

A Budget Workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Frank Cook, Commissioner Val Webb, City Administrator Betty Webb, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Jim Waddell, Charma Burkhalter, Clarice Powell, Beverly Connors, Mardi Fletcher, Jerry Weber, Mark Van Amburgh, Joe Taylor, Dixie Partington, Beverly Hewitt, Janice Mathis, Van Mathis, Mike Shepard, Charles McDearis, Rita Sawyer

Jerry Weber addressed proposed fee increases for services, increased marina dock rent, and employee salary increases.

Ms. Webb stated that most of the proposed fee increases came from the Budget Committee.

Rita Sawyer, Budget Committee member, stated the fee increases will be paid by those individuals that utilize the services. Most of the people will not be affected by the fee increases.

Mayor Johnson commended the Budget Committee for all their hard work, and feels they have done an excellent job.

Commissioner Cook stated the Budget Committee tried to work with what revenue the City had already, and tried to propose fees that would generate revenue without affecting the majority of the people.

Beverly Hewitt questioned occupational license fee increase and Battery Park Marina dock fee increase.

Commissioner Cook explained how the mileage rate is now set through the Department of Revenue.

Employee cost of living increase discussed.

Battery Park dock fee increase discussed.

Launch fees discussed.

Joe Taylor asked how the City could impose a City wide sales tax.

Ms. Webb stated imposing a City wide sales tax was the number one recommendation by the Budget Committee. Ms. Webb stated she thinks the City has to go through the County.

Beverly Hewitt asked if the City could contract out the building inspector job through the County.

Commissioner Cook stated the building inspector does more than issue building permits.

Clarice Powell presented Franklin Promise report to the Board.

Mayor Johnson stated he would like to leave the mileage rate at 6.125 and include a 3% cost of living increase for employees.

Commissioner Cook stated that employees would rather have a straight across the board increase rather than the 3%.

Employee salary increase further discussed.

After further discussion, the Board directed Ms. Mathes to take 3% of everyone's current pay, add the amounts together, and divide the amount equally among all employees and reduce the mileage rate by the difference.

Ms. Webb stated the Budget Committee is working on a pay increase procedure policy.

There being no further business, workshop adjourned.