

A workshop and regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday September 7, 2010 at 5:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, FL.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Brenda Ash, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Grants Manager Cindi Giametta, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, Public Works Foreman Wilbur Bellew

Visitors: Sally Williamson,, James Waddell, Cindy Clark, Leon Bloodworth, Mark Browne, Joe Taylor, Liz Kelsey, Geoffrey Hewell, Tom Daly, Anita Grove, Bill McCartney, Mark Curenton, Jim Silva, Steve Bonifay, Marjorie Solomon, Roy Solomon, George Watkins, Beverly Hewitt, Bobby Miller, Caty Greene, Van Russell, Dorothy Hill, Dixie Partington, David Adlerstein, Michael Shuler, Lisa Spoonor, Robin Vroegrop, Dan Garlick, Clarice Powell, Paulette Moss, Lynda Smith, Jan Runnell, Nita Morgan, J. N. Bucbau, Jan Thomas

Workshop opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

JOINT WORKSHOP WITH PLANNING & ZONING TO DISCUSS TREE ORDINANCE & OR REGULATIONS

Leon Bloodworth stated that Planning & Zoning wanted to hold a joint workshop to discuss the proposed changes to the OR zoning regulations and introduce the proposed tree ordinance.

Cindy Clark reviewed proposed OR zoning regulation changes.

Tom Daly reviewed purpose and provisions of tree ordinance.

Mr. Bloodworth stated he is glad there are professional architects to guide the Planning & Zoning Board. Holy Family and Maritime Museum are two projects the architects have been utilized on.

Workshop adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

* Ken Schroeder – Update on Drainage Improvement Project @ Ave F & 6th St – Mr. Schroeder not present.

Ms. Webb updated Commission on project progress. Ms. Webb stated she has contacted Jason White for a proposal, but it is about \$2,500 higher than C.W. Roberts. Difference can be taken from LOGT monies.

Motion to accept Jason White proposal to complete Schroeder job at Avenue F & 6th Street with difference to be paid from LOGT Fund made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve August minutes 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 BILL LIST

Motion to approve July bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

BAY AVENUE SIDEWALK EXTENSION DISCUSSION

Ms. Webb stated the discussion at last month's meeting was to award the contract to the engineering firm. A decision needs to be made if the Commission wants to proceed with this project or not. If Commission wants to proceed, then the engineering contract needs to be awarded.

Commissioner Ash stated she does not feel the Commission should approve to proceed if the people are not in favor of the project.

Ms. Webb stated that DOT can deem it a traffic hazard. The sidewalk was a recommendation by the Traffic Safety Team.

Roy Solomon stated not having a sidewalk is not a safety or traffic hazard.

Dixie Partington stated there are a lot of people in the neighborhood that don't want the sidewalk. Maybe not having a sidewalk isn't a safety issue.

Ms. Webb stated that DOT is just waiting on a decision from the Commission on whether to proceed or not.

Motion to not proceed with Bay Avenue Sidewalk Project made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Anita Grove submitted written report to Commission.

Ms. Grove outlined the Preserve America Program. Ms. Grove stated she would like authorization for Mayor Johnson to sign application for the Preserve America Grants program.

Motion to authorize Mayor Johnson to sign Preserve America Grants application made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM REPORT

Dixie Partington stated the only ongoing project in Apalachicola is the discussion concerning the Avenue D and Market Street intersection.

LIBRARY REPORT

Caty Greene submitted written report.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Tom Daly submitted verbal report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

George Watkins submitted verbal report. Mr. Watkins stated that if the City puts down \$25,000 towards a new fire truck, the payment would be approximately \$25,000/year. The Fire Department has obligated \$10,000/year in fundraising to go towards the truck payment.

Ms. Webb stated she has reviewed the MSBU fund financials and if the Fire Department can put \$10,000/year towards the payment, then the City can meet the payment, but there will not be any extra in the MSBU Fund

Mr. Watkins reviewed the truck specifics.

Commissioner Cook stated he has reviewed the specifics and he feels it is a good truck with good equipment.

Mayor Johnson stated he just wants to make sure the City can pay for the truck during the financing period.

Motion to authorize to proceed with fire truck purchase and financing made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Commissioner Ash stated she would like to see a financial plan that if anything should happen, the City could still afford this truck payment.

Commissioner Cook stated he agrees and will do that.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Bobby Varnes submitted verbal report.

Mayor Johnson asked if the department was taking care of the ATV problem.

Chief Varnes stated that problem is being solved.

CITYADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- * Ms. Webb stated Jim Waddell has submitted the Fire Hydrant Testing Report.
- * Ms. Webb stated the County has approved the land trust swap.
- * Ms. Webb submitted written department reports.

Commissioner Ash asked the status on Holy Family project.

Cindi Giametta stated project should be out to bid within 30 days and should be started by November. Several changes have had to be made to the plans.

Ms. Webb stated this was the first project that went before the Planning & Zoning architects. Changes had to be made per the architects.

Commissioner Bartley stated this project has been dragging.

* Motion to authorize payment to Attorney Floyd for August services in the amount of \$8,884.00 made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT

William Cox not present.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Marvin Croom not present.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Wilbur Bellew had nothing to add to written report.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

Gene Osburn not present.

GRANTS MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Giametta stated the City can apply for two FRDAP grants with each grant being up to \$250,000. The grants can be used for playgrounds, etc.

Mayor Johnson stated he would like to get ideas from Community Pride before applications are actually submitted.

Motion to authorize Ms. Giametta to apply for two FRDAP grants with each grant being up to \$250,000 made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

CITY CLERK REPORT

Lee Mathes submitted revised budget and salary schedule to reflect changes made at last budget workshop. Ms. Mathes stated the first budget public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:00 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center.

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on ACOE litigation, Ingle drainage problem, B & S litigation, and BP claim status.

Commissioner Bartley asked Lisa Spooner if there was any oil in Apalachicola Bay.

Ms. Spooner stated she has also heard those rumors, but the Coast Guard is the one to ask that question.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

* Anita Grove stated that it would be nice if the City put more money into Lafayette Park. Ms. Grove stated she knows of two weddings that have been cancelled due to the condition of the park.

Robin Vroegrop stated the railroad ties have rotted away and the rebar is sticking up. Somebody is going to get hurt.

Ms. Webb stated plant replacement takes money, but can take care of the weed and railroad ties problem.

Sally Williamson stated the City should charge for use of the park.

* Beverly Hewitt stated she has been issued a citation for the Grill and Soda Fountain for encroaching on the sidewalk. Ms. Hewitt stated she doesn't know what she is doing wrong.

Commissioner Ash stated she was approached by someone who was issued a citation and told them to come to the Planning & Zoning meeting on September 13th. Commissioner Ash stated there is no information on the citation to let the person know what needs to be done to correct the problem.

Ms. Hewitt asked if anyone has received a citation for abandoned appliances.

Anita Grove stated she has heard from about 17 people. Maybe businesses can be given some notice the next time the sign ordinance is redone.

Ms. Webb stated that Planning & Zoning wanted Gene Osburn to address all signs on City ROW, all signs unpermitted, and sidewalk encroachments. No more letters have been issued since Planning & Zoning met on the 13th. Planning & Zoning needs to address sign ordinance before it is enforced.

Commissioner Ash stated some businesses have been in business for a long time.

Ms. Webb stated excessive violations should be cited.

Sally Williamson stated the Planning & Zoning Board has to be fair to everyone.

Sign ordinance discussed.

* Clarice Powell thanked the City for working with Franklin Promise on the summer concert series.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

* Commissioner Elliott asked what happened to border that was placed around the playground area in Battery Park.

Ms. Webb stated the pipe was not installed correctly so it had to be removed. Ms. Webb stated there is some money left in the old swimming pool fund. Trying to buy border with those funds.

Clarice Powell asked about a water feature in the park for the kids.

Ms. Webb stated that is what Cindi Giametta wants to do with one of the FRDAP applications.

* Commissioner Ash thanked the Mayor , Commission, and staff for the work everyone put in during the budget process. Commissioner Ash stated the following guidelines should be implemented in order to assist and monitor the City's financial status:

1. Institute a hiring freeze
2. Establish a policy that any change in an employee's base salary or position comes before the Commission for final approval
3. Establish a policy that a financial statement of condition is provided to the Commission on a quarterly basis
4. All overtime should be documented, detailed and reported to the Commission monthly
5. All large item expenditures should be brought before the Commission prior to purchase

Motion to approve above guidelines as submitted by Commissioner Ash made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Van W. Johnson Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk

