

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE APALACHICOLACITY COMMISSION  
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020, 3:00 PM AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY  
CENTER.

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

**CALL OF ORDER**

Mayor Begos called the meeting to order and Commissioner Ash gave the invocation. Council Members lead the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

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

**PRESENTATION**

A. Trina Vielhauer, DEP Director of Water Restoration Assistance (Revolving Loan Program) – Mrs. Vielhauer gave an update of the City’s current loan default status and estimated that the balance is around \$516,693 at this time.

B. Gary Williams, Florida Rural Water Association – Mr. Williams discussed the City’s Asset Management Plans for maintenance of the Water and Wastewater System and how we can best handle the City’s needs and move forward. Discussion ensued by the Commission Board and City Attorney.

Commissioner Ash made a motion to have a special meeting next week on the issues discussed and see what options we have for the Consent Order. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

A) Commissioners and Sunshine Law - Mayor Begos briefly reviewed Sunshine Laws on social media and suggested researching the possibility of archiving the City’s Face Book account.

B) Commissioner/Department Roles – Discussion ensued concerning the Commission Board being assigned to Departments. To be tabled and discussed at a later meeting.

C) DEP Consent Order – Discussed under Presentations.

D) Rescind Resolution 2020-08 – Temporary Halt to all Water and Sewer Bill Late Fees and Disconnect Fees. Discussion ensued by the Commission.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion for Mr. Wade to contact the people on the Cut-Off list and prepare a payment plan. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ash made a motion to rescind Resolution 2020-08. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion ensued by Commission on Social Media Policy and Polls review, Commendation to the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and the City of Apalachicola Police Department for all they do for our community, Piers and Hurricane Michael storm debris, Sunshine Law Training on-line June 17 and 24, 2020 offered by the NW Florida League of Cities.

<b>CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS</b>
------------------------------------

A. Splash Pad Re-Opening – Mr. Wade recommended that the City open the Splash pad with caution and limited occupancy of ten people there at a time.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to re-open the Splash Pad with caution and limited occupancy. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Library – Partial Re-Opening – History, Culture and Arts Building (HCA) – Discussion ensued by Commission and it was decided that the Library would deliver books to the vehicles, and a box set outside for returns at this time, until further notification. Wi-Fi is still available if parked outside the library building. HCA will re-open in July, times to be accessed. Discussion ensued.

C. Mr. Copeland – Request for Assistance on \$2000 Water Bill – Mr. Wade recommended that Mr. Copeland's water bill be adjusted to a total of \$98, this being a one-time adjustment.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion due to extenuating circumstances due to COVID, and that the City approve a one-time adjustment on the water bill to a minimum of \$98. Motion failed for lack of second.

D. Budget Workshop Dates – June 4, June 18, and July 2, 2020. Discussion ensued and it was decided to not have the June 4<sup>th</sup> budget workshop.

E. Dog Park Re-Location Discussion – Discussion ensued of possibly relocating to the old football field. Further research needed to make sure the City owns that piece of property.

**ATTORNEY KRISTY BRANCH-BANKS COMMUNICATIONS**

Attorney Banks discussed the sale of city properties and possibly having a workshop. To be discussed at a later meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Numerous concerns on the water bill adjustment policies, Mill Pond/Scipio Creek issues and Sidewalk Ordinance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Begos presented the Consent Agenda and asked if any items should be removed before consideration of a motion.

- Meeting Minutes Adoption – To Adopt the May 5, 2020 Regular Meeting, May 8, 2020 Special Meeting, and May 19, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.
- Public Works – Stop Sign/Street Sign Removal and Replacement Installation – To request approval for Jason White Construction to remove and install replacement stop/street signs, in the amount of \$19,775.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. HEAD START – TIM CENTER, CAPITAL AREA COMMUNITY ACTION**

Tim Center, Capital Area Community Action gave an update on the progress of the Early Head Start project and funding, stating that the old Wing “A” at the Van Johnson Complex is still under renovation, awaiting funding.

Commissioner Grove made a motion requesting that Attorney Banks negotiate a Lease Agreement with Head Start, and that it be presented at the July meeting. Commissioner Ash seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Discussion ensued.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**B. SIDEWALK ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Sidewalk Ordinance Update – To update Ordinance No. 2017-03 by adding this sentence at the end of Section 7.1: Stages for musical performance or entertainment are not allowed under this Ordinance, and nothing in this Ordinance allows musical performance or entertainment.

Discussion ensued by the Commission, City Manager and City Attorney. Commissioner Elliott made a motion to extend the Outside Dining Resolution for thirty (30) days.

Commissioner Elliott amended the motion to extend the Outdoor Dining Resolution until restrictions are lifted by the State of Florida and restaurants are allowed to open at 100% capacity. Mayor Begos seconded and the motion failed 3-2. Commissioners George, Ash and Grove voted Nay.

Commissioner Ash made a motion to extend the Outside Dining Resolution for thirty (30) days, for dining only. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b> <b>C. NUISANCE/NOISE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION</b>
---

Discussion ensued by Commission.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to have a public workshop/special meeting on the Nuisance/Noise Ordinance next week, to be determined and notified at a later date.

Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b> <b>A. MILL POND PILING BIDS</b>
--

Commissioner Ash made a motion to award the bid to R.J. Gorman Marine at \$13,875 to remove and set new pilings at the Mill Pond/Scipio Creek basin project, pending referral research by Mr. Wade. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

<b>NEW BUSINESS</b> <b>B. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY</b>
--

Discussion ensued by Commission on the City social media account and those of individual politician social media accounts.

Commissioner Elliott made a motion that each of the Commissioner's block each other on their personal facebook pages. Motion died for lack of second.

Commissioner Ash made a motion to adopt the Social Media Policy and add any updates as needed. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**C. INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Commissioner Ash made a motion that the Interim Library Director position, go back to the Library Board with their recommendation to the Commission at the next meeting. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**D. FARMER’S MARKET MANAGER**

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to approve Rose Griffin as the Farmers Market Director. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Discussion ensued.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**E. REMOVAL OF FORMER MAYOR JOHNSON’S NAME  
FROM CITY PROPERTY**

Discussion ensued on the issues of public buildings and properties being named after elected officials while still living, therefore, it is recommended removing Mayor Johnson’s name from City property.

Commissioner Grove made a motion to table this issue for a later date. Commissioner Elliott seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Commissioner Grove seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

---

Kevin Begos, Mayor

---

Deborah Guillotte, City Clerk