

A Regular Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 6:00 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, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Sheneidra Cummings, City Planner Bree Robinson

Absent: Commissioner Duncan. Commissioner Duncan arrived at 6:50pm.

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

### **AGENDA ADOPTION**

Motion to adopt the agenda with an amendment to include a Presentation from the Southern Group and to pull Agenda Item number 2, Grant Approval Policy. Motion made by Commissioner George to adopt the agenda with the changes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Grove. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

### **PRESENTATION**

Kate Deloach with The Southern Group provided the Commission with a few updates regarding the upcoming grant cycle and the upcoming administration change.

Oyster license under this session the Commission would have the opportunity to decide if they would like the State to issue and control the issuance of license or for it to remain with the City.

Discussion held.

Deloach suggested submitting an appropriation application to apply for the full 5mil in funding and will submit a draft to the Commission. Deloach also suggested that oyster licenses be issued locally and apply for admin funding from the Dept of Agriculture to administer the process and issuance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Richard Bracken commented.

Barbara McInturff commented.

**NEW BUSINESS: Prado St. Speed Limit Reduction**

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to approve lowering the speed limit on Prado St. from 30mph to 25mph; and utilize the City's radar sign as a speed deterrent along with an increase in law enforcement presence. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grove, with Discussion. Chief Varnes commented. No further discussion. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS: Floodplain Variance 1 & 2**

Attorney Hartman and Samantha Kilborn, with Whitesands presented a request for a floodplain variance for both 119 Water Street and 125 Water Street.

Discussion held.

Attorney Hartman recommended tabling the motion, subject to additional information to be provided to the Floodplain Administrator.

Attorney Hartman suggested that he meet with Samantha Kilborn and discuss the variance proposals and specific remaining requirements and bring it back to the Commission after the variance has been approved by the Floodplain Administrator.

A motion to table New Business items 2 & 3 made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Grove. Commissioner Elliott, discussion. None opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to approve the award to Jason White Construction made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Attorney Hartman read Ordinance 2024-06 by title.

Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading with the addition of the repeal language made by Commissioner George. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elliott. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

**Mayor and Commissioner Comments**

Mayor Ash commented on the Jan 4<sup>th</sup> Retreat and asked that all suggestions be submitted to City Clerk by the Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> to be included in the Jan 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Grove provided the Board with an update on the Mandatory Pilot Recovery Project. Commissioner Grove also inquired about hydrant replacement(s). Commissioner Grove commented on Oyster harvesting and provided an update on the monitoring and measuring of the Bay and shared some positive signs of recovery. Commissioner Grove invited the public to join the meeting and on-going discussion(s), and google Apalachicola Partnership for Apalachicolabay.com, to gain access to the most recent meeting info and updates.

Mayor Ash suggested that Commissioner Grove take the lead on issuing Oyster license(s) when it opens back up. No objection from the Board. Commissioner Grove accepted the Board's recommendation.

Commissioner George commented on water accessibility at Riverfront Park in preparation for the annual Barkas Day event.

Commissioner Elliot, no comment.

commissioner Duncan, commented on an upcoming meeting with the new Community Garden Manager and will report back to the Board.

**CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

Manager Wade provided an update on hydrant replacements, Leslie Street, the Riverfront Fountain Project, and the location for The Jan 4<sup>th</sup> retreat i.e. Franklin County Armory.

**ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS**

Attorney Hartman presented updates on the Cemetery ordinance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to approve the consent agendas made by Commissioner Elliot, seconded by Commissioner Grove. None opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott seconded by Commissioner Grove. None opposed.  
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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BRENDA ASH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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SHENEIDRA CUMMINGS, CITY CLERK