

The first budget public hearing and special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Brenda Ash, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Commissioner Frank Cook, City Administrator Betty Webb, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Visitors: Shirley Byrd, Janelle Paul, Deborah Guillotte, Eve Rainey, Deborah Belcher, Esrone McDaniels, Cindy Summerhill, Wilbur Bellew, Robert Graham, Pamela Lewis, David Barclay, Susan Richardson, Robert Osburn, Timmy Davis, Wesley Creamer, John Layne, Caty Greene, Marvin Croom, David Adlerstein, William Cox, Willoughby Marshall, Mark Friedman, Steve James, Caroline Weiler, Clarice Powell, Joe Taylor, Michael Duhart

Public hearing opened by Mayor Johnson followed by prayer and pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2011-2012 BUDGET

Commissioner Ash read following statement:

CITY OF APALACHICOLA 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET INFORMATION:

GENERAL FUND:	2,058,961
ENTERPRISE FUND:	1,447,400
TOTAL BUDGET:	3,506,361

PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE: 9.6735

ROLLED BACK RATE: 9.5886

PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE IS A .8854% INCREASE FROM THE ROLLED BACK RATE

THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING FOR FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET IS BEING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 AT 6:00 PM IN THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER, #1 BAY AVENUE.

Ms. Webb outlined budget recommendations as follows:

1. Reduce Auditors expense by \$7,000
2. Reduce Liability/Property/WC Insurance expense by \$20,000
3. Reduce Library Department expense by \$30,000. Proposed to proceed with a 5 year operating plan, utilizing \$30,000 per year from Key Estate Funds – leaving \$250,000 for capital improvement projects.

4. Reduce millage rate from 9.6735 to 9.1735

Ms. Webb explained the difference between the millage rate and the rolled back rate.

Commissioner Ash asked if the City has contingency funds for unforeseen problems.

Ms. Webb referred Commissioner Ash to the cash forward information included within the budget.

Commissioner Ash expressed concern that certain areas of the City don't have City sewer.

Ms. Webb stated utility rates have not been increased enough over the years for new service area installations. City has to get grants.

Commissioner Ash stated she is hearing from citizens that the City is taxing customers for services they are not getting.

Caty Greene addressed concern about using the Key Estate Funds to cover the Library operating expenses.

Commissioner Bartley stated the 3% retirement reimbursement and the 2% pay increase needs to be taken out of the budget and put into reserves.

William Cox stated the City keeps taking from the employees, and it isn't right. Mr. Cox stated the City cut 4 positions last year, and everyone has had to double up to get the work done.

Discussion held regarding employee 3% retirement reimbursement and 2% pay increase.

Commissioner Ash stated she herself has taken a pay cut, pays her own insurance, and funds her own retirement. In the eyes of the public, the City employees are not paying for their insurance or retirement, and the employees still want a raise. Commissioner Ash stated the City is the only entity looking to give an increase.

Mayor Johnson stated that Port St. Joe is looking into reimbursing their employees.

Michael Duhart asked how the Commission cannot justify giving employees a raise. There are ways and areas that can be cut.

Mayor Johnson stated he believes in the employees and thanked the employees for their hard work.

Mark Friedman stated he would like to see employees get a raise, but Ms. Webb's budget recommendations are not cuts, they are assumptions.

Discussion held concerning millage rate.

Public hearing was recessed and will be continued on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

SPECIAL MEETING

Motion to authorize Ms. Webb to insert budget recommendations as discussed in public hearing and have ready revised proposed budget for September 19th public hearing made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Elliott, Ash, Bartley, Cook, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

POLICE/FIRE STATION ROOF

Ms. Webb stated she has received the following bids for roof:

Wallace & Sons Construction (Includes Galvalum Panels) - \$34,200

Byrds Construction LLC (W/O Galvalum Panels) - \$27,360

Mike Parrish (W/O Galvalum Panels) - \$28,940

Bobby James (Install Galvalum Panels) - \$14,800

Motion to award bid to Wallace & Sons Construction for \$34,200 to install police/fire station roof made by Commissioner Cook, second by Commissioner Bartley.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Ash, Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

CDBG ADMINISTRATOR RANKING & DECISION

Ms. Webb stated the final ranking for the CDBG Administrator for the Scipio Creek Project is as follows:

1. Roumelis Planning & Development Services, Inc.
2. Meridian Community Services Group, Inc.
3. The Management Experts, LLC

Motion to award CDBG Administrator Services to Roumelis Planning & Development Services, Inc. for the Scipio Creek Project made by Commissioner Ash, second by Commissioner Cook.

Motion carried 5 to 0.

Voting Aye: Bartley, Cook, Elliott, Ash, Mayor Johnson

Voting Nay: None

Special meeting adjourned.

Van W. Johnson, Sr., Mayor

Lee H. Mathes, City Clerk