

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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  
Leo Bebeau, Finance Director

Mayor Brenda Ash called the Budget meeting to order.

<b>BUDGET HEARING AND WORKSHOP</b>
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Finance Director Leo Bebeau reviewed changes and corrections of the Fee Schedule.

Mr. Bebeau stated that the Commission needs to set the millage rate, and he reviewed the City roll back rate at 8.4816, the city staff recommended rate which is the hold rate at 9.0001, and the tentative adopted rate at 9.5000. Commissioner's Despina George, Adriane Elliott and Tammie Ray-Hutchinson recommends the 9.0001. Commissioner Anita Grove would like to see the roll back rate, but also recommends the 9.0001.

Commissioner George made a motion to approve staffs recommended millage rate of 9.0001. Commissioner Ray-Hutchinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Bebeau reviewed each department's revenues as follows: 1) Solid Waste – sanitation fees 5% increase across the billing numbers for the first nine months of this fiscal year. It has been determined that the City is paying 40 to 50 percent below what rates should be, and that they will go up a substantial amount. Mr. Bebeau has budgeted for the last quarter of the year a 20% increase; 2) Grants are not included in the budget, they are listed on the right hand side of the budget; 3) Revolving Loan - David Walker has two payments and Mel Livingston has one payment, once these are paid there will be no activity in this fund, and we will need to look at future programs; 4) Mr. Bebeau stated that Auditor Chris Moran said that all funds in the carry forward are designed to be spent on certain projects that are

one time projects. If the City does not have any of these monies next year on our budget or any other type of special funds, we will not have monies to do these special kinds of improvements or repair projects. The City will not be firing employees, asking that they take pay cuts, nor reducing city services. Mr. Bebeau stated that everything this carry forward money is used for are things needing to be done in Apalachicola, but they do not affect the day to day and month to month running of the business of Apalachicola, the employees of Apalachicola or the services we provide to the citizens of Apalachicola; 5) Deficits and Surplus – Fire hydrant project; 6) Cost of Living Raise 2.5%; 7) Asset Schedule within the next couple weeks; 8) Wastewater – flovac vacuum controllers; 9) 9<sup>th</sup> Street VAC station controls and generator; 10) Denton Cove - water and sewer tap revenues all in this fiscal year are cleared out, with the City ending up with approximately \$25,000 to cover \$150,000 worth of taps; 11) Battery Park Marina – waiting on the final Ordinance to get adopted; Seawall – waiting to hear back from Dewberry; Electrical Posts - almost complete; 12) Scipio Creek – electrical repairs – working on this issue; future projects will be discussed at each monthly meeting; 13) Project Impact – Received their new sign-off letter for the new budget, which is the same as last year; 14) CRA – I will have a more detailed budget at the CRA meeting next Tuesday.

Mr. Bebeau reviewed the expenses of each of the following: 1) Administration – merit raises; Utility billing software; 2) Facilities – improvements of buildings and assets; starting reserve programs for city structures; Raney House – we are expecting to get some funds; 3) Fire – volunteer compensation increased to \$30,000; MSBU funding from the County should be used for training and fire protection equipment; repair of the fire department kitchen; ISO testing – no fee; 4) Governing Body – insurance still being reviewed, and those not applicable will be deleted from budget; Website maintenance added; 5) Library – Full time librarian and one full time assistant employee; 6) Parks and Recreation – increased Adopt a Park for equipment (garbage bags, rakes, etc.); HCA Museum – restricted phone line; 7) Police Department – raises to keep up with the County; one new police car; equipment – radars, tazer guns, etc. need to be replaced; 8) Public Works – two new

employees; increase of supplies and maintenance; tree maintenance and reforestation fund; Capital Outlay – LOGT monies for sidewalk repairs; Stormwater repairs; 9) Zoning and Code Enforcement – City Planner position; Permitting Services – City position; 10) Wages and Benefits Schedule.

<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

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Brenda Ash, Mayor

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Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk