

A Workshop of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, FL.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Donna Duncan, 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

Workshop opened by Mayor Ash.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pete Whitesell – Spoke in support of using ARPA funds to pay down DEP debt.

ARPA PROJECTS DISCUSSION

Finance Director Mark Gerspacher updated Commission on budgeted capital improvements projects and outlined ARPA funding and expense spreadsheet which included scenarios based on each Commissioner's requests.

Discussion held regarding prioritizing ARPA project list.

After discussion, Commission's top priorities for ARPA projects are Leslie Street repairs, Bay Avenue seawall, Scipio Creek/Harbormaster House, DEP debt reduction, fire hydrants, and drinking water. Commission agreed to look at current operating budget to see what projects could be funded through the budget and to explore other funding sources for some of the projects.

SIGN ORDINANCE

Commission reviewed and discussed each section of the draft sign ordinance.

Code Enforcement Officer PJ Erwin stated this ordinance includes a mural section as well.

Discussion held regarding definitions, exempt signs, temporary signs, permitted and unpermitted signs, signage in O/R and Residential zoning districts, sign size and computations, and free-standing signs.

After discussion, Commission agreed to 10% of total building façade area (includes any marquee sign) for sign size computation.

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Discussion held regarding sign lighting.

Commission agreed to add the mural section of sign ordinance to the July 25th workshop agenda to follow the budget discussion.

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

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes, City Clerk