

A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 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, Chief Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Kristy Banks, Shirley Taylor, Liz Kelsey, Melanie Copeland, Ron Copeland, Heather Hutchins, Patsy Hutchins, Nicole Hutchins, Geoffrey Hewell, Norma Hewell, Anita Grove, Carrie Kienzle, Faye Johnson, Dieter Ambos, David Adlerstein, Ted Snyder, Uta Hardy, Paulette Moss, Carol Barfield, Mike Standley, George Coon

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

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

1. Shirley Taylor – Library Board Appointments – Ms. Taylor stated that Harolyn Walker and Ina Margaret Meyer have resigned from the Library Board. The Philaco Club recommends either Roderick Robinson or William Cook to fill the vacancy of Harolyn Walker and recommends either Carrie Kienzle or Barbara Holmes to fill the vacancy of Ina Margaret Meyer.

Motion to appoint Carrie Kienzle to the Library Board to replace Ina Margaret Meyer made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Motion to appoint Roderick Robinson to the Library Board to replace Harolyn Walker made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

2. Heather Hutchins – Project Impact Incident – Ms. Hutchins read statement regarding Project Impact after school program incident involving Project Impact employee Ron Copeland.

Attorney Floyd stated this matter is still under investigation.

Ms. Hutchins asked the Commission what Project Impact is doing to ensure the safety of the children who attend the program, and who does the hiring for Project Impact.

Mayor Johnson assured Ms. Hutchins the program is safe.

Attorney Floyd stated people are chosen for employment in accordance with grant requirements.

Ms. Hutchins stated according to the State Attorney office, because the City runs the program, then the City should be the one to handle this matter.

Attorney Floyd stated in accordance with the requirements and the law, the Commission is in no position to discuss this matter tonight.

3. Ron Copeland – Project Impact Incident – Mr. Copeland did not have comments.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

Motion to approve December and January bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

### **4-WAY STOP – 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET & GIBSON ROAD**

Mayor Johnson stated he has been approached by a citizen about a 4-way stop at the intersection of Gibson Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Chief Varnes stated that is a good place for a 4-way stop because there are a lot of children in the area, but it might be better to place the 4-way stop closer to Heritage Villas or Southern Villas or on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Chief Varnes stated putting the 4-way stop on 17<sup>th</sup> Street would half up the area more.

Commissioner Ash stated there is a speeding problem within the City.

Ms. Webb stated that she and Mayor Johnson just had a discussion to see where speed bumps could be justified.

Commissioner Elliott stated speed bumps are hard for an ambulance.

Commissioner Bartley stated the 11<sup>th</sup> Street project have requested speed bumps.

Mayor Johnson stated that he has been notified that school buses can't go over the speed bumps. Mayor Johnson recommends studying matter and either put in stop signs, speed bumps, or issue more speeding citations.

Ms. Webb stated that she and Chief Varnes will study map and discuss where stop signs and speed bumps need to be placed.

### **PLANNING & ZONING REPORT**

Ms. Webb stated that Planning & Zoning will hold a public hearing on Monday night to discuss a special exception for a Bed & Breakfast.

Motion to confirm Board of Adjustment December minutes made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Motion to confirm Planning & Zoning November and December minutes made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. Ms. Webb submitted written department monthly report to Commission.

2. Ms. Webb stated that J. P. Barber is mooring his shrimp boat at Riverfront Park due to shallow water at Scipio Creek. Riverfront Park is for transient mooring only. Ms. Webb stated she recommends that

the City provide him temporary mooring approval to dock at Riverfront Park. The City can't issue a monthly rental, so it will have to be considered a daily rate, but thinks the rate should be comparable to what his monthly rent would be at Scipio Creek. Ms. Webb recommends temporary mooring for 6 months.

Motion to allow J. P. Barber to dock boat at Riverfront Park for a period of 6 months with a rate comparable to what rent would be at Scipio Creek made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

3. Ms. Webb stated a new A/C unit is needed for the police/fire station. The costs would be about \$15,000, and proposals have gone out for bid.

Motion to authorize purchase of A/C unit for police/fire station contingent upon looking at the budget to make sure money is available made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

4. Ms. Webb stated the City's website is getting a face lift. Recommends everyone look at website and give suggestions.

5. Ms. Webb stated that Fonda Davis has stepped down from the Housing Authority Board. Ms. Webb stated she is advertising for all board vacancies.

6. Ms. Webb announced the Holy Family dedication will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. The senior citizens themselves will actually host the dedication. H'Cola will be hosting a Legends Ball at 8:00 PM at Holy Family.

7. Commissioner Ash asked for an update on the Kiosk and Lafayette Park TDC projects.

Ms. Webb stated the other 2 kiosks have been constructed and Cindy Clark is working on the map that will go on the back side of the signs. The other side will be used to post community activities. The museum trail and historic building identification projects are still being worked on. Lafayette Park Project is progressing and should be working back on that real soon.

Commissioner Ash asked if Lafayette Park would be completed by summer.

Ms. Webb stated she hopes so, and will move project to the top of the project list to get it completed.

Ms. Webb stated the City has not officially compiled a list for the \$45,000 2011 TDC allocation. Street sweeper or boardwalk is being considered as projects.

8. Motion to authorize payment for Attorney Floyd invoice made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

#### **ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT**

Attorney Floyd updated Commission on ACOE litigation, and drug free work place policies.

#### **OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS**

Ted Snyder addressed the Commission regarding abandoned properties. Mr. Snyder provided information on how Florida cities are taking the lead on abandoned properties.

Abandoned properties discussed.

#### **MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

1. Commissioner Bartley thanked Chief Varnes for patrolling area around school. Commissioner Bartley stated he would like the drainage problem at the Methodist Church to be addressed.

2. Mayor Johnson stated the he and Ms. Webb attended mediation in Tallahassee, and the Baucham case has been settled.

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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