

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola were held on Tuesday, April 3, 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 Administrator Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Lowell Thomas, Jan Thomas, Patrick Bell, John Solomon, Joe Taylor, Shirley Taylor, Jim Bachrach, Rich Hall, Val Webb, Augusta West, Carrie Kienzle, David Adlerstein, Creighton Brown, Holley Brown, Bob Lindsley, Jerry Polous, Dave Watts, Michaelin Watts, Pam Richardson, Tim Center, Hampton Howard, Tom Morgan, Cindy Clark, Mike Vroegop, Robin Vroegop, Jack Brewer, Diane Brewer

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

PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-14 IN ITS ENTIRETY REGARDING COMMERCIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Grove inquired how much the increase is going to raise the bill amounts.

Ms. Mathes stated data can be collected once rates are implemented and has flowed through a couple of billing cycles.

Commissioner Elliott asked about status of the senior discount.

Ms. Mathes stated that information was provided in the packet regarding DEP's answer, but DEP is not recommending any discounts.

No public comment.

REGULAR MEETING

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve amended agenda made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ADOPTION DECISION - ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01 - AMENDED COMMERCIAL WATER & SEWER RATES

Ms. Mathes read Ordinance No. 2017-04 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-14 IN ITS ENTIRETY REGARDING COMMERCIAL WATER AND SEWER RATES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-01 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. John Solomon – Adoption Decision of Resolution 2018-02 – National Volunteer Week April 15th – 21st, 2018

John Solomon read Resolution 2018-02 acknowledging National Volunteer Week April 15th – 21st, 2018. Mr. Solomon commended all volunteers for their unselfish efforts.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-02 made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

2. Patrick Bell – Governmental Consultant

Patrick Bell introduced himself to the Commission and outlined his duties as a consultant/lobbyist. Mr. Bell reported on the actions taken during the past Legislative Session, and thanked the Commission for allowing him to represent the City of Apalachicola.

Commissioner Ash inquired if during the lobbying process, a senior rate can be addressed.

Mr. Bell commented that it was stated that the utility rates for the City of Apalachicola rates are low, but main focus was how to move forward to get debt cleared up.

Mr. Bell reviewed what he and Augusta West had worked on this past Legislative Session and what grants we will be working on for the next session.

3. Holley Brown/Pam Richardson – Florida Stories Audio Tour/Pearls Celebration

Holley Brown gave review of the Pearls celebration events and workshops that will be held during April.

Mayor Johnson stated Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning would benefit from the April 14th event, and requested Ms. Mathes make this information available to them.

Ms. Brown stated there will be a Florida Stories Walking Tour launch party on Avenue L, between 8th and 9th Street.

Chief Varnes stated if any roads are to be blocked for any event, he will need a map of the areas along with dates and times.

Pam Richardson stated she is working on a free downloadable phone app for the Florida Stories Audio Tour. Ms. Richardson talked on revitalizing the hill and thinks this is a step forward in the process.

Adoption Decision of Resolution 2018-03 – USDA – Sidewalk/Parking Grant

Ms. Mathes read Resolution 2018-03 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR A USDA RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR SIDEWALKS, PARKING, AND LIGHTING ALONG WATER STREET AND AVENUE G.

Augusta West reviewed USDA grant and request authorization to apply.

Motion to approve Resolution 2018-03 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Grove.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Early Head Start – 6th Street Recreation Lease Extension

Tim Center stated the new facility at the Johnson Complex will not be ready by the start of the next school year and is requesting a one year extension of the current lease.

Motion to approve one year extension of current Capital Area lease to occupy 6th Street Recreation Center made by Commissioner Grove, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve March minutes made by Commissioner Grove, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve February bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

PLANNING & ZONING

a) Confirm February Minutes

Motion to confirm February Planning & Zoning Minutes made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Grove.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

b) Cindy Clark – City Planner – Monthly Report

Cindy Clark gave update on ongoing projects. Ms. Clark stated Planning & Zoning will hold a workshop on April 9th to discuss short term rental in residential district. Ms. Clark stated that Air B&B is willing to talk to the City in a public forum to discuss challenges and solutions.

Commissioner Grove stated the Commission and Planning & Zoning needs to have joint workshop before this meeting is scheduled.

Discussion held.

Mayor Johnson stated at this time it is an enforcement issue.

Commissioner Grove stated the City has been dealing with this for years and we need to enable our code enforcement officer to enforce. Commissioner Grove stated we need to have joint workshop to talk about rate structure for fines for violations.

Mayor Johnson stated Planning & Zoning hold a workshop, then a joint workshop is held between Commission and Planning & Zoning, then ordinance is presented with a public hearing.

Mayor Johnson stated that Rich Hall is a certified flood plain administrator.

Mr. Hall reviewed the process to get floodplain administrator certification.

Cindy Clark stated the City is aware and does have a flood plain management ordinance that is being administered and the elevation certificates are collected as required. Ms. Clark stated the City would not be eligible for the CRS designation if the City were not doing the requirements.

Ms. Mathes commented she and Cortni Bankston are in the process of taking the class.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Ms. Mathes stated Department of Economic Opportunity has changed their boundaries for the current MOA and requests authorization for renewal.

Motion to approve Renewal of MOA – Department of Economic Opportunity made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

2) Ms. Mathes requests Farmers Market EBT account have two farmer market volunteers as signatories so the vendors can be paid on Saturdays.

Commissioner Ash stated this account is limited only to EBT activity.

Motion to authorize two Farmer’s Market volunteers be added as signatories to Farmers Market EBT account made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

3) Ms. Mathes requests approval to purchase \$5,000 utility bill mailing machine to avoid issue with Tallahassee Post Office.

Motion to purchase utility bill mailing machine made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried: 5 to 0

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Grove, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

4) Ms. Mathes stated she needs a special meeting for April 24th.

Commission approved and set special meeting for April 24th.

ATTORNEY FLOYD – Not Present

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

a) Rich Hall stated he has made the Commission aware over many months of un-permitted building and flood plain permit issues violated and still not corrected, still waiting and hope something happens soon, but to date still not corrected.

Commissioner Grove inquired if Ms. Mathes has heard anything from Attorney Floyd.

Ms. Mathes reviewed findings from Attorney Floyd and stated she will ask him to report at the April 24th meeting.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

1) Mayor Johnson stated that we need to move forward with sale of old fire station property.

Commissioner Ash stated maybe get a realtor to review appraisal.

Ms. Mathes stated there is a realtor that serves on Planning & Zoning so will get them to review appraisal.

2) Commissioner Grove inquired about communication of water rates, status of Bobby Miller request regarding building height, and firing range.

Chief Varnes commented on Firing Range progress.

3) Commissioner Elliott inquired about the progress of the Johnny Byrd property request.

Mayor Johnson stated Attorney Floyd will have to give a report on this issue.

4) Commissioner Ash stated as the liaison to the Library Board there are some issues that need resolution: 1) Carrie Kienzle allegation of being forced to resign in October 2017, 2) Return of Library Key by Bring-Me-A-Book.

Carrie Kienzle outlined situation regarding her resignation.

Commissioner Ash stated she supports the Library Board, and Ms. Kienzle would need to go through the proper process to get reinstated to the Library Board.

Commissioner Ash stated the key was asked to be returned and has not yet been done so, and we need to try to find a way to work together as a community.

Commissioner Grove suggests that all City boards need to take minutes for public review.

Michaelin Watts with Bring-Me-A-Book gave review of the situation. Ms. Watts reiterated that it was agreed that Bring-Me-A-Book would have access and a space in the new Library.

Discussion held.

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk