

A Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 5:01 PM at the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Donna Duncan, City Manager Travis Wade, Finance Director Mark Gerspacher, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Planner Bree Robinson, Code Enforcement Officer PJ Erwin

Meeting called to order by Mayor Ash.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2023-2024 BUDGET

Finance Director Mark Gerspacher read the following statement:

City of Apalachicola 2023-2024 fiscal year budget information:

General Fund: \$5,685,879

Enterprise Fund: \$3,783,093

Total Budget: \$9,423,972

Proposed Millage Rate: 8.3457

Rolled Back Rate: 7.2299

The proposed millage rate is greater than the roll back rate of 7.2299 by 15.43%

The second public hearing and special meeting for final adoption of the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:01PM in the Apalachicola Community Center, #1 Bay Avenue, Apalachicola, Florida.

Mr. Gerspacher outlined changes made to the budget since the last workshop.

Commissioner George addressed the resignation of finance director, ad valorem tax rate, completion of audits, and accounting system.

Commissioner Elliott would like to delete the \$1.50 per square foot for mural permit fee and just charge the \$100 flat mural permit application fee.

Mr. Gerspacher will make the change to the fee schedule.

No public comment.

Public hearing closed.

SPECIAL MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ELECTED OFFICIALS' HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION

Mark Gerspacher outlined the two options for reinstating elected officials' health insurance that was recommended by Attorney Hartman:

1. Discuss and hold a vote on a change in the policy from the policy enacted at the December 2020 meeting. A Commissioner can make a "Motion to reinstate elected officials as a class eligible for health insurance as of October 1, 2023."
2. Discuss the inclusion of health insurance coverage for elected officials in the proposed budget, noting the inclusion of coverage for Commissioner Elliott in the 2023 – 2024 proposed budget. Then vote on the proposed budget as you would. This should have the same effect as #1 above, it just is a little less clear change in policy. The insurance carrier might require clarity down the road if this approach is used.

Motion to reinstate elected officials as a class eligible for health insurance as of October 1, 2023, made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Grove.

Discussion held.

Motion carried 4 to 1. Commissioner George opposed.

RESOLUTION 2023-07 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2023-2024 MILLAGE RATE

City Manager Wade read Resolution 2023-07 in its entirety.

Motion to tentatively adopt Resolution 2023-07 to tentatively adopt FY 2023-2024 millage rate made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Motion carried 5 to 0.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2023-04 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 2023-2024 BUDGET

City Manager Wade read Ordinance 2023-04 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Motion to tentatively adopt Ordinance 2023-04 to tentatively adopt FY 2023-2024 budget made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Motion carried 5 to 0.

City Manager Wade announced kick off meeting for African American Museum.

Commissioner George announced legislative meeting with Jason Shoaf at the Courthouse.

Mark Gerspacher announced his resignation as Finance Director effective September 22, 2023.

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

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes, City Clerk