

A public hearing and special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, May 22, 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 Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: George Watkins, Erica Head, Elinor Mount-Simmons, Sally Williamson, Val Webb, Sandi Little, Rhett Butler, Joe Taylor, David Meyer, Debbie Roumelis, Ginger Creamer, Ryanna Lockley, Bonnie Davis, Julie Jones, Tammie Rae-Hutchinson

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG PROJECT APPLICATION

Debbie Roumelis stated this is a public hearing to discuss projects applicable for the upcoming CDBG grant cycle. Ms. Roumelis outlined CDBG application requirements, and stated the categories the City is eligible for funding are neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, housing and economic development.

Commission asked questions concerning infrastructure projects and housing grant criteria requirements.

Rhett Butler outlined water infrastructure projects that needed to be done.

No further public comments.

No further discussion, public hearing closed and special meeting opened by Mayor Johnson.

SPECIAL MEETING

SENIOR SERVICES FACILITATOR DISCUSSION

Erica Head stated she is the current Senior Services Coordinator at Holy Family and is here tonight asking the Commission the status of the position because Franklin Promise has run out of funding for the position.

Commissioner Ash stated she has reviewed the financials and doesn't see any place in the current budget where funds can be pulled from.

Discussion held concerning Liberty County, ECCC, and obtaining funding from Franklin County.

Mayor Johnson stated that ECCC is requesting \$5,400 to fund the Senior Services Coordinator position thru September 30th and recommends taking funds from contingency.

Commissioner Grove asked if any of the ECCC fundraisers will fund the salary.

Mayor Johnson stated ECCC doesn't have a big budget to cover a salary.

Commissioner Ash stated she would like to get a contingency fund balance.

Motion to take \$5,400 out of contingency to pay ECCC directly for Senior Services Coordinator position through September 30th and to set up a meeting with Franklin County to petition for funding for senior services made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Joe Taylor stated County budget requests are due by June 1st.

RECEIVE CDBG TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CDBG GRANT APPLICATION

Tammi Ray-Hutchinson stated the Task Force recommends pursuing housing category contingent upon there are no critical concern areas that could be funded in neighborhood revitalization category.

Motion to accept CDBG Task Force recommendation to pursue housing category contingent upon there are no critical concern areas that could be funded in neighborhood revitalization category made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Grove.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

DISCUSSION – CDBG PROJECT APPLICATION

Commission discussed stormwater, manhole issues, fire hydrant system, and water and sewer projects as possible projects for application.

Ms. Roumelis stated she will meet with staff and come back before Commission with potential projects.

Mayor Johnson stated we should keep the Task Force involved in this process.

SELECT CDBG GRANT CATEGORY FOR APPLICATION

Item tabled.

ADVERTISE FOR GRANT WRITING & ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR CDBG GRANT

Item tabled.

FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP

Debbie Roumelis conducted Fair Housing Workshop with following topics discussed:

1. Federal and State Fair Housing Laws and Enforcement
2. Local Fair Housing Ordinance and Enforcement
3. Examples of Discrimination

Ms. Roumelis presented basic facts about the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Discussion held regarding fair housing ordinance.

Workshop concluded.

Motion to authorize Attorney Floyd to research the City's Fair Housing Ordinance to make sure language is adequate made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

HIRING OF WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT POSITION

Motion to hire Adam Joseph to fill vacant Water and Sewer Department position made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Fire Chief George Watkins, Rhett Butler, and Ginger Creamer outlined ISO inspection requirements including training requirements, fire truck replacement and repairs, and equipment maintenance and replacement.

Mr. Butler stated that ISO requires the City to have 3 operational fire trucks. Currently the City only has 2 operational fire trucks, but one of those trucks will be going into the shop for needed repairs which will leave the City with only 1 operational truck for a period of time. Mr. Butler stated he has found a truck which would meet ISO requirements. The price of the truck is \$299,660.00. The air packs are also going to need to be replaced at a cost of \$85,000. The City can obtain financing to cover both the truck and air packs at a yearly payment of approximately \$49,000 which will be due one year from closing.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Ash stated this would satisfy ISO requirements.

Joe Taylor stated the auxiliary group hasn't officially voted to help fund a new fire truck, but feels like the auxiliary would be in support of the purchase.

Motion to authorize to proceed with purchase of fire truck and equipment at a cost of approximately \$400,000 with yearly payment of approximately \$49,000 which will be due one year from closing contingent upon the volunteer auxiliary group helping to finance purchase made by Commissioner Grove, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mayor Johnson stated he has been approached by some employees who would like to receive advance pay by using their leave time as collateral.

Ms. Mathes will meet with Commissioners Ash and Grove to discuss.

2. Mayor Johnson stated the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Chapman Sharks Championship is approaching and he would like to commemorate the event by installing 2 signs at both City limit entrances that lists the players and coaches of the team.

Commissioner Elliott stated a resolution and maybe a banquet would also be nice.

3. Commissioner Grove stated she would like to amend her previous motion to authorize the purchase of the fire truck and equipment regardless if the volunteer auxiliary group helped with the purchase or not because the City will need this equipment either way.

Motion to amend previous motion to authorize purchase of fire truck and equipment at approximately \$400,000 with a ten year payment plan at \$49,000 per year with first payment coming due a year from closing made by Commissioner Grove, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Administrator