

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR THE APALACHICOLA CITY COMMISSION WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022, 4:00 PM, AT THE APALACHICOLA COMMUNITY CENTER.

PRESENT: Mayor Brenda Ash
Commissioner Anita Grove
Commissioner Despina George
Commissioner Adriane Elliott
ABSENT: Commissioner Donna Duncan

Travis Wade, Manager
Deborah Guillotte, Clerk
Dan Hartman, Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brenda Ash called the workshop meeting to order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments consisted of the following: 1) ICC schedule; plumbing HVAC and electrical extremely high fee; 2) building permit fee and zoning code enforcement fee and what authority does the city have to enforce; 3) eliminate fill fee from the fee schedule

III. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mark Gerspacher outlined changes to budget.

Code Enforcement, Glen Jenkins reviewed the following options to the fill fee: 1) reducing fee to \$25 per cubic yard; 2) have no fee and charge high punitive fee if over the fill amount; and 3) allow fill within footprint of property (four corners) at no charge.

Commissioner Grove questioned the permit fee for replacing inside appliances (hot water heater) etc., saying this is too high and would like it decreased.

Commissioner Elliott suggested having a special event permit fee of \$100 for special events being held.

Mayor Ash suggested staff eliminate the per cubic yard fill fee within the footprint of the home, impose a maximum penalty for violations for additional fill, subject to Attorney Hartman's review and recommendation.

Commissioner George recommended to freeze spending of ARPA funds at this point, and the remaining funds not be allocated to any projects at this point, but to future projects as identified.

Commissioner Elliott suggested to balance the budget, that we eliminate the Bay Ave seawall repairs and transfer capital outlay for Scipio Creek Marina repairs into ARPA.

Mayor Ash stated that the consensus for the budget is 3-1 moving forward with the recommendation from Commissioner Elliott.

Mr. Gerspacher reviewed the budget stating the \$80,000 from the ARPA would bring the carry forward ARPA fund to approximately \$587,000, which would balance the budget. The \$15,000 would go into

operating budget for the black history trail match. This would leave the drinking water consulting fees, city hall grants match and Scipio Creek Marina for next year.

Mayor Ash stated the budget would be based on the rollback rate of 8.3457; eliminate the Franklin Square usage fee; use the ICC evaluation table; eliminate the per cubic yard fill fee; fine of \$500 for violations and stay with the same permitting for fill for site prep fee; events permit fee \$100; replacement of appliances, reduce fee to \$25 and increase sidewalk fees retail and restaurant by \$100 each.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Elliott made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner George seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Deborah Guillotte, Clerk