

A Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, September 10, 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, Commissioner Donna Duncan, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Sheneidra Cummings, Finance Director Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Meeting opened by Mayor Ash.

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

Motion to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Discussion, Commissioner George. Commissioner George informed the public that City Attorney advised the Commission to send out an RFP in regards to Insurance item on the agenda; therefore needing to amend the agenda omitting item #3. Commissioner Grove amended her motion to adopt the Agenda omitting item # 3 and Commissioner Elliott amended her second. None opposed. Motion carried 4 to 0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Susan Lamb commented on the City's budget and the proposed reduction of funds being allocated the Community Gardens.

Clifford Buel commented on the Community Gardens proposed budget and concurred with Susan Lamb

Tom Connely with the Florida League of Cities announced his presence and offered to answer any questions the Commission had regarding Insurance and our current provider.

Dennis Winterringer commented on the Reforestation Fund and requested that the City carry-over funds from the previous year and have it reflected in the 24-25 FY Budget.

Val Webb commented on the increased insurance out-of-pocket costs for City employees and asked the Commission to reconsider the allocation for the City's Community Garden.

No further public comment.

Mayor Ash asked Finance Director Lee Mathes to clarify some concerns expressed by the public. Discussion summaries are as follows,

Health Insurance Premium Increase and Property and Liability Insurance Discussion Summary

FD Lee Mathes informed the Commission that the City has maintained its Capital Health Plan health insurance plan; however, insurance premiums have increased for the existing plan which increased the out-of-pocket max for both individuals and family plans. FD Mathes also informed the Commission that the current Property & Liability Insurance carrier was able to reduce our current rates and match the proposal presented by Mr. Richter. Mayor Ash recommended having an independent Insurance Agent review and compare both proposals and report back to the Commission.

Community Gardens Discussion Summary

Commissioner Grove identified that the budget for the Farmer's Market was \$1,000. And proposed that the City reallocate those funds to the Community Gardens budget increasing their budget from \$300 to \$1,300.

Lafayette Grant Match Discussion Summary

The Commission suggested that FD Mathes remove the grant match funds from the Park & Rec budget expense and utilize carry-forward funds being allocated to the Reforestation Fund to cover the required \$10,000.

The Commission also instructed FD Mathes to re-allocate \$2,000. to the Parks & Rec. Budget for the Dixie League donation.

Discussion held.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Finance Director Lee Mathes informed the Commission that they have meet TRIM compliance and recommended moving forward with the Public Hearing.

Commissioner George read the Public Hearing public announcement on record. Summary of announcement are as follows,

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 Millage Rate and Budget.

Commissioner George proceeded to read Resolution 2024-07 by title, levying the Ad Valorem Property Tax Millage Rate.

**Public Hearing closed.**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**RESOLUTION 2024-07**

Commissioner George read Resolution 2024-07 in its entirety.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. No discussion. None opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

**ORDINANCE 2024-06**

Commissioner George read Ordinance 2024-06 for the 24-25 FY Budget on record and in its entirety.


A motion was made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner Duncan. No discussion. None opposed. Motion carried

Mayor Ash summed up the recommended budget changes regarding the Community Gardens, Lafayette Grant Match funds, and the re-allocation for the Dixie League. No further discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

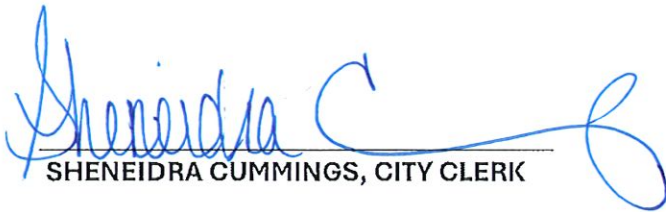
A motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner George. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

**Meeting adjourned.**



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BRENDA ASH, MAYOR



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SHENEIDRA CUMMINGS, CITY CLERK