

A special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, City Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Uta Hardy, Terry Corcoran, Joe Taylor, Timmy Davis, Chet Turner, Bob Lindsley

Special meeting opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

Bob Lindsley presented information to the Commission regarding Attorney Robert Scheffel Wright. Mr. Lindsley stated Attorney Wright specializes in utilities and energy law. Mr. Lindsley stated the City needs to make the Progress Energy issue higher profile; get the Legislature involved; and negotiate.

Commissioner Cook asked if a merger plays into any of these avenues.

Mr. Lindsley stated he doesn't know at this point.

Commissioner Bartley stated he likes the idea of getting the Legislature involved.

Attorney Floyd stated the City has already been pursuing all of these avenues.

Ms. Webb stated that various individuals have made contact with agencies, but Mr. Lindsley would like to pursue this as one organization.

Attorney Floyd stated letter has been written stating the City chooses not to renew franchise. Attorney Floyd stated he has discussed this matter with a lobbyist in Tallahassee. Attorney Floyd also stated that he has made contact with Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, and they are interested in providing service to Apalachicola.

Mr. Lindsley stated time is of the essence. Information needs to be conveyed to Progress Energy in a fast manner. Attorney Wright can be used for planning for making phone calls. Mr. Lindsley stated that Attorney Wright's fee is \$200/hour. Mr. Lindsley stated he is asking for the City to allocate \$2,000 - \$3,000 to this matter.

Commissioner Cook stated the City can't afford anything large, but this is an attainable range. Attorney's fees would have to be limited. Commissioner Cook stated if the City is going to support this, then citizens would have to make donations to help pay legal fees. The main portion should come from citizens, and then the City lends financial support if needed.

Attorney Floyd stated the Historical Society would be the lead organization in obtaining donations.

Attorney Floyd stated he would like to contact Chris Bentley and other attorneys who have worked with the City in the past to see what their cost would be.

Commissioner Cook stated the City should be the last one in line to give financial support. The City will be a supporter, but financial support will have to be limited.

Mayor Johnson read Commissioner Ash's email stating that Commissioner Ash does not agree to offer financial support at this time until the financials can be reviewed.

Discussion held.

Mayor Johnson recommends that the City commit to the concept and give the finance commissioner the opportunity to find out where the funds will come from.

Motion for the City to support the citizen's efforts and allow finance commissioner to review financials to determine where financial support can come from made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk