

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION AND TREE COMMITTEE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018, 5:00 PM AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr.  
Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Ash  
Commissioner Jimmy Elliott  
Commissioner Anita Grove  
Commissioner Mitchell Bartley

Ron Nalley, City Manager  
Lee Mathes, Director of Administrative Services  
Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
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Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Dennis Winterringer opened the meeting by introducing the Tree Committee members.

Holley Brown stated the Tree Committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month and gave an update of past events. Ms. Brown announced that there will be an Arbor Day celebration in January where we will be giving away approximately one hundred trees. In April we will be working with History, Culture and Arts Center, to host another tree celebration in conjunction with National Arbor and Earth Day. Ms. Brown stated we have had two meetings with Duke Energy to discuss vegetation management along the power lines on the City right-of-ways.

Bob Seymour reviewed the benefits and the value of trees in the City.

Mr. Winterringer reviewed the proposed changes of the new Ordinance to replace the 2011-01 Ordinance. Mr. Winterringer reviewed and stressed the importance of preservation and removal of patriarch trees, stating if someone wants to remove a patriarch tree, the Tree Committee would like this to go before Planning and Zoning for recommendation to the City Commission, and the City Commission for final decision.

Mayor Johnson stated he would like the City Commission as the appeal board.

Commissioner Ash asked Mr. Winterringer does the Tree Committee not want to review this prior to making recommendation to the Planning and Zoning or is the Tree Committee just want to present the Ordinance. Commissioner Ash stated her thoughts are to go through Code Enforcement and then the Tree Committee. Commissioner Ash said the Tree Committee can make a recommendation to Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Nalley stated he can see the benefit of the Tree Committee making recommendations of patriarch trees to Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Grove asked that we also look at set-backs in reference to patriarch trees.

Mayor Johnson stated this is a whole separate issue, than what we are doing now.

Commissioner Grove suggests a patriarch tree should go through the special exception or variance process.

Mr. Winterringer has concerns about citizens cutting healthy trees down after storms and when cutting down damaged trees.

Mayor Johnson stated if the Tree Committee wants a specific understanding of this, this needs to be put in the Ordinance.

Mr. Winterringer reviewed the beautification fund, fines for illegal removal of protected trees and electrical utility (Duke Energy) tree trimming along power lines.

Commissioner Ash stated the Tree Committee needs to make sure fines for illegal removal of protected trees are totally explained and covered in this Ordinance.

Mr. Winterringer asked the City Commission how they need to proceed for proposed Ordinance for first reading.

Mayor Johnson suggests having the first reading, based on the minor changes for the December Meeting.

With no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

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Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk