

A workshop and regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 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, Assistant City Clerk Deborah Guillotte, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Gary Joiner, Tom Fugate, Betty Fugate, Michael Billings, Fred Vogt, Dolores H. Croom, Kent Watson, Gladys Watson, Creighton Brown, Holly Brown, Carey Shea, O J Alexander, Lee Ellzey, Lowell Thomas, Jim Bachrach, Edward Michaels, Dennis Winterring, Beth Wright, Sondra Taylor-Furbee, Kay Carson, Terry Corcoran, Pam Corcoran, Sandra Kenniston, Joe Taylor, Bonnie Davis, Oryan Speed, Krystal Hernandez, Ashley Teat, Diane Brewer, John Lee, Ed Springer, Sherrerlyn Clark, Dreamal Worthen, Margene Off, Shirley White, Lynn Wilson, Jaime Liang, Martha Greene, Amanda Dorsett, George Coon, DT Simmons, Elinor Mount-Simmons, Jerod Hall, Fe Daniels, Barry Hand, Sherry Ray, Dr. Robert W. Taylor, Dr. Victor Ibeanusi, Robin Smith, Jann Kirkland, Tami Ray-Hutchinson, Augusta West, Tasia Jones, Anita Grove, David Meyer

Workshop opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

WORKSHOP – DISCUSS BP SETTLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECTS

1) Carey Shey with Home by Hand outlined the restoration project of the Millworker houses on 8th Street. Ms. Shey is requesting a portion of the BP settlement money to establish an affordable housing revolving loan program.

Discussion held.

Mayor Johnson stated he recommends a portion of the BP funds go toward establishing an affordable housing revolving loan program because he feels it will be a future investment for the city. Mayor Johnson stated that because of the time restraint, he is asking that a motion be made to allocate funds towards this project.

2) Krystal Hernandez stated she is requesting \$50,000 of BP funds to upgrade the Battery Park playground. Ms. Hernandez stated she and Ms. Webb have been working with a company, and the company will match our \$50,000 if the equipment is purchased by mid-November.

Commissioner Ash stated she has a concern about BP monies being allocated to other projects before knowing exact amounts needed for City projects. Commissioner Ash stated she would like a portion of the monies to go into a maintenance fund so needed repairs can be done on City owned facilities. Commissioner Ash would like written proposals for projects with how much cost will be involved.

There being no further comment, workshop closed.

REGULAR MEETING – OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve August bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

REGULAR MEETING – NEW BUSINESS

SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS

Attorney Floyd sworn in Commissioner John M. Bartley, Sr. with the following Oath of Office:

I, John M. Bartley, Sr., do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the government of the United States and the State of Florida and that I am duly qualified to hold office under the laws of the State of Florida and the Charter of the City of Apalachicola and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of the City Commissioner Seat 1 of the said City upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

Attorney Floyd sworn in Commissioner James L. Elliott with the following Oath of Office:

I, James L. Elliott, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the government of the United States and the State of Florida and that I am duly qualified to hold office under the laws of the State of Florida and the Charter of the City of Apalachicola and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of the City Commissioner Seat 2 of the said City upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

SWEARING IN OF MAYOR

Apostle Shirley C. White sworn in Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr. with the following Oath of Office:

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I, Van W. Johnson, Sr., do solemnly swear that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the government of the United States and the State of Florida and that I am duly qualified to hold office under the laws of the State of Florida and the Charter of the City of Apalachicola and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of Mayor of the said City upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

MAYOR VAN W. JOHNSON, SR. THIRD TERM INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Eight years ago I stood here and asked that you join me on a journey to transform Apalachicola into the most livable city in the entire State of Florida.

You accepted that challenge, but from the onset of that journey we faced obstacles brought on by the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, which not only tested our nation and our state, but also our city, causing three local banks to collapse, real estate prices to plummet and record foreclosures.

But despite it all, we overcame those obstacles and were able to achieve more for our city with less, and progressed more than most other cities throughout Florida of similar shape and size.

As a result, the City of Apalachicola is now nationally known as a distinctive destination, attracting thousands of visitors and luring hundreds of new residents into the community each year.

Four years later, I again stood here and asked could we begin anew, to work in a spirit of true harmony and cooperation. Where together we could dream, hope and plan for a brighter future.

You did, and by working together we were able to accomplish so much, we now have a dedicated Senior Citizen Center where our elderly can gather and socialize. We have a state recognized afterschool and summer enrichment program where the youth of our community can congregate in a safe environment.

We supported our local seafood workers by acting as their payroll agent during the shelling program, and we secured grant funding to add amenities in the downtown district to support our growing tourism industry.

We took BP to task over the 2010 Oil spill, which resulted in a million dollar settlement, and we were able to enhance the quality of life for all of our residents with summer music in the park, a spectacular Annual Independence Day fireworks display through a collaborative effort with our friends at Historic Apalachicola Main Street and we partnered with members of the community to establish a History, Culture and Art Center.

Once again, I stand before you tonight, thankful, humble and excited to begin my third term as Mayor of this wonderful city and I ask of you this time, that we again work together to position Apalachicola for generations to come as an undeniable envy of small town America.

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To my colleagues on the Apalachicola Board of City Commissioners, our City Administrator, Clerk, Police Chief, staff and fellow residents of Apalachicola, I thank each you for trusting me to continue to serve as Mayor of this great city.

The oath of office I just took, reaffirms that trust and placed before my administration the task of continuing the progress made over the last eight years, to build on that progress, and to protect what we all so dearly love about Apalachicola for future generations.

To build on that progress, as a community we must have both the courage and foresight to think about the future and to plan accordingly for the city our children will eventually inherit.

I believe the path forward on the journey we started eight years ago is through a visioning process that will develop a plan for our city that will not only protect and preserve what we have, but to use what we have to create jobs and economic opportunities.

That is why I'm supportive of the proposal received from Mrs. Bonnie Davis to form a Citizen's Task Force to work with the City Commission, members of the community and other appointed boards to develop a vision for our city's future.

Two key components to creating economic opportunities are education and job training. That is why my administration strongly believes and supports the long held vision of Dr. Frederick Humphries to establish a Florida A&M University branch campus in Apalachicola. Now poised to become a reality, a branch college campus would not only provide a post high school education, but it would also bring about a transformative change to our city, a change that will not only spur local industries, but also provide a trained workforce and a more engaged community.

With that, the goal of my administration over the next four years will be dedicated to creating economic opportunities for all through public-private collaborations, and the use of our local renewable resources like our river and bay that will neither adversely affect the historic flavor of our community nor those resources.

We have already begun the process by capitalizing on the momentum from the past eight years with the launch of a pilot job training program for youth adults, complete with leadership skills and academic programming. All through a public-private partnership between the City of Apalachicola, the Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast, the Conservation Corps Network, Community Training Works and the Franklin's Promise Coalition. The focus of the program is to conserve, protect and improve our environment.

In addition, over the past eleven months my administration has been in communication with a foreign business interest and a municipal government in the region of Tuscany, Italy to create sustainable local jobs by establishing a plant in Apalachicola that will process from our local fishery various finished products and ready to eat Tuscan meals for sale on the U.S. market.

Furthermore, we have established a dialogue with our neighbors and stakeholders along the Apalachicola River Basin, concerning the city's interest to begin working together, to return the

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river system, a natural economic resource, once again into a functional waterway, for commercial and full season recreational boating activities, to which will usher into the region more tourism dollars.

Growing our local economy to create jobs and economic opportunities doesn't mean we have to give up anything; neither does it mean sacrificing the historic integrity of the community nor desecrating the city's plan. It simply means having the foresight and the willness to do so.

Lastly, I firmly believe the greatest measure of any community is in how it treats its most vulnerable. Because of this belief, I wholeheartedly support the citizen led initiative by Creighton and Holly Brown to begin renovating and restoring run down and abandon properties within the city to create affordable and mixed income housing.

No one person or group of people has all the answers or the solutions, but based upon our past successes, by working together we can definitely position our city as an undeniable envy of small town America.

Thank you and May God bless each of you and May God continue to bless the Historic City of Apalachicola, Florida.

Apostle Shirley C. White prayed for City and New Administration.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

A) Fonda Davis, Jr. - Chunky Sunday – Mr. Davis asked permission to hold the 5th Annual Chunky Sunday Event on Sunday, November 8, 2015 from 1 – 8 PM at the 6th Street Recreational Park. Mr. Davis asked for police department assistance in blocking roads for the event and parade.

Motion to approve Chunky Sunday Event to be held on Sunday, November 8th from 1 – 8 PM at the 6th Street Recreational Park made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

B) Dr. Frederick Humphries – College of Marine Science – Dr. Victor Ibeanusi gave presentation on FAMU College of Marine Science Project for the economic and ecosystem restoration of the City of Apalachicola.

Discussion held.

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Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to assist in Triumph Fund application for FAMU College of Marine Science Project for The Economic and Ecosystem Restoration of the City of Apalachicola made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

C) Bonnie Davis – Visioning Citizen’s Task Force – Ms. Davis outlined proposal for establishing a Visioning Citizen’s Task Force. Ms. Davis stated she feels a task force could assist in developing a plan for the city’s future and could conduct public meetings to get feedback from the public.

Discussion held.

No action taken.

ADOPTION DECISION – RESOLUTION 2015-12 – GOLF CART FEE

Attorney Floyd read Resolution 2015-12 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 2009-18, ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR GOLF CART USE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-12 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

ADOPTION DECISION – RESOLUTION 2015-13 – TREE APPLICATION PERMIT FEE

Attorney Floyd read Resolution 2015-13 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING AN APPLICATION FEE FOR TREE APPLICATION PERMITS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-12 made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

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Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

ADOPTION DECISION - RESOLUTION 2015-14 – DESIGNATING MAYOR PRO-TEM & COMMISSIONER DEPARTMENTS

Attorney Floyd read Resolution 2015-14 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA APPOINTING AND DESIGNATING A MAYOR PRO-TEM AND A CITY COMMISSIONER FOR EACH OF THE FIVE DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2015-14 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

FIRST READING – ORDINANCE NO. 2015-05 – FY 14/15 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Attorney Floyd read Ordinance 2015-05 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 BUDGET.

Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 2015-05 and proceed with adoption process made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

CDBG SEWER EXTENSION REHAB PROJECT

1. Authorize Mayor to Execute Contract Award Documents - Ms. Mathes stated the City of Apalachicola has been awarded \$650,000.00 for the CDBG Sewer Extension Rehab Project and requests authorization for Mayor to execute contract award documents.

Motion to authorize Mayor Johnson to execute contract award documents made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

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Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

2. Authorize to Advertise for Project Administration Services - Ms. Mathes requests authorization to advertise for project administration services for CDBG Project.

Motion to advertise for Project Administration Services for CDBG Project made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

3. Authorize to Advertise for Project Engineering Services – Ms. Mathes requests authorization to Advertise for Project Engineering Services for CDBG Project.

Motion to authorize for Project Engineering Services for CDBG Project made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

SHORT LIST AND DECISION FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER – LIBRARY PROJECT

Ms. Mathes stated ranking for Library Construction Manager is as follows:

1. Allstate Construction
2. EMO
3. Albritton Williams
4. Berkshire Johnson

Motion to approve short list for Construction Manager for Library Project made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

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Ms. Mathes stated the Commission can accept the number one choice, and if contract cannot be made with number one choice, the Commission can negotiate with number two choice or Commission can conduct interviews.

Motion to accept proposal and proceed with negotiations with Allstate Construction made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

PREBLE RISH TASK ORDER – ELLIS VAN VLEET MANHOLE REPAIR – AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN

Ms. Mathes stated Preble-Rish task order for Ellis Van Vleet Manhole repair is \$22,400 and requests authorization for Mayor to sign so project can proceed.

Motion to authorize Mayor to sign Preble Rish task order for Ellis Van Vleet manhole repair in the amount of \$22,400 made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

FRANKLIN COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES MOU TO ADMINISTER SENIOR PROGRAM

Ms. Mathes reported that Gulf County has opted out of Apalachicola but Wakulla Senior Services has offered to take over Meals on Wheels Program, Congregate Meal Program, and would like to get a viable senior program active in Apalachicola. The program would still be housed at Holy Family. All expenses relating to the program would be consumed by Wakulla Senior Services, while the City would be responsible for providing and maintaining the facility. Ms. Mathes stated Mr. Jerry Evans, Fundraising Coordinator of Wakulla Senior Citizens Center has sent Memorandum of Understanding between Wakulla Senior Citizens Council, Inc., Franklin County Senior Services and The City of Apalachicola and requests approval for this proposal for the Holy Family Senior Center.

Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Wakulla Senior Citizens Council, Inc., Franklin County Senior Services and The City of Apalachicola contingent upon Attorney Floyd's review and approval made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

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Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

PLANNING & ZONING

Motion to confirm June, July and August Planning and Zoning minutes made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

Mrs. Webb stated Planning & Zoning has held numerous workshops regarding Land Development Code changes, and they are ready to have joint workshop with City Commission to discuss suggested changes.

Commissioner Elliott asked Attorney Floyd for update on Sanchez modular home issue.

Attorney Floyd reported he wrote letter to Sanchez stating that applicant didn't obtain approval for variance by the owner even though they are under contract. We had received information the owner of the property did not agree with the variance and didn't consent to variance and withdrew any consent of this variance. We ask for owner permission or documentation of this contract showing the applicant owns the property and approval for variance and at this time still have not received anything from either party, so therefore cannot be accepted as an appeal from Sanchez.

CITY CLERK

Ms. Mathes announced that the audio of meetings is now available on the website.

Motion to approve payment for Attorney Floyd invoice made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD

Attorney Floyd gave update on Florida/Georgia litigation, Denton Cove, and Family Dollar appeal.

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OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

Jim Bachrach reported that Franklin County Commission voted in favor of constructing new hospital.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Elliott gave update on Millpond.

Discussion held.

2. Commissioner Elliott asked that a parking spot be made available for Mr. Bill Martina at Battery Park Marina to park his truck and trailer.

Attorney Floyd stated he thinks this is a great idea, but suggests putting an honorary parking sign for Bill Martina at Battery Park Marina.

3. Augusta West requested a portion of BP funds be allocated towards a two year commitment for Main Street Program.

Mayor Johnson recommends \$50,000.00 of BP funds go toward Main Street Program over a two year period.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Ash asks that everyone requesting funds from the BP settlement monies get the City a proposal with a breakdown of cost of what they are requesting and we will then have a special meeting.

Commissioner Ash also suggests a maintenance fund for all our city facilities.

Mayor Johnson requests motion to apply to Triumph Fund for housing project.

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to make application to Triumph Fund for housing project as outlined earlier by Ms. Shea made by Commissioner Elliott, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

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Mayor Johnson stated he has no problem with a maintenance fund for facilities but still thinks the other projects can be funded at a lower amount than requested.

Mayor Johnson requests a motion that \$100,000.00 be allocated towards establishing an affordable housing revolving loan program and \$50,000.00 towards a two year commitment for Main Street Program both of which to be funded with BP funds.

Discussion held concerning fire department request and shooting range.

Ms. Mathes stated a special meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd at 6:00 and BP proposed projects can be discussed at that time.

There being no further business meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, Assistant City Clerk

