

A budget workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Wednesday, August 22, 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 Manager Ron Nalley, Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Janelle Paul, David Adlerstein, Augusta West, Jan Thomas, Cindy Clark, Val Webb, Diane Brewer, George Mahr, Jim Bachrach, David Meyer

Workshop opened by Mayor Johnson.

Ron Nalley presented and reviewed proposed FY 18/19 budget which totals \$7,010,200. Mr. Nalley stated this budget is based on the same millage rate at 9.6043, but reflects a proposed 13.5% increase in water and sewer rates. Mr. Nalley stated it is also proposed to increase the SUF fee from \$10.75 to \$29.00 for residential and from \$20.75 to \$95.00 for commercial sewer users.

Specific impacts that shape the budget such as SRF loan default, rising personnel and operational costs were discussed.

Commissioner Ash inquired about the water and sewer rate increase and also possibility of imposing a ½ cent sales tax.

Augusta West stated the County has capped the sales tax option, but there may be other tax options that are being explored.

Discussion held concerning budget revenues, expenses, departmental expenses, personnel costs, and budget reallocations.

Commissioners Ash and Bartley expressed concern that seniors will have difficulty paying utility bill with increased rates.

Mr. Nalley stated he will be available to meet with the board or anyone about the budget at any time.

Mayor Johnson stated the current water and sewer rates are not sufficient to cover the amount of debt.

Commission suggested coming up with a simple informational flyer that could be distributed to the public that would explain the increases and why it is necessary.

Mr. Nalley announced the next budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 30th at 6:00 PM.

There being no further business, workshop adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk

