

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 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 Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Anita Grove, City Administrator Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Deputy Clerk Janelle Paul, Lt. Pamela Lewis, Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Cindy Clark, David Meyer, Joe Taylor, Jeanette Taylor, Sue Summers, Elinor Mount-Simmons, Johnnie Byrd, Pam Richardson, Marie Marshall, Jim Bachrach, Augusta West, Bill McCartney, Lynn Spohrer, Diane Brewer, Bonnie Davis, Ashley Teat, George Watkins, John Alber, Richard Hall, Holly Brown, Creighton Brown, Conservation Corp Members, Chris Moore, David Adlerstein, Charlie Kienzle, Carrie Kienzle, Margene Off, Robin Vroegop, Mike Vroegop, Erik Tobiason, Debbie Belcher, Karen Kessel, Dan Gardner, Peter Gallant, Mindy Parker, Peter Olson, Janice Olson, Sarah Madson, Holden Foley

Regular meeting opened by Mayor Johnson.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Johnson presented City Administrator Lee Mathes with flowers in appreciation for her 30 years of employment with the City of Apalachicola.

DONATION ACCEPTANCE OF PAINTING "PILLARS"

Mayor Johnson stated that Pam Richardson has painted a picture entitled "Pillars" which honors Bill Spohrer and Willoughby Marshall and would like to donate painting to the City.

Commission thanked Ms. Richardson for her donation. Painting will be hung at City Hall.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Erik Tobiason - Volunteer Litter Clean-up

Erik Tobiason stated he would like to take the lead on a Volunteer Litter Cleanup event within the City.

Mayor Johnson asks Commissioner Grove to oversee this project.

Commissioner Grove agreed to help with this project.

Joe Taylor - Conservation/Ed Corps Update

Joe Taylor introduced Dr. Sue Summers, Principal of Ed Corps, Holden Foley, Corps Field Manager and Academic Coaches Elinor Mount-Simmons and Mindy Parker.

Mr. Taylor acknowledged Holden Foley for being named Conservation Corps Member of the Year.

Mr. Taylor outlined Conservation Corps and Ed Corps accomplishments and activities.

Ms. Mount-Simmons spoke on assisting the students to obtain their high school diplomas and providing assistance in obtaining jobs. Ms. Mount-Simmons commended Michael Taylor for receiving his diploma.

Mayor Johnson inquired about Franklin County School alternative school students being at the Johnson Complex without consent of the Commission. Mayor Johnson asked Ms. Mathes if this was approved by the Commission.

Ms. Mathes stated this did not come before the Commission.

Mayor Johnson stated he has observed altercations at the Johnson Complex and has also been informed of fighting which resulted in getting the police involved and other sort of incidents.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Ash recommends having a meeting with Sue Summers and the heads of everyone involved.

Ms. Summers stated she will be glad to meet with everyone to address any issues.

Discussion continued.

Mayor Johnson inquired about the \$100,000.00 BP housing allocation.

Ms. Mathes stated about \$10,000.00 has been used.

Mayor Johnson requested Ms. Mathes look at original agreement of deliverables and compare to what was reported.

Johnnie Byrd – Land Request

Johnnie Byrd stated he would like to purchase the 15 feet by 60 feet of the southwest one-half of Lot 5, Block 64 that is City owned.

Mayor Johnson stated if the City gives up ownership of this property then ownership automatically reverts back to Franklin County.

Attorney Floyd received Mr. Byrd's contact information and will contact Mr. Byrd after researching.

Ashley Teat – ISO Presentation

Ashley Teat turned presentation over to George Watkins.

Chief Watkins discussed Fire Department's lack of certifications and the upcoming ISO inspections.

Commissioner Grove suggested holding a workshop to address Fire Department issues.

Mayor Johnson asked if Commission was available for a special meeting for March 13th at 6:00pm.

Ms. Mathes will check calendar for Community Center availability and will notify commission.

Compass Solar - Solar Presentation

Dan Gardner gave solar presentation highlighting the benefits of Solar Energy.

Kevin Begos discussed the TRIUMPH solar application emphasizing the City will need to show what the City plans to do with the electrical savings, and put in a proposal for a percentage basis with local benefits.

Commissioner Ash asked if this could be discussed at the next meeting to give the Commission time to think how the savings should be allocated.

Mayor Johnson stated this will be an agenda item at the March 13th meeting.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Correction to February 6, 2018 regular meeting under Attorney Floyd Comments which read as follows:

Attorney Floyd stated he received documentation from Mr. Hall's attorney today stating he is providing the engineers and building experts analysis to confirm the house was constructed according to all requirements, to correct as follows:

Attorney Floyd stated he received documentation from Mr. Smith's attorney today stating he is providing the engineers and building experts analysis to confirm the house was constructed according to all requirements.

Motion to approve February minutes made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF JANUARY BILL LIST

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

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE 2018-01 – COMMERCIAL WATER & SEWER RATES

Attorney Floyd read Ordinance 2018-01 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-14 IN ITS ENTIRETY REGARDING COMMERCIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 2018-01 and proceed with adoption process made by Commissioner Grove, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ADOPTION DECISION – RESOLUTION NO. 2018-01 – FLORIDA BOATER’S GRANT APPLICATION

Attorney Floyd read Resolution 2018-01 in its entirety.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-01 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

CDBG TASK FORCE APPOINTMENT

Deborah Belcher requested the Commission appoint five members to the Citizens Advisory Task Force. Ms. Belcher stated members must all be City residents, with at least three of the five being within the CDBG low/moderate income limit.

Motion to appoint Ryanna Lockley, Tami Ray-Hutchinson, Loretta Maresch, and Bonnie Davis to the CDBG Task Force, made by Commissioner Grove, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Staff will check with Juli Jones and Megan Griggs for additional member and alternate board member.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR USDA WATER GRANT

Motion to authorize Augusta West to apply for USDA Water Grant for GAC installation made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BID – MATCHBOX ROOF

Motion to authorize Ms. Mathes to advertise for bids for Matchbox roof made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

REALLOCATION OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAM FUNDS/MATCHBOX ROOF

Ms. Mathes stated the legislative appropriation received for the Matchbox roof is not enough to cover the costs of the new roof and is requesting to reallocate the FY 17/18 \$20,000 Recreation Program budget allocation towards the expense and also to allocate the FY 18/19 \$20,000 Recreation Program budget allocation towards the expense.

Motion to approve reallocation of FY 17/18 \$20,000 Recreation Program budget allocation and also allocate the FY 18/19 \$20,000 Recreation Program budget allocation to be used to repair Matchbox Roof made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 4 to 1

Voting Aye: Elliott, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: Ash

PLANNING & ZONING

a) Confirm January Minutes

Motion to confirm January Planning & Zoning Minutes made by Commissioner Grove, second by commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

b) Cindy Clark – City Planner – Monthly Report

Cindy Clark presented her monthly report with the following action items:

Motion made to forego County Commission endorsement and submit all five TRIUMPH applications together directly to the TRIUMPH board for consideration made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Motion to prepare and submit the infrastructure element of the TRIUMPH fund application also as a RESTORE Act proposal made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Motion to authorize Ms. Clark to apply for year two of the Historic Resources Planning Grant from the State Division of Historic Resources made by Commissioner Bartley, second by commissioner Grove.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove and Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

No report given.

ATTORNEY FLOYD

1) Attorney Floyd recognized Robin and Mike Vroegop in the audience, and requested the signed lease from them for the Harbor Master House.

Ms. Vroegop asked if he was asking her to address the commission, which she did. Ms. Vroegop stated there has been a communication breakdown somewhere along the way, and feels at this time that maybe they aren't the most compatible choice for the building. Ms. Vroegop stated they have put in a lot of time and money to get the building somewhat presentable, but they aren't having any success getting resolution on a lease.

Lengthy discussion held.

Creighton Brown asked if a mediator would work better in this situation.

2) Chris Moore spoke regarding her landscaping issue.

Attorney Floyd stated Ms. Moore needs to provide a topographical survey, which can then be presented to the Floodplain Administrator. Once the Floodplain Administrator has reviewed, then a determination will be made on how much fill has to be removed.

Ms. Moore stated she will get a topographical survey completed and turn in to Floodplain Administrator.

3) Attorney Floyd stated they should have action this week on the Richard Hall issue which has been discussed in previous meetings.

Mayor Johnson asks John Alber if he would act as a mediator between the City and Mike and Robin Vroegop concerning the Harbor Master Lease and the Richard Hall issues.

Mr. Alber said he would like to handle them one at the time, but will start with the Harbor Master Lease.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

1) Carrie Kienzle asks to be reinstated to the Library Board and is requesting to the Commission to withdraw her resignation of October 7th, 2017, stating she was asked to resign and did so under extreme duress.

Mayor Johnson states the Philaco members make recommendations to the Board.

Lynn Wilson Spohrer stated she was also ask to resign and did not.

2) Walter Robinson addressed the Commission to discuss the drug problem on 25th Avenue, a double connected dwellings with one hook-up, and City employees using City vehicles for private use.

Mayor Johnson asks Ms. Mathes to make sure everyone has a copy of the Vehicle Use Policy, and that it is enforced.

3) Karen Kessel of Bring-Me-A-Book Franklin, ask to be included in the meeting with school and Ed Corps.

Mayor Johnson requested Commissioner Ash oversee this meeting of the minds and be included in Conservation/Ed Corp issue.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Ash asks if DEP had been contacted regarding implementing the senior utility rate.

Ms. Mathes stated she has sent an email to DEP but hasn't received a response.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr, Mayor

Janelle C. Paul, Deputy Clerk

A joint workshop between the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola and Planning and Zoning Board was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 4:30 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Anita Grove, City Administrator Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Deputy Clerk Janelle Paul, Lt. Pam Lewis, Attorney Pat Floyd, City Planner Cindy Clark

Planning and Zoning Board Present: Tom Daly, Fred Voyt, Jim Bachrach, Lynn Wilson-Spohrer

Visitors: Tom Morgan, Diane Brewer, Bonnie Davis, Augusta West

Joint Workshop was opened by Mayor Johnson, followed by prayer and pledge.

Cindy Clark outlined proposed parking changes in the C-1, C-4 and RF district.

Discussion held regarding parking, signage and verbiage.

Joint workshop adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Janelle C. Paul, Deputy Clerk

A special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 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 Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Anita Grove, City Administrator Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Deputy Clerk Janelle Paul, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: David Meyer, Joe Taylor, Shelley Shepherd, Ashley Teat, George Watkins, Kevin Begos, Robin Vroegop, Michael Vroegop, Augusta West

Special Meeting was opened by Mayor Johnson.

Advertise for TTHM Project Engineer

Ms. Mathes stated USDA is the best funding option for the GAC filter and it is required that the City advertise for the project engineer.

Motion to advertise for GAC installation project engineer by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

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

Voting Nay: None

Mayor Johnson recommends the City fast track the sale of the old fire station.

Commissioner Ash asks Ms. Mathes to pull the old appraisal.

TRIUMPH – Solar Savings Allocation

Kevin Begos outlined TRIUMPH solar application stating it is recommended the Commission determine how the solar savings will be allocated. Mr. Begos stated he has presented a recommendation that distributes 40% toward job training, 30% towards water and sewer fee reduction or ad valorem tax reduction, and 30% towards water and sewer contingency fund.

Commissioner Ash asks if the percentages were negotiable for the solar savings or was it final once the percentages were submitted in the application.

Mr. Begos will check with the TRIUMPH board and get back to Ms. Mathes.

Motion to authorize Kevin Begos to submit recommended allocated savings to the TRIUMPH Board with 40% towards job training, 30% towards water and sewer fee reduction or ad valorem tax reduction, and 30% towards water and sewer contingency fund and that Mr. Begos readdress savings allocations with the Commission prior to submitting final application, made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

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

Voting Nay: None

Approval to Submit USDA Facilities Grant Application – Police Vehicle & Equipment

Augusta West requests approval to apply for a USDA Facilities Grant for Police Department. Ms. West stated this grant allows for equipment and a new vehicle.

Motion to authorize Augusta West to apply for USDA Facilities Grant for Police Department made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

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

Voting Nay: None

Fire Department Training Discussion

Fire Chief George Watkins discussed certification requirements. Chief Watkins stated we have 12 members with over 200 hours of training. No record of this training is on file with the Fire College.

Commissioner Ash will ask Roderick Robinson to check for information within Gulf Coast State College.

Chief Watkins and City Hall will check on any records within the City, and will bring an update before Commission in April.

Commissioner Grove said with the information found, we will be able to approach Charlie Frank at the Fire College to move forward.

Mayor & Commissioner's Comments

1) Commissioner Ash asks if the swings at Johnson complex could be adjusted for different age children.

Ms. Mathes said we would issue a work order to Public Works Department and take care of this.

2) Chief Bobby Varnes wanted to let Commissioners know the Firing Range will not be a public range as long as it is under the control of the Apalachicola Police Department.

Mayor Johnson stated regulations will be required, as staff is present in the spray fields from time to time.

Attorney Floyd is drafting firing range regulations.

3) Commissioner Grove inquired about the Johnson Complex audit, lease information, and Head Start areas.

Ms. Mathes said the Head Start area will be self contained.

Mayor Johnson said staff will be relocated to the Johnson Complex within the next week or so, and the leases will be put in place at that time.

Attorney Floyd is updating Johnson Complex leases.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Janelle Paul, Deputy Clerk