

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, May 3, 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, City Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Wilbur Bellew, George Coon, Joe Taylor, Paulette Moss, Anita Grove, Aaron Boyette, Geoffrey Hewell, Jim Waddell, Liz Kelsey, Chris Clark, Steve Bonifay, Mike Standley, Greg Chancey, Rhett Butler, Larry Smith, Caty Greene, Pam Lewis, Uta Hardy, David Adlerstein, Timothy Davis, Sally Williamson, Cindy Clark, Beverly Hewitt, Monica Moron

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. Aaron Boyette – PSBI – Schedule of Upcoming Projects – Mr. Boyette stated that PSBI has been selected as construction manager for various Franklin County School Board projects. Mr. Boyette outlined scope of projects and announced upcoming bid workshops.

GPS/GIS MAPPING PRESENTATION – BAY MEDIA

Chris and Cindy Clark outlined applications for the GPS/GIS mapping system.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 2011-03 – OR ZONING CHANGES

Attorney Floyd read by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 91-7 PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF MUSEUM AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE WITHIN THE O/R DISTRICT, AMENDING LANGUAGE REGULATING ACCESSORY USE AND SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS AND FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Cindy Clark explained purpose for ordinance.

Motion to advertise for public hearing and proceed for adoption made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve April minutes made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve March bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Anita Grove submitted written report to the Commission.

Ms. Grove addressed concerns with upcoming Commercial Revitalization Project.

TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM REPORT

Jim Waddell gave verbal report to Commission.

FRANKLIN'S PROMISE REPORT

Joe Taylor submitted written report to Commission.

Mr. Taylor recommends appointing Augusta West, Paulette Moss, and Tom Daly to the History, Culture, and Arts Board.

Ms. Webb stated she would like to have a H'COLA representative also appointed to the board.

Commissioner Ash stated she will take it to H'COLA and if no one wants to be on the board, she will be the representative.

Motion to appoint Augusta West, Paulette Moss, Tom Daly and representative from H'COLA to History, Culture, and Arts Board made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Bartley.

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Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

HISTORIC APALACHICOLA, INC. REPORT

Paulette Moss submitted written report to Commission.

LIBRARY REPORT

Caty Greene submitted written report to Commission.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Geoffrey Hewell gave verbal report.

Motion to confirm September 2010 – February 2011 Planning & Zoning minutes made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report given.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Webb stated the FCT funding agency requires that all FCT property outside City limits be annexed into the City. Ms. Webb asked if the Commission wants to offer anyone along the annexation route to be annexed into the City as well. Ms. Webb stated the annexation would be along Hwy 98 to connect to other City owned properties.

Commissioner Cook recommends this go before Planning & Zoning before a decision is made.

Motion for annexation to go before Planning & Zoning for consideration and recommendation made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

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Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Discussion held concerning residents inside City limits without sewer service.

Larry Smith addressed pump station repairs.

Ms. Webb stated the City is working with the engineer to see what funding options are available to address pump station and other various sewer issues.

Motion to approve payment for Attorney Floyd's invoice made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on BP claims, and ACOE litigation.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

1. Monica Moron, representing Croom's Cocktail Lounge, request extending bar hours from 1 AM to 2 AM on Friday and Saturday nights only from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Mayor Johnson stated he has discussed this with Chief Varnes and he is concerned that increased hours would pull officers more to this area and pull away from patrol duties.

Ms. Moron stated a lot of the noise isn't coming from the club itself, but is coming from cars and people outside the building, but police assistance will be needed to help keep the outside area clean.

Commissioner Ash stated Chief Varnes is having issues getting the facility closed with normal hours. If Mr. Croom is not willing to follow guidelines now, why would he follow guidelines if hours were extended?

Mayor Johnson stated he is afraid if hours are extended, then this will turn into something more fulltime.

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Ms. Moron stated she can't speak for Mr. Croom, but options are very limited to where the business is located.

2. Pam Lewis gave verbal police report.

Joe Taylor asked if extending bar hours is addressed, please let the public know so concerned citizens can be heard.

3. Larry Smith addressed promotions for Wilbur Bellew and Robert Osburn.

Mayor Johnson stated that is it not every day the City has the opportunity to advance an employee. Mayor Johnson stated it was a promotion for both employees, not a raise. Mayor Johnson recommends that Mr. Smith address his concerns with Ms. Webb.

Mr. Smith stated there is no one to help with maintenance problems.

Ms. Webb stated this is an administrative issue, and she will be more than happy to meet with Mr. Smith about any concerns he may have.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Bartley stated he wanted to apologize to the City employees for the recent promotions for two employees. Commissioner Bartley stated that Wilbur Bellew filled Carl Mayo's position, but Mr. Bellew does not have any license.

Motion to readdress Mr. Bellew's promotion to fill position with a licensed operator made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Mayor Johnson stated it was a good promotion for both employees.

Commissioner Elliott stated Mr. Bellew shouldn't get the raise until he is qualified.

Ms. Webb stated Carl Mayo was not doing the work of a licensed operator, and Mr. Bellew is making less than what Carl Mayo was making.

Commissioner Ash stated the City shouldn't go outside staff to fill positions, but maybe it should have been posted so all City employees could have had the opportunity to apply for the position. Commissioner Ash stated she feels policy was not followed, but this situation was handled by administration. Mr. Bellew is assisting the City Administrator with various duties, not filling Carl Mayo's position.

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Ms. Mathes stated she supports administration's decision on both promotions.

Motion not carried 2 to 3.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Elliott

Voting Nay: Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk