

A Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Commission Meeting Room, 74 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Sheneidra Cummings, Finance Director Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes (Absent: Commissioner Duncan)

Meeting opened by Mayor Ash.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Motion to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George.  
Motion carried 4 to 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Pat Thomas (FMIT) and Michael Ritcher (PGIT) each spoke regarding City's property, liability, and workers compensation insurance renewal.

Chief Varnes discussed vehicle purchase.

No further public comment.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Commissioner George read the following statement:

City of Apalachicola Budget Information:

General Fund:	\$4,355,084
Enterprise Fund:	\$3,158,750
Total Budget:	\$7,513,834

Millage Rate to be Levied: 8.3457 Mills

The percentage by which this millage rate to be levied is a 10.68% increase of the rolled back rate of 7.5402.

This is the final public hearing to adopt the FY 24/25 budget.

Finance Director Lee Mathes reviewed recent updates in budget that were made since the last public hearing including a ¼ mill reduction. Ms. Mathes recommends remaining with the proposed millage rate of 8.3457.

Commissioner George recommends the City adopt the ¼ mill reduction, and that the City remain with the current insurance carrier FMIT for the 24/25 year but put insurance out for bid with an RFP for the 25/26 year.

Commissioner Elliott had no comment.

Commissioner Grove commented on Leslie Street project, Water and Sewer field crew position, and pole barn funding.

Michael Ritcher commented on the basis for the recommendation for the City to remain with the current insurance company.

Mayor Ash read the email from the independent insurance company comparing the City's current policy with FMIT and the new proposal from PGIT.

Michael Ritcher requested a copy of the email.

No further public comment. No further Commission comment.

Public hearing closed and Special Meeting opened.

**RESOLUTION 2024-07 – ADOPTING FY 2024/2025 MILLAGE RATE**

Commissioner George read Resolution 2024-07 in its entirety.

Motion to reduce millage ¼ mill to 8.0957 mills made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Grove with discussion.

Discussion held.

Motion not carried 1 to 3 with Commissioner Grove, Commissioner Elliott, and Mayor Ash opposing.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-07 setting the FY 2024/2025 millage rate at 8.3457 mills made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carried 3 to 1 with Commissioner George opposing.

**ORDINANCE 2024-06 – ADOPTING FY 2024/2025 BUDGET**

Commissioner George read Ordinance 2024-06 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-06 adopting the FY 2024/2025 budget made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Grove. Motion carried 4 to 0.

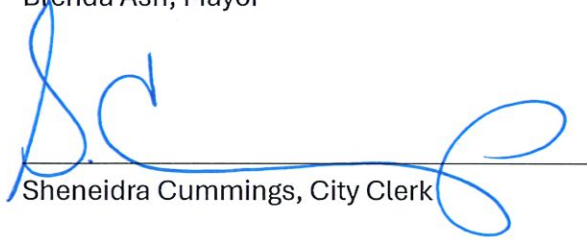
**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 4 to 0.



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Brenda Ash, Mayor



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Sheneidra Cummings, City Clerk