

A Workshop of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:15PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Adrian Elliott, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Despina George, City Manager Travis Wade, City Attorney Dan Hartman, Finance Director Mark Gerspacher, Lee Mathes, Bree Robinson, Kendall Falkner

Mayor Ash opened workshop.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion to adopt agenda made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carried 4 to 0.

ELECTION DISCUSSION

Attorney Hartman outlined memorandum dated December 1, 2022, with subject matter being moving date of City elections to coincide with county, state, and national election cycle, and the effect on commissioner terms in office. Attorney Hartman stated based on his research, the City can move the City election scheduled for September 2023 or September 2025 to coincide with the regular November 2024 or 2025 election cycle by ordinance and without a ballot referendum. The Commission can also authorize by ordinance and without referendum the extension of the terms of current sitting Commissioners by over one year necessary to make City elections coincide with the November election cycle.

Mayor Ash stated the runoff election process would also have to be addressed.

Attorney Hartman stated he has not research the runoff election process, but it may be a good idea to have a conversation with the County Supervisor of Elections to see if a runoff election is even feasible anymore.

Commissioner Elliott recommends that for the September 2023 and September 2025 election cycles to set those terms for a 3-year period to get on the even numbered November election cycle.

Commissioner George stated she is not in favor of changing the election cycle, but is more agreeable of the 3 year term for 2 election cycles instead of extending terms of the current board.

Attorney Hartman stated an ordinance can be drafted to accomplish this change.

Commissioner George stated to eliminate or change the runoff election would require a ballot referendum.

Attorney Hartman stated the ballot referendum to remove the runoff election could be placed on the September 2023 ballot.

Commissioner Grove stated she is in favor of changing the election cycle.

Commissioner Elliott stated is in favor of changing the election cycle and recommends setting 3 year terms for the September 2023 and September 2025 elections.

Commissioner George stated she is not in favor of changing the election cycle.

Mayor Ash stated 3 board members are in favor of changing the election cycle and 1 is opposed.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Grove. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes