

A Workshop Meeting of the Apalachicola City Commission was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Commission Meeting Room, 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, City Manager Travis Wade, City Clerk Sheneidra Cummings, (Absent: Commissioner Duncan)

Workshop Meeting opened by Mayor Ash followed by invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

Brett Hammond, with Hammond Design Group opened the Popham Building discussion and presented various updates. Mr. Hamlin asked the Commission for direction and public input regarding the future of the building and/or site. Discussion held.

Mr. Hamlin recommended demolishing the Popham Building stating that the structure is beyond repair and suggested that the building be dismantled down to the 1st floor platform to address the hazard(s) and to further secure the site. For more information, page 7 of the Agenda packet references the engineer's recommendation.

Further Discussion held.

City Planner Bree Robinson provided an update on the last meeting with Dept. of Commerce (DOC), informing the Commission that DOC approved the amended scope that included the partial demolition.

Mayor Ash inquired about associated cost. Bree and Brett confirmed that funding to demo the building can be covered from the CDBG Funds along with the cost for construction documents.

Commissioner Grove recommended that a copy of all documentation produced from the Hammond Group regarding the Popham Building be provided to the Apalachicola Historical Society, Library archives, and City Planner for record purposes. Commissioner Grove expressed concern about the stabilization of the pilings and inquired if the funds would cover the cost of stabilization. Mr. Hamlin replied that the existing funding would not cover the stabilization of the existing pilings. Commissioner Grove would like to salvage some of the metal, wood, and doors from the building. Commissioner Grove stated that the initial funds to purchase the Popham Building was provided by Community Affairs and suggested informing the original Grantor (or subsequent Org.) of the City's plan to demolish to avoid any push-back.

Manager Wade responded to Commissioner Grove stating that a Rep at the Florida Community Trust (FCT) informed him that the City would need to keep them informed on any plans to demolish and seek their approval for any future use of the space. Manager Wade further stated that the FCT is more interested in the future use of the site implying that they would like to see educational, recreational, and conservation activities remain the focus for the space.

Commissioner George inquired about the original 300k grant allocation for the Popham Building. Mr. Hamlin stated that, based on his knowledge, the \$300,000 that was initially allocated for the Popham Building will continue to be appropriated for the revised use that was approved by Dept. of Commerce i.e., preparation of demolition documents and a complete set of structural plans for future funding opportunities, as well as, to demolish the building down to the 1st floor platform. Commissioner George suggested consulting with local craftsman and salvaging the building and materials. Commissioner George suggested a minimal design if there is a structure at all.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Elliott concurred with the fellow Commissioner and suggested prioritizing getting the building secured as moving forward with demolition plans to resolve the blight and hazard(s). and not sure if a structure should be placed there. Commissioner Elliott expressed concerns about erecting another structure and mentioned associated costs to run and maintain another City-owned building. Commissioner Elliott suggested that if the Commission decides to erect another structure that it be in support of existing focal attractions in that area, functional, and in conjunction with the Battery Park Marina.

City Planner Bree informed the City of the timeline and have until Sept 2025 to get the construction plans for demolition.

Mayor Ash summarized the discussion as follows,

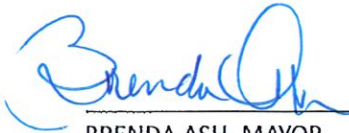
Direction for Hammond Design Group, LLC: Prepare design documents that reflect an open-air concept, a 1500-2500 sq ft. building, and a conceptual plan that would be functional and in alignment with Working Waterfront and the Battery Park Marina.

Mayor Ash suggested having City Planner, a Commissioner and a Citizen/volunteer(s) to brainstorm some concept ideas for the building and provide feedback to the Commission. City Planner concurred and suggested that the discussion be posted online and in newspaper for public input.

Mayor Ash asked Bree to produce names to be considered for the volunteer(s), and the Commission recommended Commissioner Grove to meet with Bree and Mr. Hamlin and be the Commissioner on-board to be included in the brainstorm discussion for conceptual plans for the site.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Grove. None opposed. Motion carried, 4-1.



BRENDA ASH, MAYOR

ATTEST:



SHENEIDRA CUMMINGS, CITY CLERK