

A budget public hearing and special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 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 Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: William Creamer, Anthony Croom, Timmy Davis, Tom Gray, Caty Greene

PUBLIC HEARING – FY BUDGET 2012-2013

Commissioner Ash read the following the statement:

City of Apalachicola 2012-2013 Fiscal Year budget information:

General Fund:	1,928,725
Enterprise Fund:	1,537,020
Total Budget:	3,465,745

Proposed Millage Rate: 9.0090

Rolled Back Rate: 9.5090

Proposed Millage Rate is a 5.2582% decrease from the Rolled Back Rate

The second public hearing and special meeting for final adoption of the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue

No public comments.

Mayor Johnson adjourned public hearing and opened special meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2012-2013 MILLAGE RATE – RESOLUTION 2012-02

Lee Mathes read Resolution 2012-2013 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA LEVYING THE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE FRO MUNICIPAL PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2012 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2013, STATING THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLLED BACK RATE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to tentatively adopt Resolution 2012-02 to tentatively adopt FY 2012-2013 millage rate at 9.0090 mills made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

1ST READING ORDINANCE 2012-01 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2012-2013 BUDGET

Ms. Mathes read Ordinance 2012-01 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOAL ADOPTING THE 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.

Commissioner Bartley stated he is against employees receiving raises and librarian Caty Greene receiving benefits. Commissioner Bartley stated the employees deserve a raise but economic times are hard. Commissioner Bartley stated that the library position is a contractual position and should not be receiving benefits. Commissioner Bartley stated that he was unable to attend the budget workshops due to prior engagements.

Mayor Johnson stated the library role is a very important role and needs to be treated like a City employee position.

Commissioner Ash stated that employee raises and the library position were discussed in the workshops.

Ms. Mathes stated that supervisors met as directed by the Commission to discuss merit raises. Supervisors felt that because it has been so long since employees have received any pay raise, that a straight 3% across the board was fair for this year. Supervisors will address merit raises hence forth.

Discussion held concerning employee raises and library position receiving benefits.

Commissioner Bartley stated he will not approve the budget with the employee raises and he would like to address the benefits for employees and the library position as two separate issues. He is in favor of employees that are paid by the City getting insurance and other benefits but not the library position receiving benefits because that is a contract position and paid by the library board.

Mayor Johnson stated that it is all included in the proposed budget. Mayor Johnson stated he doesn't know of any municipality that can reduce the millage rate and still give employees a raise.

Motion to tentatively adopt Ordinance 2012-01 to tentatively adopt the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget with option to make adjustment for merit raises and library position receiving benefits made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Chief Varnes stated that if employees felt the raise was costing the tax payers anything, then it would not even be considered.

Mayor Johnson stated that labor is part of the City, and needs to be treated as such.

Motion carried 4 to 1.

Voting Aye: Ash, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: Bartley

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk