

A Regular Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6PM at the Former Apalachicola Municipal Library located at 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, City Manager Travis Wade, City Attorney Dan Hartman, City Clerk Lee Mathes, Planner Bree Robinson, Code Enforcement Officer PJ Erwin, Chief of Police Bobby Varnes

Mayor Ash called meeting to order followed by Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion to approve agenda with addition of Public Comment and deletion of Item #1 under New Business – Owl Café Food Truck Request made by Commissioner Grove, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 4 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Donna Ingle spoke on vision for Chapman Botanical Gardens.
2. Tami Ray-Hutchinson, on behalf of H'COLA, request the use of Franklin Square on February 16th – 18th for the annual African American History Festival.

City Manager Wade stated all that is needed is the completion of an event application for a permit for the event.

CYNTHIA SARTAIN – REQUESTING INTERPRETATION OF CODE REGARDING RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Dean and Cynthia Sartain have requested advice regarding whether property owners may park a recreational vehicle in their yard in R-2 zone. Staff and Attorney Hartman have interpreted the Code to allow homeowners to park an RV in their yard, but the Code prohibits using the RV as a dwelling. The Sartain's provided a presentation regarding their interpretation of the Code, and requests the Commission's interpretation of the Code.

Discussion held regarding definition interpretation of recreational vehicle and allowance of recreational vehicle to be stored on property owner's property.

Attorney Hartman stated the Sartains disagree with Staff's interpretation of the Code. A RV is not a permanent structure, it is not for permanent use, it cannot be used as a living dwelling, but the City has never prohibited anyone from parking their RV on their property.

Commissioner Elliott stated she supports Staff's interpretation.

Commissioner Grove stated parking an RV is no different than parking a boat or a work trailer.

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Commissioner George stated she appreciates the public reading and trying to interpret the Code and understands how the Sartains could have reached their interpretation of the Code.

Discussion continued.