A regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 6:00 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, City Attorney Pat Floyd, Police Officer Pam Lewis

Visitors: George Coon, Charles McDearis, Patrick Mency, Gene Smith, Liz Kelsey, Mike Standley, Deborah Belcher, Paulette Moss, Sally Williamson, Clarice Powell, Fonda Davis, Anita Grove, Susan Richardson, Geoffrey Hewell, Susan Clementson, Robin Vroegrop, David Adlerstein, Uta Hardy, Marie Marshall, Joe Taylor, Gail Johnson, Tom Daly, Judy Rausenbaugh

Regular meeting opened by prayer and pledge.

RECOGNITON OF VISITORS

* Tom Daly – Progress Energy Resolution – Tom Daly outlined resolution basically asking Progress Energy to go another route to go to Eastpoint for transmission lines. Mr. Daly is asking for the Commission's blessing on this resolution. Mr. Daly stated the County took no action on the matter.

Mayor Johnson stated the County repealed the lines because it would interfere with the airport.

Mr. Daly stated there is a way around the airport.

Commissioner Elliott stated he agrees with Mr. Daly on this issue.

Mr. Daly outlined the alternate route that Progress Energy could utilize for the transmission lines. Mr. Daly stated that Progress Energy never pursued an alternate route.

Commissioner Ash asked if Mr. Daly if he just needs the City to submit a resolution pertaining to this matter.

Mr. Daly stated all he needs is this resolution.

Attorney Floyd stated he hasn't read or reviewed the resolution. Attorney Floyd stated a letter has already been submitted to Progress Energy informing them the City would get out of the franchise early if possible and switch to different utility company who is more responsive to Commission and citizens.

Mr. Daly stated this resolution will not put any liability on the City.

Commissioner Cook stated he doesn't think a new route was ever looked at but he can't prove that, and this resolution would not hurt the City one way or another. Commissioner Cook stated he feels the City should support the resolution, but the attorney should look over it so the City is not liable for anything.

Mayor Johnson stated he agrees with Commissioner Cook. Mayor Johnson stated he doesn't want this to cost the tax payers or any entity any money. Mayor Johnson stated there needs to be additional verbiage written to outline specifics.

Attorney Floyd stated he will review resolution and get back with Mr. Daly.

* Anita Grove submitted copies of *Southern Boating* that featured Apalachicola and also submitted a materials outlining special media press tour.

DISCUSSION – DOWNTOWN PROPOSED RESTROOM PLANS

Ms. Webb stated public input was received at the May Planning & Zoning meeting. Ms. Webb addressed questions and concerns that were discussed at the Planning & Zoning meeting.

Geoffrey Hewell expressed concern of restrooms matching downtown buildings.

Tom Daly expressed concern about location of restrooms.

Ms. Webb stated the Commission approved this designated location.

Debbie Belcher stated the location of the restrooms doesn't affect the grant scoring, but if the site was to be changed at this point, major things would have to be changed.

Ms. Webb stated a site change at this point would be a major impact.

Ms. Belcher stated all ads have been run designating the site.

Anita Grove stated the public did not know what the restroom design was prior to the Planning & Zoning meeting.

Joe Taylor stated the restrooms are essential to the downtown area, and the lot next to Cotton Warehouse has been sold with intention of something being built on lot.

Geoffrey Hewell stated the stucco on the restrooms is going to stick out.

Ms. Webb stated stucco is only inside the porch which is brick and stucco.

Geoffrey Hewell stated he just wants the restrooms to blend in with the downtown area.

Uta Hardy expressed concerns about the stucco.

Joe Taylor stated the Cotton Warehouse and Administrative Building both have stucco.

Commissioner Ash stated the historic preservation is vital to our community and we will do everything possible to maintain the historic issue, but the City has to move forward with this project.

Sally Richardson how long was the grant.

Debbie Belcher stated it was a 2 year grant.

Ms. Webb read comment from Planning & Zoning meeting regarding the brick.

Ms. Webb stated the purpose of this discussion was to receive more public input.

Commissioner Bartley questioned lift and a/c in restrooms.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve May 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

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Motion to approve April bill list made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.
Voting Aye: Ash, Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Tom Daly submitted verbal report.

Motion to confirm April Planning & Zoning minutes made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Elliott.

Motion carried 5 to 0.
Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

* Ms. Webb stated she has received a request from New Life Church. They would like to have the large drainage ditch by the church filled in. The County would pay half, and there is LOGT funds to cover the costs which would be approximately $10,000.

Motion to authorize approximately $10,000 of LOGT funds to cover ditch by New Life Church made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.
Voting Aye: Cook, Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

* Ms. Webb submitted written department reports to Commission.

* Ms. Webb stated the City is under a time frame with the EDA portion of the Scipio Creek Project. In order to comply with grant regulations, the City must show some progress by June 18th. Ms. Webb is asking authorization due to emergency situation to get proposals from 3 bidders to start work for Phase I which is called selective demolition which includes some storm water swell work and landscaping. Phase I is approximately $30,000.

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to get 3 proposals for Phase I of Scipio Creek Project under an emergency situation made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Ash.

Robin Vroegrop asked when the last public hearing was held on this project.

Ms. Webb stated she is not sure of exact dates.

Ms. Vroegrop stated she has storm water management concerns for this site.

Ms. Webb stated the entire storm water issue is not being addressed in this phase.

Ms. Vroegrop asked if there will be a public workshop to discuss the final plans.

Ms. Webb stated the plans still have to go to Planning & Zoning and Planning & Zoning can call a workshop if they see it necessary.

Ms. Vroegrop stated she doesn't recall any recent public review of this project.

Ms. Webb stated there will be another opportunity for public input.

Motion carried 5 to 0.
Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

* Ms. Webb stated that EDA has approved the use of a construction manager. Ms. Webb stated she needs authorization to advertise for construction manager for haul out slip.

Motion to authorize to advertise for construction manager for haul out slip made by Commissioner Bartley, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.
Voting Aye: Ash, Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

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

Motion carried 5 to 0.
Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson
Voting Nay: None

ATTORNEY FLOYD REPORT

Attorney Floyd gave update on ACOE litigation.

OTHER VISITORS & COMMENTS

* Geoffrey Hewell commented on ACOE litigation.

* Anita Grove stated she is receiving complaints about dumping at the old Hut site.

Mayor Johnson stated that is in the County.

David Adlerstein stated that permission was given to dump some debris there early on but now there are no dumping signs posted there.

Mayor Johnson stated this is in the County, so the City does not need to address this.

Geoffrey Hewell stated maybe people should call Smokey Parrish.

Tom Daly stated there is dumping around the Bowery area.

Mayor Johnson stated there is dumping in the vacant lot across from Alice Walker.

Ms. Webb stated the property owner has been contacted. Ms. Webb stated several property owners have been notified regarding overgrown lots.

* Joe Taylor provided a draft copy of the work plan for Apalachicola Main Street to Commission. Mr. Taylor outlined July 3rd festivities.

* Judy Rausenbaugh presented Second Saturday events poster.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

* Commissioner Bartley asked about progress on Methodist Church storm water project.

Ms. Webb stated she has not had opportunity to check on project due to being out of office but will check on progress.

* Commissioner Bartley congratulated Mayor Johnson on his retirement.

* Commissioner Elliott stated he has received calls about people's trash not being picked up.

Ms. Webb stated Waste Pro has hired extra help. Ms. Webb stated she has been approached to bid out for trash and garbage service. Ms. Webb stated the City picks up everything that Waste Pro doesn't.

* Commissioner Ash the progress of getting quotes for insurance and audit.

Ms. Mathes stated proposals should be ready within the next couple of weeks.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

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Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

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Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk