

A public hearing and special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 6:00 PM in 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, Public Works Foreman Wilbur Bellew

Visitors: Greg Chancey, Joe Taylor, Tom Daly, Jim Silva, Shirley Byrd, Clarice Powell, Becky Harper, Megan Carter, David Adlerstein, Caty Greene, Joy Lewis

Public hearing opened followed by prayer and pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2010-2011 BUDGET

Commissioner Ash read the following statement:

City of Apalachicola 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget Information:

General Fund	\$2,076,241
Enterprise Fund	1,471,700
Total Budget	3,547,941

Proposed Millage Rate: 8.6250

Rolled Back Rate: 8.6235

Proposed Millage Rate is a .0174% increase from the Rolled Back Rate

The second public hearing and special meeting for final adoption of the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget is being held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue.

Joy Lewis expressed concern over rising property taxes.

Commissioner Ash stated the City has tried to cut back as much as possible.

Tom Daly stated the City needs to look at personnel costs and needs to look into consolidating some departments. Mr. Daly stated the City is holding too much real estate that is not being utilized for revenue sources.

Public comments received.

Commissioner Ash stated the City has a revenue enhancement study that is going to be put in place. Commissioner Ash also stated that the City should not have so much real estate that is not drawing any revenues, and maybe should consider selling off some property.

No further comments, public hearing closed.

SPECIAL MEETING

TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2010-2011 MILLAGE RATE – RESOLUTION 2010-11

Commissioner Elliott stated that Jim Silva has made an offer to remain the harbor master.

Ms. Webb stated that Jim Silva has offered to work for \$40/week with gas and cell phone, and Earl Creamer has offered to work just for the insurance benefits.

Commissioner Bartley stated that Mr. Silva could help out the Police Department and that Earl Creamer could help out Gene Osburn.

Commissioner Ash stated the City is not bringing in enough revenue to cover those expenses.

Mayor Johnson stated the positions can no longer be justified.

Tom Daly stated the City has to look at the costs value of the positions.

Caty Greene asked if the City had job descriptions or does each individual have a work log.

Ms. Webb stated that each position has a job description.

Mr. Daly asked if the City has ever considered turning the Police Department over to the County.

Chief Varnes stated the City considered it about 3 years ago and the bid was \$700,000.

Mayor Johnson stated the Police Department is mandated in the City's Charter.

Ms. Webb read Resolution 2010-11 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA LEVYING THE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2010 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30,2011, STATING THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLLED BACK RATE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to tentatively adopt Resolution 2010-11 made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 3 to 2.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: Elliott, Bartley

1ST READING ORDINANCE 2010-03 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2010-2011 BUDGET

Ms. Webb read Ordinance 2010-03 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA ADOPTING THE 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Motion to approve 1st reading of Ordinance 2010-03 tentatively adopting the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget and authorize to advertise for second public hearing and final adoption made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DISCUSSION

Becky Harper asked about payment status for past due invoices on the Holy Family project. Ms. Harper stated she has been in contact with Ms. Giametta and Ms. Webb but can't seem to get anything resolved.

Mayor Johnson stated he has called the Department of Elder Affairs to discuss the project.

Ms. Webb stated she was not aware there was a problem with the project. She and Cindi Giametta have worked to get all the paper work completed and submitted that is needed.

Mayor Johnson stated the City has not submitted the required paperwork, and are in danger of losing a \$1.5 million grant. Mayor Johnson stated that North Florida Professional Services needs to be paid.

Commissioner Ash stated she doesn't understand why the City is at this point.

Ms. Webb stated she was not aware there was a problem until she met with Ms. Harper earlier this month. Ms. Webb stated she was not copied on any correspondence between Ms. Giametta and Ms. Harper, therefore was not aware of the severity of the situation. Ms. Webb stated her main focus was to get the required paperwork submitted so funds could be requested.

Mayor Johnson asked that Ms. Webb deal with the employee issue, and see what can be done to pay North Florida Professional Services.

Discussion held.

Mayor Johnson asked that Ms. Webb issue a check to North Florida Professional Services tonight for at least the oldest invoices.

OTHER COMMENTS

Commissioner Elliott thanked Jim Silva for serving as Harbor Master.

Mr. Silva thanked the City for allowing him to be the Harbor Master.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk