

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION HELD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021, 5:01 PM AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER.

PRESENT: Mayor Brenda Ash
Commissioner Anita Grove
Commissioner Despina George
Commissioner Adriane Elliott
Interim Commissioner Tammie Ray-Hutchinson

Travis Wade, City Manager
Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk
Leo Bebeau, Finance Director

Mayor Brenda Ash called the Budget workshop to order.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Finance Bebeau reviewed changes and corrections of the Fee Schedule: 1) Facility and Park Rentals – Our buildings and parks need to support themselves for the upkeep of the buildings; non-refundable security deposits compared to refundable; write a policy for city properties - Commissioner Anita Grove volunteered to help prepare the policy; HCA rentals; 2) Golf cart registration fee – annual fee per year, no pro-rate after midyear as in the past; 3) Riverfront Park Transient Fees – increase to \$2.00 per foot to keep up with other marinas; 4) Battery Park Marina – matches fee schedule that has been proposed in the revised Ordinance, except for boat launch fees for charter captains, and live a boards; 5) All other categories are unchanged; 6) EPCI – changed to EPCI’s current rate schedule; 7) Stormwater Permit Impact Fees – The City has not been charging, but this fee will be enforced as a one-time fee that will be levied on each City building permit that is equivalent to five years of the standard utility billing rate, Commissioner Grove stated that the stormwater utility fees were to help bring in monies to improve the maintenance of pipes and drains; 8) Food Truck Event Permit verbiage – Commissioner Adriane Elliott expressed her concern of the Food Truck Ordinance and not double permitting or gouging – Interim-Commissioner Tammie Ray-Hutchinson suggested possibly changing verbiage to “registration requirement” - Attorney Dan Hartman will review; 9) Library Board Fees – need Services reviewed – the fees seem high; 10) stormwater monthly fee; 11) Utilities – meter box fee for destruction after being destroyed by vehicles; 12) Road bores – for tap fees; 13) Water rates Residential and Commercial –

3% increase; 14) Water bills and cut offs – penalty fees; 15) Dead Receivables – City is trying to get removed from the books; 16) Solid Waste – 5% increase effective in November; 17) Wages and benefits schedule – bringing low income to \$15 minimum wage; increase to police to match county salaries; 18) Retirement and Insurances; 19) Employee phones; 20) City Planner Position at \$45,000 – Commissioner Grove suggests \$48,000 plus benefits; 21) Cost of Living Increase – 3% - Commissioner Elliott suggests possibly 4 to 5 percent; 22) Revenue Projections 2021-2022 – roll back rate takes the ad valorem taxes to 1,575,000 and if we hold to the current tax rate of the 9.0001% the ad valorem taxes are 1,671,000 – approximately \$96,000 difference; 23) MSBU monies – fire protection and training; 24) 2021-2022 Draft Budget not available at this time – Mayor Ash requests a copy of the draft budget FY 2021-22 at the next meeting – The Commissioner would like to see 9.0001%, roll back 8.4816%, 8% and 8.5%; 25) Budget Public Hearing – scheduled for Thursday 16th at 5:01pm – Finance Director Bebeau stated we need to prioritize capital expenditures; 26) fire hydrant replacement; 27) Tree Committee – Re-forestation Fee. Mayor Ash stated that William “Bill” and Catherine Avery donated \$500 to assist in purchasing additional picnic tables for Battery Park Marina due to their love of this park, and the City is very appreciative of this.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ray-Hutchinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk