

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 2:30 PM at the Former Apalachicola Municipal Library, 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Donna Duncan, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Sheneidra Cummings, Finance Director Lee Mathes, City Planner Bree Robinson, Police Chief Bobby Varnes

The Workshop Meeting called to order by Mayor Ash followed by prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

#### PRESENTATION

Dave Synder, with Halff & Associates and Project Manager for the Riverfront Revitalization Project, provided the Commission with an update on the Riverfront projects namely, the Popham building. Mr. Synder briefly discussed the structural report provided with the meeting agenda and informed the Commission on the structural quality of the building. Mr. Synder also discussed the projected scope of work for the Riverfront projects, increasing costs, and presented alternative option(s) for the Popham building.

Commissioner Grove inquired if the Commissioner would have the opportunity to review the plans for the Riverfront projects.

Mr. Synder assured the Commission they will have an opportunity to review all plans and provide feedback to the engineers. Mr. Synder suggested having a workshop that would include presenting the Commission with more detailed plans of the Riverfront projects which would also include streetscape(s), layouts, amenities etc. No workshop meeting date was determined at his meeting.

Brett Hamlin, in partnership with Halff, concurred with Synder's assessment of Popham's building structural report and provided more detailed information regarding the structural report. Hamlin went on to discuss the structural needs of the existing structure and opened the discussion for questions/concerns. Based on his extensive knowledge, Mr. Hamlin does not recommend this building remain. Mr. Hamlin asserted that this building is in extreme disrepair and is beyond salvageable. Mr. Hamlin suggested using a portion of the allocated funds for the Popham building to develop plans for a new structure, if desired, secure the premises until the Commission decide to demolish the structure, and use any remaining funds towards the other Riverfront projects. Mr. Hamlin requested direction from the Commission due to time restraints with the grant. Although Mr. Hamlin stated that the building is beyond salvageable, he does not recommend the Commission demolish the structure immediately. He suggested waiting a few years to see if any grant funding will be

made available in the future to pursue the project, or until the Commission decides on the future of that waterfront space due to potential future permitting issues.

Mayor Ash recommends having a workshop for the Commission to further discuss the plan for the building and/or waterfront space to effort to provide Hamlin and Synder with more direction on whether to exclude the Popham building, reallocate funding, etc. No date for the workshop was set at this meeting.

Discussion held.

The Commission agreed that the premises should be immediately secured. Commissioner George was not in support of removing the Popham building from the Riverfront Revitalization Grant, or reallocating funds from the Popham to the other Riverfront projects.

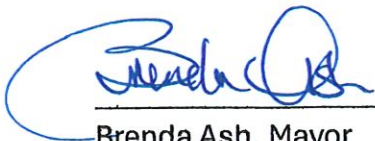
PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobby Miller commented.

No further comments.

Motion to adjourn workshop meeting was made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Duncan. None opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

Workshop Meeting adjourned.

  
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Brenda Ash, Mayor

  
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Sheneidra Cummings, City Clerk