

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 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 Clerk Lee Mathes, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Geoffrey Hewell, Sally Williamson, Andrea Duval, Liz Kelsey, Joe Taylor, Aaron Boyette, Fran Edward, Paulette Moss, Charles Kienzle, Robin Vrogeop, Tom Daly, Lois Swobda, Caty Greene, Carrie Kienzle, Anita Grove, Susan Clementson, Rhonda Smeby, Ginny Griner

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

### **APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES**

Motion to approve July minutes made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

### **APPROVAL OF JUNE & JULY BILL LIST**

Motion to approve June & July bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

### **PLANNING & ZONING REPORT**

Sally Williamson stated they are down to a 5 member board.

Ms. Webb stated she has had some people pick up applications, so maybe vacancies can be filled.

Motion to confirm June Planning & Zoning minutes made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

\* Ms. Webb stated that Franklin Promise Coalition has made a request to take over the maintenance of the old fire station to make a thrift store at that location.

Joe Taylor and Fran Edwards outlined presentation for community thrift store.

Commissioner Ash asked various questions such as how will it affect the downtown merchant area, flood insurance, lease agreement, and how will the community benefit.

Ms. Webb stated details have not been discussed at this point.

Commissioner Ash stated it needs to be made clear that this will not be an additional expense for the City.

Discussion held concerning selling old fire station and store being competition for Penny's Worth.

Mr. Taylor stated Franklin Promise is not asking for the building in lieu of selling it.

Anita Grove suggested a public workshop to discuss the thrift store.

Citizen comments received.

Commissioner Ash stated she is not against the idea, but needs more information. Commissioner Ash stated as long as we have a working partnership that benefits the community then she is for the thrift store.

Commissioner Cook stated his main concern is that the City needs to get rid of this piece of property. Commissioner Cook stated this is not the time to place property on the market, but when time is right, then building needs to be available to be put on the market. Commissioner Cook stated another concern is that area is already a congested area.

Anita Grove asked if anybody else has expressed interest in leasing building.

Commissioner Cook stated the building is really not in the best condition for most people to use.

Joe Taylor stated the stuff in the thrift store will be no different than the stuff you find in an antique mall.

Commissioner Cook suggested discussing this at the next Community Pride meeting.

Mayor Johnson stated he doesn't have a problem with it if it benefits the community.

Tom Daly stated maybe this should be presented at a Chamber meeting.

Ms. Webb stated this can be discussed at the next Community Pride meeting.

Commissioner Ash stated she just needs more information.

Mayor Johnson stated the Board is interested but needs more information.

Motion that further study be made on thrift store at old fire station location and report back next month with further information made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 3 to 1.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook

Voting Nay: Mayor Johnson

Anita Grove stated she has a lot of people interested in building space, and would the Commission entertain the possibility of leasing the building to someone else.

Mayor Johnson stated he would not have a problem with that.

Commissioner Ash stated she would have no problem with that, but would need all the information before she made a final decision.

\* Ms. Webb stated she has been approached by several members of the Bay City Work Camp of possible closure. Members would like a letter of support from the City to keep it open. Ms. Webb stated closure would put a hardship on the City because this is where the City gets its inmate crews from, and also the City would lose the utility revenue.

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to write letter of support to keep Bay City Work Camp open made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Elliott, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Anita Grove stated she can also write a letter of support.

\* Ms. Webb updated the Commission on the status of the Apalachicola Housing Authority. There are 2 vacancies on the board at this time. Fonda Davis would like to get back onto the board, and also Kevin Ward has expressed an interest.

Commission ranked applicants.

\* Proposals for construction manager for Scipio Project were opened by Attorney Floyd.

The following bids were submitted:  
Cathey Construction & Development  
Cook Brothers  
Culpepper Construction Co., Inc.  
EMO  
Peter Brown  
Poloronis Construction, Inc.  
PSBI

Ms. Webb submitted ranking sheets to Commission. Ms. Webb informed Commission to leave the Cost to Perform section blank. Ms. Webb stated a special meeting will be held to award the bid.

\* Ms. Webb stated the ranking for the Housing Authority vacancies are complete. Top applicants are Fonda Davis and Kevin Ward.

Motion to appoint Fonda Davis and Kevin Ward to Housing Authority Board made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Ash, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

### **ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT**

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on Restore Act

### **OTHER VISITORS AND COMMENTS**

\* Caty Greene stated the summer reading program is over, but students need to return the books.

\* Anita Grove expressed concern about the overgrown lot next door to Chamber.

Ms. Webb stated she will get with Chief Varnes to see if something can be done.

\* Joe Taylor thanked the Commissioner for allowing FEMA to use the High School.

\* Mayor Johnson stated that the State of Florida will celebrate 500 years. Mayor Johnson would like Anita Grove and Ms. Webb to spear head some kind of local celebration.

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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