

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021, 6:00 PM, AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER.

PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Begos
Commissioner Anita Grove
Commissioner Adrian Elliott
Commissioner Despina George
Commissioner Brenda Ash

Travis Wade, City Manager
Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk
Leo Bebeau, Finance Director – Via Phone
Kristy Branch-Banks, Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor Begos called the meeting to order and Commissioner Ash gave the invocation, followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Ash made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) **Policy 2020-03** –Commissioner George discussed her concerns with Policy 2020-03, written by Mr. Wade, and questions whether the City Manager has the authority to write a policy which restricts how the City Commission interacts with and instructs committees. Discussion held. Attorney Banks stated that drafts and proposals of ordinances are written by staff or attorney, and that recommendations from the City boards should be considered. Discussion of who has the authority to enact this policy and, if the Commission is going to adhere to policy, we need to be more specific.
- 2) **Trolley ownership/disposition** - Mr. Wade stated after research that the trolley was registered in both the City and Apalachicola Main Street, Inc. Attorney Banks gave a brief review of her discussion with Apalachicola Main Street Chairman Jim Bachrach, and Mr. Bachrach had stated that the City was later added to the trolley registration, so that it could be insured through the City's insurance policy. Discussion held if Main Street had reimbursed the City for all associated trolley expenses. Mr. Beabeau stated there is no record of reimbursement. Commissioner George stated that Main Street representatives had previously represented that the trolley was owned solely by the city and that representation was the basis for the City's acceptance of the donation. Commissioner George recommends that it be sold, and that the unreimbursed expenses and costs of storage be deducted from Main Street's one half share of the proceeds. Staff will add the trolley to the surplus list for approval at the next Commission meeting.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Discussion held on the following: Meeting accessibility issues; Denton Cove breaking ground in February - 17th Street right-of-way and landscaping for Denton Cove project Denton Cove - how to direct the traffic on property – Denton Cove report; part time city planner hired; Keith Bowers visioning session; FWC Battery Park Boating Grant for the three finger docks will be signed next week – willing to send a dock repair team; Franklin County Animal control partnership; Philaco Club Library Lease; Finance Director policy for

Commission approval; Tamara’s outside dining update; City’s Lease agreements and possibly making all leases uniform.

- 1) **Philaco/Old Library update** – Commissioner George gave an update, stating the Philaco Club is still interested in moving forward with the lease. Commissioner Ash requested that staff review current City lease agreements and possibly uniform all. Discussion held on the maintenance of the building; lease term, utilities, insurance and the amount of the lease. To be discussed at the February meeting.
- 2) **Encroachment Ordinance** – Attorney Banks is drafting a proposal and will bring for review at the February meeting. Commissioner Grove would like a policy to educate citizens and make them aware of the City’s encroachment agreements, and attach the policy to the building permit.
- 3) **Finance Director Position** – Mayor Begos reported that Mr. Bebeau requested that the Finance Director position report to the Mayor and Commissioners. Discussion held about finance position in the City Charter and possibly start the process of making amendments.
- 4) **Parliamentary Procedures Class discussion** – Commissioner Elliott gave a brief review of the class, and encourages each Commissioner to enroll and take this class.

HERB THIELE: MEETING CONDUCT PRESENTATION

Mr. Thiele gave a brief review of parliamentary procedure and how to be more effective at City meetings, have structure, depersonalize; detach and diffuse situations to benefit the board. Commissioner discussion held.

FINANCE DIRECTOR LEO BEBEAU COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bebeau gave a brief update of the City’s insurance proceeds and FEMA grants, stating we have approximately \$27 million in outstanding grants; we have executed the audit letter for Moran and Smith; and Mr. Bebeau will be preparing a schedule of capital outlay of water and sewer.

ATTORNEY KRISTY BRANCH BANKS COMMUNICATIONS

Update on 10th Street properties – Attorney Banks clarified ownership status and encroachments of Lot 6 onto Lot 7; deed of property; structures on properties/potential purchaser; revolving loan, and stated the 2017 settlement affidavit agreement cannot be located. Discussion held. Commissioner Ash inquired about the possibility of affordable housing over selling the property. To be researched by staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen comments consisted of: Facebook quality video streaming; Planning & Zoning joint workshop with the City Commission and workshops on Battery Park Improvements Grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CDBG-DR REBUILD FLORIDA HOMETOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Mayor Begos stated the deadline for submitting projects for the second round is February 16, 2021. Suggested CDBG-DR priorities are: Riverfront Revitalization; Hill Neighborhood Revitalization; Commercial District Revitalization with economic impact; and Hurricane Michael damage. Discussion held on having special meeting, possibly January 19th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE ALTERNATE MEMBER

Commissioner George made a motion to appoint Faye Gibson as the alternate member of Parks and Recreation Committee. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Commissioner Ash made a motion to appoint Commissioner George as the City's representative of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. Mayor Begos seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

B. FWC BOATING IMPROVEMENT GRANT 2021

Commissioner Grove made a motion to approve Jim Brown to make an application for the Florida Boating Improvement Program for 2021, in the amount of \$75,000, to repair the north side of the seawall at Battery Park Marina. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

C. LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

Mayor Begos reviewed the following three requests: Courthouse vacuum pit repairs and upgrades; Downtown Inflow and Infiltration study and repairs, and IGA lift station repairs and upgrades. Any more suggestions, go to Mr. Wade. Discussion held that we need to be conservative and move forward with the three listed projects.

Commissioner Grove made a motion to move forward with the three requests, with addition of the Area of Critical State Concern. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Meeting Minutes Adoption** – January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting, January 19, 2021 Public Hearing/Special Meeting, January 19, 2021 Public Hearing/Special Meeting, and January 28, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.
- B. P&Z Minutes** – January 11, 2021

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

No Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Kevin Begos, Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk