

A Workshop Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 5:00 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 Duncan, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Sheneidra Cummings, City Planner Bree Robinson

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allen Pierce commented in support of renovating the Popham Building.

Popham Building Discussion

Brett Hammond from Hammond Design Group Architects presented updated concepts for the Popham Building. He showed various designs, including an open deck concept with seating arrangements and potential extensions into the river. The commission discussed the following key points:

- The current building footprint is approximately 6,500 square feet, while the proposed deck concept is around 2,400 square feet.
- Commissioner Elliott expressed support for the open deck concept (slide 5.6) with 2,400 square feet and the addition of a 600 square foot open-air pavilion at the end of the fishing platform extension (slide 5.9).
- Commissioners discussed the potential to use salvaged lumber from the existing Popham Building for seating and educational displays.
- The commission emphasized the importance of keeping maintenance costs low and tying the design into existing waterfront structures like Battery Park Marina.
- There was discussion about the possibility of future dock spaces and fishing piers, pending DEP approval.

The consensus among the commissioners was to move forward with a combination of designs 5.6 (open deck) and 5.9 (end pavilion). Brett Hammond agreed to finalize the plan set based on this direction and present it to the commission at a later date.

Dan Sheer from HALF Engineers provided an update on the permitting process:

- Demolition permits for the Popham Building and fire station are expected to be obtained quickly.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers permit for dock work is estimated to take 4-6 months.
- Once permits are secured, the bidding process will begin, following the city's procurement procedures.

African American Museum Discussion

Brett Hammond presented brick samples for the African American Museum project. The commission discussed the following:

- Various brick options were shown, including a blue-black brick with oyster shell banding and a gray blend option, and the Commission decided to proceed with the said option.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grove.

Meeting adjourned.

BRENDA ASH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

SHENEIDRA CUMMINGS, CITY CLERK