

A workshop and regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 5:00 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, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, City Attorney Pat Floyd

Visitors: Sally Williamson, Gary Reynolds, Cindy Clark, Mary Athorn, Michael Athorn, Chris Atkins, Tim Mills, Susan Macken, E. R. Watson, Joe Taylor, Caty Greene, Adriane Elliott, George Watkins, Beth Wright, Robin Vroegrop, David Adlerstein, Liz Kelsey, Lee Smith, George Coon, Carol Barfield, Allan Pierce, Michael Shuler, Soundra Furbee, Wynn Fuller, William Smallwood, George Floyd, Billy Turner, Billy Houston, Dan Tonsmeire

Workshop opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

WORKSHOP – 5:00 PM – PREBLE RISH ENGINEERS

Debbie Preble outlined storm water project alternative analysis for outfalls at Hwy 98 & 16th Street, Prado/Shadow Lane, and Avenue I.

Citizen comments received.

Workshop adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING

HCA – AWARD RFP FOR DIVISION OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS GRANT SERVICES

Mayor Johnson opened only proposal received. Mayor Johnson stated proposal is submitted by Paulette Moss in the amount of \$24,000/year.

Ms. Webb stated that this service will be paid solely from grant funds and revenues generated from History, Culture, and Arts events.

Motion to accept Paulette Moss' proposal for Division of Cultural Affairs grant services in the amount of \$24,000/year made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Motion to approve July minutes made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve June bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – OPERATIONS DISCUSSION

George Floyd requests a resolution from Commission encouraging the maintenance of the river's navigational system.

Bill Smallwood outlined the ACF Rivers Project and snagging operation.

Citizen comments received.

Discussion held concerning river water flow.

Billy Houston and Billy Turner addressed the Commission concerning river water management.

Mr. Floyd stated if resolution isn't adopted supporting navigational maintenance then it will be detrimental to this area. Mr. Floyd stated the County is taking a resolution into consideration to be considered at their next meeting.

Motion to direct Attorney Floyd to draft resolution encouraging navigational maintenance of Apalachicola River made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Attorney Floyd stated he has started a draft resolution but modifications may be needed.

Ms. Webb stated the draft resolution can be put online so public can also review the document.

HCA – COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Joe Taylor requested to update the History, Culture, and Arts Board to reflect the following members:

Joe Taylor, Chair
Valentina Webb, Co-Chair
Marie Marshall, Apalachicola Museum of Art
Ed Springer, Visual Artist
Nadine Kahn, Project Impact
Tom Morgan, Historic Apalachicola Main Street
Lynn Wilson, Artist Association of Apalachicola
Carrie Kienzle, Apalachicola Historic Society/Raney House
Mike Kinnett, State Parks, Gorrie Museum/Orman House
Caty Greene, Apalachicola Municipal Library
August West, Apalachicola Maritime Museum

Motion to update the History, Culture, and Arts Board to reflect the members listed above made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APALACHICOLA RIVER BLUEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL CELEBRATION DAY PROCLAMATION

Dan Tonsmeire outlined activities for October 11th celebration.

Motion to proclaim October 11, 2014 as Apalachicola River Blueway National Recreation Trail Celebration Day made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

PLANNING & ZONING

Motion to confirm June minutes made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Webb stated the only item she has for the Commission is Attorney Floyd's invoice. Ms. Webb stated at this time no meeting has been held to discuss budget issue, and this invoice does take legal expenses over budget.

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

Motion carried 4 to 1.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: Ash

ATTORNEY FLOYD

Attorney Floyd stated unless the Commission has questions, he has no report.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

1. George Coon asked for update on Family Dollar issue.

Attorney Floyd stated Family Dollar has requested a hearing, but no hearing date has been set at this time.

2. George Coon asked for update on water quality issue.

Ms. Webb stated pilot studies are currently being conducted and should be completed by mid-month.

3. George Coon asked for update regarding cluttered corridors at high school building.

Joe Taylor stated that Leslie Coon has not come to see him about issue.

Mayor Johnson stated matter will be addressed and corrected.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Ash stated it is her understanding that the gym has been turned over to Helen Escobar and the Kids United Together Youth Program. Commissioner Ash asked if there was an agreement in place with Helen Escobar, also can there be some type of reassurance that Project Impact program can continue use of the gym.

Mayor Johnson stated he was approached by Ms. Escobar to manage the gym. At the present, the gym and mold issues and is in need of a new roof. The building in its current condition is not suitable for anybody to use.

Commissioner Ash stated after the building is safe to use, the Project Impact program would like continued use of the gym as part of their program.

Mayor Johnson stated Ms. Escobar is using her own personal resources to renovate the gym.

Commissioner Ash stated there doesn't need to be a conflict between Project Impact and Ms. Escobar's program. Everyone needs to work together to benefit the children.

Mayor Johnson stated once the renovations are complete, the gym will be available to every child in Apalachicola, whether they are in the Project Impact program or Ms. Escobar's program.

Ms. Webb stated the biggest concern is that Project Impact gets funding based on the number of children it serves. If there is a program available that close to Project Impact it may affect the number of children attending, therefore it affects the funding received. Ms. Webb stated that at no time was there a comment made that Ms. Escobar's program was going to outweigh the Project Impact program. The two programs can work together.

Commissioner Ash stated she just wants to make sure the children or the Project Impact program will be hurt because of the other program.

Ms. Webb stated currently there is not agreement in place between the City and Ms. Escobar. Ms. Webb stated she asks for the Commission's support to continue to coordinate the programs together. Ms. Webb stated that Project Impact just wants reassurance that they will be allowed use of the gym.

Commission agreed.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk