

A public hearing and regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 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 Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, Street Superintendent Marvin Croom, Water & Sewer Foreman William Cox

Visitors: Joe Taylor, Debbie Belcher, Anita Grove, Sally Williamson, Liz Kelsey, John Solomon, Ted Mosteller, Jim Waddell, Clarice Powell, Michael Shuler, Willoughby Marshall, Marie Marshall, Steve Bonifay, Gail Johnson, Lois Swoboda, Al Mirabella, Geoffrey Hewell, Margaret Hewell, David Walker, Dieter Ambos, Matthew Quinn, Tom Daly, George Watkins, Anthony Croom, Dona Carbone, Jack Carbone, Jeff Padgett, Joe Padgett, David Crosby, Vicki Inguagiato, Arthur Hollenbeck, Jim Nichols, Tony Millender, Rosa Powell, Michael Powell, Travis Millender, Jeff White, Mike Standley, Shayne Gilbert, Ralph Richards, Caroline Ilardi, Jeff Ilardi, Liz Hewell, Uta Hardy, Kayla Seldom, Gina Moore, George Coon, Ronald Harris, Susan Clementson, Deanna Simmons, Harolyn Walker, Elinor Mount-Simmons, Shannon Bunyon, Vedell Bunyon, Brittney Simmons, D. T. Simmons, Arnold Tolliver

Public hearing opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING – NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION

Debbie Belcher outlined Neighborhood Revitalization grant.

No public comment.

Ms. Belcher outlined Commercial Revitalization grant. Ms. Belcher stated that the City can include a public restroom in grant application in Commission chooses to do so.

Ms. Webb asked if items can be changed within the grant after it is approved.

Ms. Belcher stated items can be deleted from grant, but items cannot be added after grant submittal.

Public comment received on Commercial Revitalization Grant.

Public hearing closed.

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REGULAR MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

Motion to adopt Resolution 2010-13 authorizing submission of commercial revitalization grant, adopt Resolution 2010-14 authorizing submission of neighborhood revitalization grant, include public restrooms in commercial revitalization grant application, and allow the following items to be used as match - \$10,000 for public restroom, \$5,000 for kiosk, land value for public restroom, and \$5,000 in-kind for each category made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

* Caroline Ilardi – Doggie Park – Ms. Ilardi addressed the Commission about putting an off leash doggie park at the corner of 17th Street and Avenue L in the old AHS area.

Mayor Johnson stated he feels this is a much needed service.

Commissioner Ash stated she would like to read materials presented and make sure citizens are aware of what is proposed before a decision is made.

Mayor Johnson stated matter will be discussed at November Community Pride meeting and readdressed at December regular meeting.

* John Solomon – Florida Seafood Festival President – Mr. Solomon presented Commission with Seafood Festival hats and passes.

* Ted Mosteller – Franklin County Airport Advisory Committee – Mr. Mosteller introduced Al Mirabella. Mr. Mirabella stated a Boeing B-17 plane will be on display at the Apalachicola Regional Airport on November 14th. Mr. Mirabella invited everyone to come to the celebration.

* David Walker – Mr. Walker stated he objects to the proposed package store in hillside area. Mr. Walker stated that type business would not bring positive development to the community.

Attorney Floyd stated in C1 area there is allowance for package store, but in C2 area there is no allowance for package store. Attorney Floyd stated he will write letter to person explaining that package store is not a permitted use in that area.

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Elinor Mount-Simmons stated as president of H'Cola and teacher she is not in favor of package store.

Dieter Ambos stated the purpose of the CRA was to create more businesses in C2 area, but a package store was not what the CRA had in mind to create more businesses.

Mayor Johnson stated he would like for the Planning & Zoning board to address the C2 section of the Land Development Code.

Mr. Ambos stated that has already been brought up to the Planning & Zoning Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve October 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 BILLS

Motion to approve September 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

1ST READING – ORDINANCE 2010-04 – LOITERING ORDINANCE

Motion to approve to read Ordinance 2010-04 for first reading and proceed with adoption process made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Attorney Floyd read Ordinance 2010-04 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, CITY COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF LOITERING THAT RESULTS IN AN OBSTRUCTION OR INTERFERENCE WITH THE PASSAGE OF VEHICLE, TRAFFIC OR PEDESTRIANS IN DEFINED LOCATIONS THAT IS PROHIBITED BY THIS
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ORDINANCE, PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

HOLY FAMILY PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES RANKING

Ms. Webb presented combined ranking sheet to Commission. Ms. Webb stated if the Commission decides to interview the top 3 firms it would be Poloronis Construction, Peter Brown Construction, and PSBI, Inc.

Motion to interview top three firms made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Special meeting set for November 9th at 6:00 PM.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Anita Grove submitted written report.

TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM REPORT

Jim Waddell discussed Bay Avenue sidewalk funding.

Mayor Johnson asked about Phase II and Phase III of sidewalk project in hill area.

Ms. Webb stated that will be addressed in December meeting.

LIBRARY REPORT

Susan Clementson submitted written report to Commission.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Tom Daly stated the Board has been looking at the C1 and C2 ordinances.

Sally Williamson stated there will be a public workshop on November 10th at 5:30 to discuss the sign ordinance.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

George Watkins submitted verbal report.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Varnes submitted verbal report.

Chief Varnes stated Battery Park fees need to be addressed.

Ms. Webb outlined Battery Park capital improvements analysis and proposed amendments to ordinance regarding boat slip fees.

Mr. Daly asked about what the possibility was of getting all live aboards to install their own electrical meter.

Ms. Webb stated she is not sure about the infrastructure available to do that.

Chief Varnes stated he just needs to know what to charge for Battery Park.

Ronnie Harris stated his Scipio Creek slip rent doubled this month.

Ms. Webb stated Scipio Creek fees have not changed since 1988.

Mr. Harris stated the City Commission does not take care of the commercial fishermen with raising the rates. The fishermen do a great service to this community.

Ralph Richards stated he agrees that people need to pay rent, but there are not people with contracts at all. The Scipio Creek Committee suggested charging \$1 per foot a while back.

Mayor Johnson asked how the City was supposed to maintain Scipio Creek with what is currently being charged.

Mr. Richards stated the grant will upgrade everything and therefore the rent won't have to be raised.

Commissioner Ash stated the facility still has to be maintained.

Mayor Johnson asked who served on the Scipio Creek Committee.

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Mr. Richards stated it was himself, George Watkins, Jimmy Cameron, Marcus Strickland, and Ronnie Martina but Mr. Martina is no longer in the marina.

Mayor Johnson stated it is not the City's intent to put the shrimpers out of business. Mayor Johnson asked if everyone was comfortable with charging \$1 per foot.

Motion to charge \$1 per foot for boats docked at Scipio Creek Marina for 6 months made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Scipio Creek maintenance items discussed.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT

William Cox had nothing to report.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT

Marvin Croom had nothing to report.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT

Wilbur Bellew not present.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Lee Mathes had nothing to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Motion to reappoint Dieter Ambos, Anita Grove, and Roderick Robinson to CRA Board made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

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Ms. Webb stated that Willoughby Marshall will be working with the City on the Lafayette Park Project and the signage of Historic City Squares Project.

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

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on Progress Energy transmission line that is going to be installed in Apalachicola.

Discussion held concerning transmission lines.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

Clarice Powell thanked the City for all their help in Riverfront Park for the Halloween Party.

Chief Varnes stated the Commission has not decided on the Battery Park fees.

Commissioner Ash stated the fees need to be increased.

Commissioner Elliott stated the fees needed to remain the same. Commissioner Elliott asked about the possibility of giving a discount for people who pay a year in advance.

Clarice Powell asked if Chief Varnes has met with the Battery Park Committee to see what they suggested.

Ms. Webb stated they wanted to increase by \$10.

Commissioner Ash suggested going with proposed rates.

Motion to authorize Chief Varnes to amend Battery Park fees as outlined in proposal and to give a 20% discount for anyone paying a year in advance and a 10% discount for anyone paying 6 months in advance made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

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Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Ash asked is there any way to shorten meetings. A lot of things can just be given as a written report and submitted into package and only be discussed if the Board has questions.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk