

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION HELD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020, 6:00 PM AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER.

PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Begos
Commissioner Brenda Ash
Commissioner Anita Grove
Commissioner Adriane Elliott
Commissioner Despina George
Travis Wade, City Manager
Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk
Leo Bebeau, Finance Director
Kristy Branch- Banks, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Begos called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and Commissioner Ash gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Agenda amended to include discussion of insurance for Commissioners.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- 1) **New Tree/Riverfront Park**- Mayor Begos discussed the possibility of planting a new Christmas tree at Riverfront Park. The net Christmas tree will remain at the Park during Christmas time.
- 2) **Pier repairs update** – Mayor Begos gave a brief update on Battery Park Piers, finger piers, and Bodiford Park Pier, stating we are seeking bids for repairs.
- 3) **Veteran’s hiring preference** – Discussion held for hiring veterans for contractor positions. This will be researched further for legal requirements and how to proceed.

Discussion held on the following items: 1) downtown pump station; 2) generators for fire and police station; 3) local mitigation strategy; 4) new BRIC Grant Program - Commissioner Ash and Mayor Begos would like to have Cindy Clark go forward with this grant project. Commissioner Grove requests that we approve Cindy Clark to apply for the for Backflow Preventer Infiltration Study; 5) trees planted in Battery Park; 6) Tree City USA Proclamation; 7) Encroachment Agreement Ordinance Proposal; 8) sink holes on Fred Meyer St., 5th Street, and 12th Street and Avenue B; 9) part-time grant manager position – possible interview; and 10) City Rules of Order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A) **Recreation Committee presentation** – Elinor Mount-Simmons reviewed a proposal on the Adopt-a-Park Program, which would align local community groups and businesses, churches, etc., to partnership with the City in a joint venture to maintain the beauty of our City Parks. This would include tasks such as cutting grass, picking up debris, and other tasks as determined by city staff. Commissioner Ash requested that the Recreation Board outline a proposal on implementing the program criteria and prioritizing.

Ms. Mount-Simmons requested that the Recreation Committee have a second alternate on the board.

- B) Tim Center with Early Headstart learning center gave a brief update on the progress of the program restoration at City Hall (old High School), and held discussion of proposed contract for a five (5) year lease. Attorney Banks will send a copy of the draft to the Commission for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CITY ATTORNEY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Commission reviewed Attorney Bank’s performance for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Attorney Banks stated that her personal business increased greatly, but that she would love to continue as the City’s Attorney, with the help of other contract attorneys when needed for special projects.

Commissioner Ash made a motion to extend Kristy Branch-Bank’s contract. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 4-1. Commissioner George opposed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. STREET DINING PROPOSAL FOR AVENUE D

Tamara’s Café has requested street dining again on Avenue D. The new agreement specifically prohibits music and entertainment in either the parking spaces or on adjacent sidewalks. The use of parking spaces would end on February 28, 2021. The City or Tamara’s could terminate the agreement at any time. The Commission requests: Certificate of insurance, keep sidewalk clear, handling of violations, covid safety plan and prevention measures to be attached, access to pedestrian walking, and employee parking.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to amend and incorporate the Emergency Guidelines Mask Proclamation and contingent upon receiving the Covid prevention plan, to approve the Agreement for Tamara’s Café Street dining on Avenue D. Commissioner Ash seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CDBG-DR REBUILD FLORIDA HOMETOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Discussion held on CDBG-DR Grant possibilities which include: complete redevelopment of the Battery Park Marina area; demolition of the Old Fire Station, demolition or partial repair of the Popham building; and business façade project improvements and training.

NEW BUSINESS

B. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS - P&Z, TREE, LIBRARY AND HCA

Mr. Wade stated we have two openings on the Planning and Zoning Board and recommends Richard Dagenhart and Bobby Miller for P&Z.

Commissioner Grove made a motion to appoint Richard Dagenhart and Bobby Miller to the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Wade stated we have one opening on the Tree Committee and recommends Frederick Kahler.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to appoint Frederick Kahler to the Tree Committee. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion held of the legal citizenship of a committee member and their position on the committee.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion that Isabel Pataritsas be appointed as a member, and not the alternate, and for Lynn Wilson Spohrer be an honorary member with no voting abilities. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

After further discussion, the Philaco Club has to make recommendations to the Commission for all Library Board members.

NEW BUSINESS
C. YEARLY AUDITOR CONTRACT

Commissioner George stated that Moran & Smith, LLP has submitted a draft engagement letter to provide services to audit the financial statement of the City for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and would like to know if the City wishes to accept Moran & Smith, LLP proposal.

Commissioner Grove made a motion to extend Moran & Smith, LLP a contract for a one-year renewal, for the fiscal year audit 2019-2020. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

No comments.

ATTORNEY KRISTY BRANCH BANKS COMMUNICATIONS

- Hale Smith/Rich Hall lawsuit – reviewed case on flood zone issue and awaiting opinion of same.

FINANCE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bebeau initiated discussion about the City providing health insurance to elected governmental officials. Discussion held.

Commissioner Grove made a motion that the City suspend the class offering elected governmental officials health insurance as of January 1, 2021. Commissioner Ash seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Meeting Minutes Adoption** – October 13, 2020 Special Meeting, November 3, 2020 Regular Meeting, November 30, 2020 Special Meeting and November 30, 2020 Public Hearing Minutes.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adopt the consent agenda with corrections as discussed. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Minutes Confirmation – November 9, 2020

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to confirm the P&Z minutes. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

No Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Kevin Begos, Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk