

A budget workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 9:00 AM 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

Visitors: Ted Snyder, Robin Vroegop, Timmy Davis, Chet Turner, Anthony Croom, David Adlerstein, Caty Greene, Tom Daly, Shirley Byrd, Susan Clementson

Workshop opened by Mayor Johnson.

Ms. Webb outlined budget Admin draft and budget comparison reports. Ms. Webb stated she feels the Admin draft outlines all the concerns that have been addressed. Ms. Webb stated the Admin draft recommends reducing the millage  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill from the rolled back rate to 9.0090 mills.

Commissioner Ash stated she really likes the comparison and Admin budget draft. Commissioner Ash stated she feels it will be an asset to have Caty Green added as an employee receiving benefits. Commissioner Ash stated she does not feel there should be an across the board 3% pay raise but there should be an evaluation performed on each employee to determine the raise percentage because not all employees produce the same and it needs to be on an individual basis and not across the board. Commissioner Ash stated those employees that go above and beyond should be rewarded.

Commissioner Elliott stated he agrees.

Mayor Johnson stated that a merit raise and a cost of living increase are two separate things. Mayor Johnson stated everyone receives a cost of living increase, and then employees get individual merit raises.

Ms. Webb suggested that she meet with the department supervisors to discuss raises.

Mayor Johnson stated that everyone should get the same cost of living increase.

Ms. Webb stated she would prefer across the board cost of living increase and then then give additional merit raises. Ms. Webb stated that expenses have been reduced and employees that have left or retired have not been replaced and that adds up to some savings.

Bobby Varnes stated that all employees have cut back on the expenses.

Commissioner Cook stated it was discussed last year that if employees could save money then possibly giving bonuses at the end of this year. Commissioner Cook stated he doesn't have a problem with additional raises, but it is easier to take way a bonus than reduce a salary.

Ms. Webb stated bonuses do not need to be addressed until the end of 9/30.  
Budget Workshop – 9/6/12 – Page 2

Commissioner Ash asked about job descriptions when City Hall and Admin Office consolidate.

Ms. Webb stated when consolidation occurs there will be an adjusting of duties.

Mayor Johnson recommends going with 9.0090 millage rate with 3% pay increase.

Tom Daly asked if the City was budgeting enough for building maintenance.

Ms. Webb stated that a lot of the building repairs are being done in house.

Ted Snyder asked if this budget included the work camp closure and transport of inmates.

Ms. Webb stated the Warden is now rethinking the closure due to the condition of the bay and to help with local employment, but the City will fight the closure.

Caty Greene stated the Key funds paid for a new a/c unit at the Library.

Commissioner Ash stated it was discussed to set up a cushion account to start putting funds aside for future improvements.

There being no further discussion, workshop adjourned.

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Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

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Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk