

The regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was rescheduled from January 7, 2014 to January 14, 2014 due to lack of quorum. Regular meeting was held 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 Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, City Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Andrea Duval, Mike Standley, Liz Kelsey, Jim Bachrach, Sally Williamson, Aaron Boyette, Jim Philyaw, Cindy Clark, Chris Clark, Tom Daly, Carrie Kienzle, Leslie Coon, George Coon, Anita Grove, Robin Vroegrop, Elinor Mount – Simmons, Clarice Powell, David Adlerstein, Joe Taylor, Ann Seaton, Salea Sato, Christine Verploeg, Jon Johnson, Beverly Roxwell, Ed Springer, Helen Tudor, Jody Rosenbawn, Will Rosenbawn

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

1. Clarice Powell – Blocking of Dr. Frederick Humphries Street – Ms. Powell expressed concern about the increased flow of commercial and residential traffic at the very end of 7th Street at the entry way to Estuary Building. Ms. Powell stated that people are using 7th Street as a short cut to get to DACS Building, and there are issues with speeding and increased traffic flow through the residential area. Ms. Powell suggested to install removable posts so road will be blocked to vehicular traffic but can be used by pedestrians, bicycles, and golf carts.

Tom Daly stated to help encourage residential growth in this area, this really needs to be done.

Ms. Webb stated she has discussed this issue with DACS and they have agreed to close the gate at the end of 7th Street and to take City up on our offer to supply “No Thru Traffic” signs at 7th Street and Avenue M and at Scipio Creek entrance. Street would be used for emergency purposes only.

Robin Vroegrop stated there is a nature trail that goes through that area so signage verbiage is very important.

Ms. Webb stated that signage verbiage identifying what is in area will be reviewed and approved before installation.

2. Elinor Mount – Simmons – 2014 African-American History Festival

Ms. Mount – Simmons outlined dates and activities for 2014 African-American History Festival.

Ms. Mount – Simmons stated the base of the festival will be at the Franklin Square Area of the Hill Community, and HCOLA is submitting the following request for Commissioner approval:

* Use of Franklin Square for February 14th – 16th. This includes the Recreation Center, the tennis courts, and the basketball courts

* Blocking the following roads for the festival: 6th Street from Avenue K to Avenue M; Avenue L from 6th Street to 7th Street

* Blocking the following roads from 9-11AM for the parade: 14th Street, directly in front of the AHS site; MLK Avenue south to 6th Street; 6th Street west to Avenue M

Motion to approve 6th Street Recreation Facility usage and road closures for 2014 African-American History Festival as outlined by Ms. Mount – Simmons made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ADOPTION DECISION – RESOLUTION 2014-01 – TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Jim Bachrach outlined Resolution 2014-01.

Attorney Floyd read Resolution 2014-01 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA TO ABOLISH RESOLUTION NUMBER 2010-06; RE-ESTABLISH A REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING FOR THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AREA WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECT DATE

Motion to adopt Resolution 2014-01 made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Ash.

Robin Vroegop asked where can the public view the CRA map area.

Ms. Webb stated the map is at City Hall, but also trying to get the map loaded to the website.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

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

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER

Mayor Johnson stated he would like to table this item at this time. Mayor Johnson stated he has had an individual come forward who would like to serve, and he would like the Housing Authority Board to consider the request before an appointment is made.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

1. Helen Tudor – 82 6th Street – Fence Encroachment

Ms. Tudor outlined fence encroachment to Commission.

Motion to approve fence encroachment for 82 6th Street made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Webb stated she will prepare an encroachment agreement for Ms. Tudor to sign based on encroachment site plan submitted.

2. Motion to confirm November 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

1. Scipio Creek Improvement Project - Ms. Webb stated that she has received the AIA from PSBI with their Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Scipio Creek Improvement Project. Total of GMP is \$2,006,293.00 with a project completion date of November 2014.

Motion to approve AIA from PSBI as submitted made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Commissioner Ash asked when project construction would start.

Aaron Boyette stated he anticipates starting within a month after final documents and notice to proceed are complete.

Ms. Webb stated anticipated time frame to start would be first part of March.

Mr. Boyette outlined the project.

Discussion held concerning project.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

2. NFWFMD Storm Water Projects - Ms. Webb stated the agreement with NFWFMD for the Battery Park Outfall Project has been finalized. Ms. Webb stated she needs Commission authorization for Mayor to sign task order with Preble Rish Engineers.

Motion to authorize Mayor Johnson to sign task order made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Webb stated the City has to come up with a maintenance plan for this project. NFWFMD is allowing the City to use some of the funding for the plan and GIS Mapping for stormwater projects.

Motion to contract with Bay Media to complete Maintenance Plan and GIS Mapping for stormwater projects made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

3. Wet Weather Holding Pond Project – Ms. Webb stated \$957,000 has been awarded through FDEP for this project. BDI has been involved with this project from the start, however Preble Rish has obtained the funding. The total engineering allocated for the project is \$120,000. Preble Rish bid for engineering is \$101,000 which includes a site inspector every day. BDI bid for engineering is \$34,000 but will have an inspector come in once or twice a week to inspect project. Ms. Webb stated that the design and permitting work for this project has already been completed by BDI and was paid through the Reuse Project. Ms. Webb stated she has reviewed both bids and the only difference she can see is the onsite inspector.

Motion to award bid to BDI for \$34,000 made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Ash.

Commissioner Ash stated that is a big difference in price and asked BDI representative if there were going to be any changes.

Mike Standley stated that \$34,000 is the total price.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

4. Water & Sewer Advertisement – Ms. Webb stated that Larry Smith has turned in his resignation, and she needs authorization to advertise for the vacant position.

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to advertise for vacant Water & Sewer position made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

5. Speed Bumps - Ms. Webb stated that Commissioner Bartley would like to install speed bumps at Avenue L between 12th and 14th Street.

Mayor Johnson stated that he was also approached by someone to install speed bumps off of 20th Street. Mayor Johnson stated that the speed bumps on 23rd Street can be removed and used at these locations.

Motion to install speed bumps at the above mentioned locations made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

6. Main Street Representative on CRA - Ms. Webb stated that the Main Street Board is requesting that a member from the Main Street Board be appointed to the CRA Board. This would make the CRA Board an eight member board. Ms. Webb stated an ordinance change would be required to add the extra seat.

Jim Bachrach stated in many cities the CRA Board and Main Street Board work closely together and often various projects are very similar.

Motion to proceed with ordinance process to make change to add a Main Street Board member to CRA board making the CRA Board an eight member board made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Commissioner Ash if the C-2 seat was still vacant on the CRA Board.

Ms. Webb stated the seat is vacant. Ms. Webb stated it might open the door for new participants if the wording was changed to say “C-2 Business Owner or Resident” instead of just “C-2 Business Owner”.

Motion to also add to change wording for C-2 seat on CRA Board to reflect “Business Owner or Resident” made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

7. Motion to authorize payment for Attorney Floyd invoice made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Ash.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd stated he has received notice of appeal from Family Dollar, but the \$500 fee has not yet been paid. Attorney Floyd stated code requires appeal to be filed with City Commission, not Board of Adjustment.

Mayor Johnson stated based on policy, Family Dollar hasn't formally filed an appeal.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

Leslie Coon thanked the City for starting the sidewalks. Ms. Coon expressed concern about old abandoned buildings.

Ms. Webb stated the Nuisance Ordinance addresses this issue. Ms. Webb stated she will follow up with Wilbur Bellew.

Clarice Powell thanked the City for installing the stop sign on 6th Street and Avenue M.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Elliott stated he has been approached by the shrimpers that there are some very bad and missing pilings at Scipio Creek.

Ms. Webb stated that piling replacement will be addressed at the end of the project. Piling work is the #1 alternate for any remaining funds.

Commissioner Elliott asked that Bobby Varnes get with Kevin Martina about the piling issue.

Ms. Webb stated when the piling replacement is done at Scipio Creek, she will try to get Battery Park done at the same time.

Commissioner Ash stated the ditch on Avenue M by the church is starting to cave in due to the rain.

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There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk