding this matter.

6. Motion to approve payment for Attorney Floyd's invoice made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on State of Florida vs. State of Georgia litigation. Attorney Floyd stated the noise ordinance has been prepared and will be ready for first reading at next month meeting.

VISITORS & COMMENTS

1. Dan Tonsmeire announced that on February 21st the Florida Wildlife Car will arrive and will take people paddling and show a film at the research reserve.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mayor Johnson recommends putting the old Fire Station property on the market and obligate the proceeds from the sale to the restoration of the parks and playgrounds in Apalachicola.

Commissioner Ash asked if an appraisal had been done.

Ms. Webb stated one was done years ago and is now outdated. Ms. Webb stated she will have to work with Attorney Floyd to get the sell process started.

Motion to start process of selling old Fire Station property and obligate proceeds of sale to the restoration of the parks and playgrounds in Apalachicola made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Commissioner Ash suggested the City prioritize properties and see what properties are not serving the City and sell multiple properties.

Attorney Floyd stated that is good point and needs to be explored. Attorney Floyd stated the City will need to make sure the properties will not be used before they are put on the market, but doesn't see any reason why the City can't pursue this option.

Commissioner Ash stated she wanted to make sure all the parks and playgrounds would be included in the renovation.

Ms. Webb stated she is in the process of getting tennis courts resurfaced.

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk