

A budget workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Thursday August 24, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Frank Cook, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Brenda Ash, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, City Administrator Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Joe Taylor, David Adlerstein, Charlie Kienzle, Carrie Kienzle, Bob Lindsley, Jan Thomas, Anita Grove, Falan Goff, William Cox, Janelle Paul, Kalahn Kent, Augusta West, Jim Bachrach

Budget workshop opened by Mayor Johnson.

Falan Goff with FAMU informed the City Commission she will be moving to South Florida and how grateful she is for the City's help during her stay in the City of Apalachicola. Ms. Goff introduced Glyn Holmes who will be replacing her position.

City Council thanked Ms. Goff for all she has contributed to the City of Apalachicola.

Ms. Mathes outlined the proposed budget.

Revenues and expenses were outlined and discussed.

Commissioner Bartley expressed concern about millage rate and Librarian salary increase.

Commissioner Elliott suggested reviewing live - aboard rental fee at Battery Park.

Ms. Mathes distributed the City owned property list to the City Council and stated she will be working with Attorney Floyd on getting appraisals.

Public input received.

Mayor Johnson asked Commission for direction on where budget can be cut.

Ms. Mathes stated she will explore the option of increasing business license fees and also look into the water and sewer rate structure.

Commissioner Ash inquired about HCA, Holy Family, Field House and Project Impact facility rentals and expenses.

Commissioner Elliott inquired about rental of Harbor Master House.

Mayor Johnson requested Ms. Mathes look at increase of business license and making HCA rental more accessible in the future.

Anita Grove commented City may want to check with TDC and ask for a stipend to help with cleaning supplies for public bathrooms.

Commissioner Cook stated the City could request funds for maintenance of public bathrooms and TDC would probably help.

August West is applying for a grant designed to find infrastructure projects that directly relate to economic diversification and economic development that will help with sewer upgrades for increase of new development.

Mayor Johnson stated Ms. Mathes and Commissioner Ash will review budget and come back with recommendations on budget cuts.

Budget workshop scheduled for Tuesday, August 29, 2017.

Workshop adjourned.

---

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

---

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk