

A Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 6:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Val Webb, Commissioner Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: David Adlerstein, Joe Taylor, Jerry Weber

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

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2008/2009 MILAGE RATE & BUDGET

Commissioner Cook read the following statement:

2008/2009 fiscal year budget information:

General Fund:	\$2,033,250
Enterprise Fund:	\$1,410,900
Total Budget:	\$3,444,150

Proposed milage rate: 6.125%

Rolled back rate: 6.40%

Proposed milage rate is a 4.30% decrease from the rolled back rate.

This is the final public hearing.

No public comment.

Public hearing closed.

SPECIAL MEETING

ADOPTION DECISION – FINAL ADOPTION FY 2008/2009 MILAGE RATE (RESOLUTION 2008-06)

Ms. Webb read Resolution 2008-06 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA LEVYING THE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILAGE RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2008 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009, STATIN THE PERCENTAGE BY

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WHICH THE MILAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLLED BACK RATE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Johnson stated that he talked with Ms. Webb earlier to see if there were any areas that could be cut, and was told that all expenses are cut to bare bone.

Commissioner Cook stated that the increased fees that were addressed by the Budget Committee are not included in this budget. Those proposed fees will be addressed at a later date.

Mayor Johnson stated he is having concerns about paying a lobbyist \$12,000. That is almost ¼ mill.

Commissioner Cook stated it is getting harder and harder to get money out of the State. A lobbyist can work with legislators and has a much better chance of getting money for the City. Commissioner Cook stated he feels it would be money well spent.

Mayor Johnson stated that each of the engineering firms that were just ranked also do lobbyist work.

Commissioner Cook stated those firms are not motivated to serve just the City like our own lobbyist would be. Commissioner Cook stated he feels it would be worthwhile to have a lobbyist for one year, and if it doesn't work, then quit it next year.

Mayor Johnson stated if the City could afford it that would be one thing, but the City just can't afford it at this time.

Discussion held concerning employee raises, Dixie Theatre, and lobbyist.

Ms. Webb addressed overtime policy, Mediacom property rent, correction to group insurance, and vehicle.

Discussion continued regarding employee raises.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2008-06 setting the FY 2008/2009 milage rate at 5.96 made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Webb.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Webb, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ADOPTION DECISION – FINAL ADOPTION FY 2008/2009 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NO. 2008-04)

Ms. Webb read Ordinance No. 2008-04 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA ADOPTING THE 2008/2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-04 with budget changes as follows: General Fund: reduce overtime \$2,000, increase Mediacom rental amount, reduce vehicle amount to \$8,000, delete lobbyist, delete Dixie Theatre, adding \$50,000 administration from Enterprise Fund, and include a onetime 3% bonus with minimum of \$1,000 for employees made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Webb.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Webb, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVE AUGUST BILL LIST

Motion to approve August bill list made by Commissioner Webb, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried.

Voting Aye: Webb, Elliott, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk