

A special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, 1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Brenda Ash, Commissioner Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Martha Harris, Rennie Edwards, Clarice Powell, Judy Luten, Sally Williamson, Mark Browne, Jim Conner, Jill Conner, Susan Richardson, Sally Crown, Mark Friedman, Ginny Griner, J. M. Moberly, Robin Vroegop, Robert Horn, Marie Marshall, Willoughby Marshall, Charlie Kienzle, Carrie Kienzle, Ciara Moore, Adam Cooper, B. J. Terhune, Chad Terhune, Fonda Davis, Beth Wright, Paulette Moss, Joe Taylor, Geoff Hewell, A. J. Smith, Bill Barnes, T. Suarez, Uta Hardy, Frederic Kahler, Dana Allen, Tom Daly

Special meeting opened by Mayor Johnson.

Special meeting is concerning Progress Energy power pole installation in Apalachicola.

Tom Daly stated that Attorney Arthur Jacobs has been contacted. Funds are continuing to be raised for public relations firm. Mr. Daly stated that they wanted Progress Energy to be held at a stand till until they have a chance to get control of the situation.

Mark Friedman stated the City Commission previously supported the Pole Committee's efforts and is asking the Commission to reaffirm that action and approve a 90 day moratorium on pole installation so a meeting can be set up with Progress Energy's high level officials. Mr. Friedman stated that political representatives are hesitant to support this issue without the Commission's support. Mr. Friedman stated this issue needs to get national attention.

Commissioner Ash stated everyone needs to come and work together on this issue. Commissioner Ash stated she is offended with how the group is proceeding.

Mr. Friedman apologized to Commissioner Ash.

Susan Richardson stated the flyer with phone numbers was to get everyone involved.

Commissioner Ash stated there is division rather than unity.

Mr. Daly addressed concerns regarding pole installations and stated that outside actions are not endorsed by the Historical Society.

Mayor Johnson stated when he met with Tom Daly and Bob Lindsley in January and they had reported that nothing legally could be done to stop installation of the poles and transmission lines in the locations planned in the City and asked "what has changed?"

Mr. Daly stated the previous attorney just named basic legalities. The historic aspect needs to be emphasized and assert more PR pressure. Historic nature needs to be preserved and we need to enlighten Progress Energy to save the historic aspect of Apalachicola.

Mayor Johnson asked what the legal options are.

Mr. Daly stated legal action can be taken but it is expensive. Attorney Arthur Jacobs thinks there is a case. Mr. Daly stated a political and governmental effort needs to be made; Progress Energy agreement needs to be examined; public relations need to be heightened; pole effect on Apalachicola needs to be publicized. Mr. Daly stated he has been to Tallahassee and he does not have the political clout to get people to listen.

Commissioner Elliott stated he admires and respects what the group is trying to do, and they have his full support. Commissioner Elliott stated he is proud of every citizen that has come to this meeting.

Mr. Daly is asking the Commission to be a voice to Progress Energy. Mr. Daly would like a motion to request Progress Energy to stop the pole installations in the City for 90 days to see if a different path can be taken.

Motion to request Progress Energy to have a 90 day moratorium on pole installations made by Commissioner Elliott.

Commissioner Cook stated the Commission needs a direct source to Progress Energy.

Mr. Friedman stated he can draft a letter to Progress Energy CEO informing him of the 90 day moratorium with a copy of the letter going to the Governor, state officials, representatives, and senators. Mr. Friedman stated the Commission needs to reaffirm the City's support on this matter.

Discussion held concerning cost of burying lines.

Citizen comments received concerning decline in property values and court costs

Motion seconded by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

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Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk