

A budget workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Thursday, August 30, 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 Manager Ron Nalley, Director of Administration Lee Mathes, City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Granville Croom, Dolores Croom, Jaime Liang, James Pugh, Donnie Walker, Jerry Mallon, Warrenetta Hayward, Johnnie Byrd, Annette Byrd, Billy Fuentes, Sally Williamson, Pam Lewis, Jan Thomas, Cindy Clark, Patricia Lane, Natalie DeWeaver, Carol Weyrich, Matt Hersey, Amy Hersey, Barry Hand, Melissa Hand, OJ Walker, Shirley Walker, Augusta West, Harrison Jones, Despina George, Erika Bartley, Diane Brewer, Bobby Miller, Ronnie Page, Rosilyn Page, Jeff Lockley, Lillie Turrell, Albert Turrell, Athelia Lockley, Val Webb, George Coon, Leslie Coon, David Adlerstein, Virginia Duggar, Linda Hardy, Natasha Creamer, Donna Ingle, Melissa West, Noah Lockley, Jr., Lance Martina, Paula Martina, Christy Stokes, Angela Lolley, Jeff Creamer, Dorothy Cooper, Jim Bachrach, Krystal Hernandez

Budget workshop opened by Mayor Johnson.

Ron Nalley gave budget presentation.

Commissioner Ash opened floor to public comments.

Public comments received were the rising costs of utility bills, how the City got in this financial shape, senior citizen hardship, and budget cuts.

Commissioner Ash commented to the public that the City Commission is not taking the City budget issues lightly.

Mayor Johnson commented the City has to go up on water and sewer rates or that the State will come in and take over the finances, at which time, they will enforce rates themselves. Mayor Johnson commented that rates have to increase in this fund and that it has nothing to do with cutting funds in other departments.

Commissioner Elliott commented he has been a city commissioner for years and loves his city like family. Commissioner Elliott is sorry that this rate increase has come to this extreme amount. Commissioner Elliott commented that council cared for the citizens and tried for many years to get help from the State with the water and sewer issues, which didn't happen so they wouldn't have to burden citizens. We have now come to the point the State told us we have to do something and are trying to figure out what to do to save our City. Commissioner Elliott commented council will do all they can for the citizens.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

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Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk