

A Public Hearing and Reg Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on 9/3/2024

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

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

Change to amended agenda removing New Business, item #4, the Gibson's Parking Plan.

Motion to adopt the amended agenda with the removal of New Business Item #4 made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

Presentation: Citizen Recognition

Mayor Ash presented by Mr. Krontz with resolution.

Mayor Ash presented Commissioner Grove with Resolution.

Mayor Ash presented Chip sander with plaque.

Chip Sanders thanked the City for award.

Presentation FI 27 Recycle Presentation

Richard Bracken presented the Commission with a handout for recycling services that he would like to start in the area.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Grove and Commissioner George inquired about the market and experience, and marketing recycling services. Mr. Bracken stated that there is a market for the recyclables and shared some of his marketing efforts within the City, online, as well as within the County.

Commissioner Elliott inquired about Mr. Bracken's timeline and implementation as well as funding opportunities.

Mr. Bracken stated that they are starting with crowd funding to raise capital and hopes to be up and running by Nov.

Commissioner Duncan, no comment.

PUBLIC HEARING- 2nd Reading Flood Plain Ordinance 2024-05

Attorney Hartman read the Floodplain Management Ordinance 2024-05 on to the record by title.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Here and none. Public Hearing closed.

PUBLIC HEARING- 2nd No-Wake Zone Ordinance 2024-04

Attorney Hartman read the No-Wake Zone Ordinance 2024-04 on to the record by title.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Here and none. Public Hearing closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leslie Coon commented on repairs and grants for Leslie Street. Ms. Coon also inquired about business access.

Ann Eason, commented on building access during construction.

Mr. Coon commented on the repair and scope of work for the Leslie St. project.

Mrs. Bradksy commented and asked the Commission if we could ban the use of Styrofoam in efforts to save the turtle and marine life.

Michel Ritcter commented and presented the Commission with a proposal and wanted to follow up with the Commission regarding the proposal he presented at the Budget meeting on Aug 27th.

LaRaela Coxwell commented on the mural/ sign proposal that is to be funded by the Frankli County Beautiful. Ms. Coxwell asked for the Commission's support and approval.

Mr. Greg Perkins commented but the lighting on Hwy 98. And traffic throughway to inform the public that traffic does not stop. Mr. Perkins suggested changing the yellow blinking to a green blinking light, so traveler know to keep going.

Mr. Torben Madsen thanked the Commission for meeting changing the meeting time back to 6 o'clock and provided an update on the Mardi Gras Parade. Mr. Madsen also commented about having access to water in City Parks.

NEW BUSINESS: Amendment to Interlocal Agreement

County Commissioner Ricky Jones presented the Commission with the Amended Interlocal Agreement.

Discussion held.

Mayor Ash read the proposed amendments on the record.

Attorney Hartman recommended that the Board take action on the proposed amended agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner George to adopt the 1st Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement dated October 9, 2007, between the County and the City of Apalachicola and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grove. No Discussion. None opposed. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS: BOA MEMBER ALTERNATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Grove appoint current Board of Adjustments Alternate Member Chris Presnell to Full Member and advertise for the Board of Adjustment Alternate Member position. Motion was seconded by Commissioner George. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS: Southern Group Contract

A motion was made by Commissioner Grove to approve the Fee Agreement Contract between the Southern Group and City of Apalachicola and authorize Manager Wade to execute contract. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elliott. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Sylvester Williams Park Lease Agreement approval

Attorney Hartman noted a change to the lease agreement in regard to its term stating that the lease agreement would be for 40 years, instead of a 50-year lease agreement. Attorney Hartman further stated that the lease agreement would end December 31, 2065. Attorney Hartman states that based on the agreement, the County would have sole control of the Park and assume responsibility of the management, funding, maintenance, expansion and/or improvements and the role of the City would be that of a landlord.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Grove to approve the 40-year lease agreement between the City of Apalachicola and Franklin County for the Sylvester Williams Park. Motion was seconded by Commissioner George. No discussion. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ordinance 2024-05 Floodplain Management

Attorney Hartman presented the second reading of Ordinance 2024-05 by title.

A motion was made by Commissioner George to approve 2nd reading and adopt Ordinance 2024-05. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grove. No Discussion. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ordinance 2024-04 No Wake Zone

Attorney Hartman presented the second reading of Ordinance 2024-04 by title.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grove to approve 2nd reading and adopt Ordinance 2024-04. Motion was seconded by Commissioner George. No Discussion. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 196 8th Street Encroachment Agreement

Attorney Hartman presented the commission with the encroachment draft. And informed the Commission that the applicant(s) are no longer seeking an encroachment agreement for the sign pole or the rain barrel.

Motion to adopt the draft Encroachment agreement made by Commissioner George seconded by Commissioner Elliott 2nd motion none opposed – Motion carried, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Davis's Property Advertisement Approval

Attorney Hartman presented a sample notice for advertisement and recommended that the Commission to set a min bid price to be included in the advertisement.

Motion to approve the sample bid and proceed with sale of property located at 122 Ave L made by Commissioner George, changing the date on the notice to accept bids until Oct 5th to allow for bid and the bid document be advertised in the Apalachicola Times, City's website, and City's Facebook page. Discussion, Commissioner Elliott, inquired with Attorney Hartmann about the revolving loan balance and the amount taxes paid into the City for delinquent taxes. None opposed. Motion carried, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: GASKIN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Attorney Hartman presented the Commission with the Settlement agreement. Motion to accept the settlement agreement made by Commissioner George 2nd by Commissioner Grove. No discussion. None opposed motion carried 5-0.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

Mayor Ash asked Attorney Hartman to look into banning Styrofoam.

Commissioner George like for the Commission to hold a special meeting to consider the insurance proposal in a meeting that will follow the Commission's Budget Hearing Meeting. No Commissioners opposed.

Mayor Ash asked the board their pleasure about the mural/signage funded by Keeping Franklin County Beautiful.

Discussion held.

Mayor Ash inquired with CM Wade Water Source at Riverfront park.

Commissioner Grove inquired about alternative locations for the City Hall including, relocation, renovation, building and funding opportunities. Commissioner Grove would like this to be place on an upcoming Agenda. Commissioner Grove also inquired about fines and restrictions due to fine(s) and expressed the importance of the City having legal recourse to collect on fines. Lastly, Commissioner Grove proposed instituting performance evaluations and regular meetings held with department heads. Commissioner Grove inquired about Hydrant replacements. CM Wade will follow up with the to see when they would resume installation.

Commissioner George concurred with Commissioner Grove regarding employee evaluations and regular department meetings.

Commissioner Duncan, no comment.

Commissioner Elliott agrees with Commissioner Grove in regard to employee evaluations and regular meetings with the department heads. Commissioner commented about Magnolia Cemetery and plan and proposal on how the City is seeking to address the maintenance issues. Commissioner Elliott also informed the Commission of a scheduled meeting with Staff from Division of Historical Resources to discuss having the cemetery listed as a historic site/cemetery on the State's master file of historic sites. Commissioner Elliott also spoke about possible funding opportunities that may be available once the designation is granted.

Commissioner Elliott also mentioned that the City is eligible for available grant funding for Snowhill Cemetery, up to 50K with no match, for protection, restoration and/or research. Commissioner Elliott further stated that if Magnolia designation is granted, that it would open additional funding opportunities during the upcoming grant cycle starting in April. Commissioner Elliott also suggested service(s) to restore revenue for the cemeteries. Lastly Commissioner Elliott suggested that the Commission draft an ordinance amendment(s) that would include landscaping standards and consider forming a Cemetery Committee.

City Manager Communications

CM Wade gave update on Leslie street project and various ongoing projects. CM Wade informed the Commission that we do not have the funds to remove the fountain at Riverfront Park and asked the Commission for direction. Mayor Ash suggests that he meet with the Parks and Rec Committee to review their plan for the fountain.

Finance Director Communications

No comments.

Attorney Communications

Attorney Hartman commented on the draft Encroachment language that was presented to the Commission and asked the Commission to provide feedback which would be incorporated and presented again in his report in October.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Grove inquired about some suggestions that was provided by the Apalachicola Historical Society and Commissioner Grove wanted an update on drafting a similar ordinance for the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Elliott to approve the consent agenda(s). Motion 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, 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.

BRENDA ASH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

SHENEIDRA CUMMINGS, CITY CLERK