

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 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 Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, Street Department Supervisor Marvin Croom, Public Works Foreman Wilbur Bellew, Water & Sewer Foreman William Cox

Visitors: Steve Bonifay, Caty Greene, Elinor Mount-Simmons, Ralph Richards, Geoffrey Hewell, Anita Grove, David Adlerstein, Dixie Partington, Willoughby Marshall, Caroline Weiler, Clarice Powell, Mike Standley, Arthur Hollenbeck, Teonia Burton, Amber Danieleche, Rahma Mkuu, Carol Barfield, Cindy Clark, Joe Taylor

Workshop cancelled. Regular meeting opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

* Elinor Mount-Simmons presented plaque to Commission on behalf of H'Cola for City's participation and help during Black History Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Webb stated the amount from LOGT for the O'Neal project was \$10,000 not \$20,000.

Motion to approve February minutes with above correction made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

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

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Bartley, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Anita Grove submitted written report to Commission.

TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM REPORT

Ms. Webb stated the Traffic Circulation Element has been submitted to the Traffic Safety Team for review.

LIBRARY REPORT

Caty Greene submitted written report to Commission.

Mayor Johnson read Resolution 2011-03 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A DEPARTMENT OF STATE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT, FINDING THE APPLICATION CONSISTENT WITH THE LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FINDING THAT ALL FUNDS ARE TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE CHAPMAN SCHOOL BUILDING RENOVATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE GRANT.

Motion to approve Resolution 2011-03 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Commissioner Cook came into meeting at this time.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Geoffrey Hewell submitted verbal report.

Mr. Hewell asked if a Planning & Zoning member has the right to ask a property owner for a permit if no permit is visible. Mr. Hewell stated he will volunteer his time to make sure all construction sites are permitted, but does not want to do anything illegal.

Ms. Webb stated she will meet with Mr. Hewell to go over details and legalities.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

George Watkins not present. No report given.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Varnes gave verbal report.

Mayor Johnson asked when Police Department was moving into new building.

Ms. Webb stated there are problems with roof leaking, but contractor will be fixing problem as soon as possible.

Commissioner Ash asked about Harbor Master duties.

Chief Varnes stated it is going fairly smooth and most contracts have been signed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Webb submitted written monthly report to Commission.

Commissioner Ash stated she has been approached by several citizens complaining about their water bills this month. Commissioner Ash also stated that citizens are complaining that meters are not being read.

Ms. Webb stated that the \$15 reread meter fee will be waived until issues are resolved.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

William Cox had nothing to add to written report.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Marvin Croom had nothing to add to written report.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Wilbur Bellew had nothing to add to written report.

CITY CLERK REPORT

Ms. Mathes stated Attorney Floyd's invoice needed to be approved for payment.

Motion to authorize payment for Attorney Floyd’s invoice made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd not present.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

* Ralph Richards stated that Ronnie Martina and Jimmy Cameron no longer have boats at Scipio Creek and need to be replaced on the Scipio Creek Advisory Committee. Mr. Richards recommends Steve Rash and Arthur Hollenbeck be appointed to committee.

Motion to appoint Steve Rash and Arthur Hollenbeck to the Scipio Creek Advisory Committee to replace Ronnie Martina and Jimmy Cameron made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

* Carol Barfield announced that she was the new domestic violence liaison for Franklin County.

FRANKLIN PROMISE REPORT

Clarice Powell and Joe Taylor submitted verbal and written report to the Commission.

HISTORIC APALACHICOLA, INC. REPORT

Joe Taylor submitted written report to Commission.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

* Mayor Johnson stated that Willoughby Marshall has submitted a list of items of work that needs to be done at Lafayette Park. Mayor Johnson stated he would like for Ms. Webb to review items and readdress at special meeting on March 15th.

* Commissioner Bartley recommends that department heads be excused from attending meetings unless something needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Ash stated their written reports can be submitted in meeting packets.

Ms. Webb stated this does not include the Chief.

Mayor Johnson stated the Chief or another uniformed officer must be at meetings.

* Commissioner Cook stated he was late for meeting due to TDC meeting in Carrabelle.

* Commissioner Elliott addressed the Sangaree fence situation. Commissioner Elliott recommends to hold permit until fence line situation can be resolved.

Ms. Webb stated that is what Planning & Zoning has done. Bill Barnes stated he will not construct fence until issue is resolved. Ms. Webb stated she has already met with Gordon Shuler, Mr. Sangaree's attorney.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk