

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION HELD MONDAY,
OCTOBER 14, 2019, 1:00 PM AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER.**

PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Begos
Commissioner Adriane Elliott
Commissioner Anita Grove
Commissioner Despina George

Ron Nalley, City Manager
Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk

ABSENT: Commissioner Brenda Ash

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Begos called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION – FDEM HURRICANE MICHAEL STATE RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

Mayor Kevin Begos gave a brief history of the Popham Building stating the building is in need of renovation. A grant is available through the Division of Emergency Management that would provide money to stabilize this building. Commissioner Despina George expressed her concerns that these monies could be put towards a project other than the Popham Building, and she is not sure if we should apply for this grant. Mayor Begos stated that this building was purchased through the Florida Communities Trust under the Stan Mayfield's Working Waterfront Program, which has very restrictive covenants on what programs fall under their standards. Mayor Begos stated one of the projects could possibly be aquaculture for the fishermen. In a response to a question from Mayor Begos, Mr. Nalley stated it has to be a project that is not eligible for FEMA public assistance. All other city projects including the docks, piers, buildings, sidewalks and infrastructure are eligible for public assistance funding. The Popham building is not eligible because it was vacant at the time of the storm. Mr. Nalley stated the main concern is to stabilize the structure and defined rolling of the building as picking the building up and moving it to another site, in order to make repairs and then rolling the building back into place. The building was damaged more than fifty percent of the value, therefore the height will need to be raise. The estimated cost of construction is 1.2 million, phase one \$587,000. Estimates for Phase two is not complete due to waiting to receive additional information from the engineers. In a response to a question by Mayor Begos, Mr. Nalley stated that it would be another \$200,000 for moving the building back to the foundation for phase two which is included in the estimate. In a response to a question by Mayor Begos, Mr. Nalley stated that from past meetings, the community seemed to indicate that they wanted to see it restored and not torn down and that we are trying to take the burden from the city by applying for a grant. Commissioner Anita Grove stated that the City would not be allowed to rebuild if the building is torn down, and that there are laws we have to abide by. In response to a question from Commissioner Elliott, Mr. Nalley stated that this grant doesn't require a letter of support. In response to a question from Commissioner Elliott, Mr. Nalley stated the use requires further discussion and there are guidelines associated with alternative uses of the grant. Commissioner Elliott wants to make sure the plan for the building will be used properly to the advantage of the City. Mayor Begos stated that boat storage

could possibly be a great use of the building. Commissioner Grove stated she thinks this grant would be a great asset to the City and would not require much maintenance since it is an open building and that if
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we don't take advantage of this we will not be able to apply for this grant. In response to a question from Mayor Begos, Mr. Nalley stated the grant for the Popham building would be very important to the use of the Triumph money and could compromise the Mill Pond monies. Robin Vroegop expressed her concerns with the Triumph grants, submerged land leases, and piers. Ms. Vroegop stated that this grant was for Hurricane Michael damage and the Popham building was damaged before the storm, and she is against this grant. Jim Brown stated there is a grant for recreational boating facilities through the State. There were numerous citizen concerns with the maintenance cost after rebuilding. Mayor Begos briefly reviewed the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront Program and uses. There were numerous citizens in favor of the grant renovation of the historical Popham building. Bobby Miller stated that the City needs to research the pros and cons of the grant and what the City can afford and the City may be liable for to FCT if something happens to the building. In response to a question from David Adlerstein, Mayor Begos stated the city's project report from 2013, says the "Apalachicola Maritime Museum" will fully renovate the historic structure and incorporate it into the existing museum. Mr. Nalley stated this was only if the City did their share of the renovations, but to their knowledge there is no legal arrangement or agreement. Mayor Begos stated that if awarded the grant the City could technically refuse it if it isn't good for the City. Mr. Miller asked that if we proceed with the building, the City consider naming it the Sawyer Building after Fred Sawyer. Mr. Fred Sawyer then gave a brief background of the Popham Building, how it was structurally built and the positives of the building. Commissioner Grove expressed the importance of applying for grants that are coming down to the cities and see what we can get for our City.

Commissioner Grove made a motion to approve the submittal of a grant proposal to FDEM's Hurricane Michael State Recovery Grant Program on behalf of the City of Apalachicola. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Grove made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm. Commissioner George seconded and motion carried 4-0.

Kevin Begos, Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk