

A Regular Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 4PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, FL.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Despina George, City Attorney Dan Hartman, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Finance Director Mark Gerspacher, Planner Bree Robinson, Code Enforcement Officer PJ Erwin, Grants Coordinator Kendall Falkner

Regular Meeting opened by Mayor Ash followed by Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ann Rivers Rauscher – Addressed fill fees
2. Al Ingle – Addressed resignation of himself from Planning & Zoning Board, resignation of Building Official Tammy Owens, and Gibson Inn project approval.
3. Lynn Wilder – Updated Commission on Keep Franklin County Beautiful and Recycling Programs.
4. Glen Coxwell – Addressed concerns regarding the Building Department.
5. LaRaela Coxwell – Addressed the public comment time limit regarding Gibson Inn project, and access to all agenda documents.

RESILIENT FLORIDA PROGRAM GRANT

Cindy Clark outlined the Resilient Florida Program grants that are available and how it will work in conjunction with the Vulnerability Analysis Update and recommended vulnerability recommendations.

Motion to approve to apply for the Resilient Florida Program planning and implementation grants made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 5 to 0.

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (CPI) GRANT WITH CONSERVATION CORPS

Joe Taylor stated this grant requires the support of a municipality. Grant will allow to continue oyster recycling projects, marsh restoration and the Conservation Corps will match funds.

Motion to approve Franklin’s Promise Coalition, with City of Apalachicola designated as partner entity, to apply for the \$60,000 FDEP Coastal Partnership Initiative Grant made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 5 to 0.

REQUEST FOR WORKSHOP RE: PERMITTING, PLANNING, ZONING, CODE ENFORCEMENT

Bonnie Davis, representing HAPPI, stated they are in support of a workshop to review processes and procedures.

Public comments received.

Motion to schedule a workshop to review processes and procedures regarding permitting, planning, zoning, and code enforcement made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Grove.

Commissioner Elliott stated that the Commission typically does not write policies and procedures.

Discussion held.

Attorney Hartman explained the Building Official enforces the Florida Building Code, so the issuing of permits is not a complicated process.

Commissioner Grove stated she feels a workshop would help define the problems and offer solutions.

Commissioner George stated just replacing the Building Official will not correct the process. Processes and procedures need to be addressed.

Mayor Ash stated a workshop will not resolve the issue, but bringing in a professional that would provide training for the planning department would be a start to correcting the issues.

Discussion continued.

Motion carried 3 to 0 with Mayor Ash and Commissioner Duncan opposing.

RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATED TO PUBLIC NOTICE & PARTICIPATION

Commissioner George reiterated the Rules of Procedure for the City Commission and addressed her concerns in areas she feels the policy is not being followed. Commissioner George recommended the Commission should follow the policy or do away with it.

Public comment received.

Discussion held concerning meeting time.

MARKS PARK UPDATE

Donna Ingle gave update on Lafayette Park, Dog Park, and Marks Park.

Discussion held concerning the parking along Marks Park.

FIRE HYDRANT RFP AWARD

Motion to award fire hydrant installation contract to Duggar Excavating made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 5 to 0.

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION DATES

City Manager Wade stated at the last Commission meeting there was a consensus to get agenda meeting packets distributed earlier and would like an official vote.

Discussion held concerning laws and rules for getting agenda packets out to Commission and public.

Motion to change agenda distribution date to seven (7) business days prior to the regular scheduled meeting date with the deadline to submit agenda items to Manager to be Tuesday at 12 Noon prior to the distribution date made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 5 to 0.

MAYOR & COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mayor Ash – No comment.

Commissioner Grove – Requested that Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment meetings be recorded, addressed abundance of spam in City email, and Hurricane Michael projects.

Commissioner Elliott – Requested a workshop to be held on August 29th at 4PM to discuss the downtown traffic pattern. Commissioner Elliott stated she will provide documentation for the workshop.

Commissioner George stated because this affects the downtown businesses, the time should be later than 4PM.

Motion to hold a workshop on August 29th at 4PM to discuss the downtown traffic pattern made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Grove. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner George opposing.

Commissioner Duncan – Requested a password reset for City email, thanked Lynn Wilder for the trash receptacles for July 3rd event, thanked all the volunteers that helped during the July 3rd event, and noted

that Rules of Procedures will have to be updated once the Commission meeting place is changed to the old Library.

Commissioner George – No comment.

CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

Report attached.

City Manager Wade also reported that he is trying to get a determination from FWC on who is responsible for supplying and installing the No Wake Signs in the river.

Chief Varnes stated that FWC is responsible for supplying the signage and enforcement.

GRANTS COORDINATOR COMMUNICAITONS

Report attached.

FINANCE DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Report attached.

Mark Gerspacher stated a motion is needed to adopt the tentative 2023-2024 budget calendar.

Motion to adopt the tentative 2023-2024 budget calendar made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carried 5 to 0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Included in agenda packet.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes, City Clerk