

Weekly Update
Apalachicola City Manager
December 23, 2025

The following information is forwarded to keep you in the loop on items currently in progress.

- Water/Sewer staffs were scheduled to meet with DEP on Dec 16th , but DEP rescheduled it until January 12th. Their visit is part of their verification process for the items noted in previous inspections, consent/judicial orders. This visit will include verification of O&M and Emergency Manuals, Re-Use Water signage verification, Valve Exercise Program review, and other open items. We will keep the commission updated of the results, what remains open and the next steps to consolidate any remaining items into a new formal order.

- We received word that the City was awarded \$17.5M from DEP under the Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane's Helene and Milton (SAHM) program for three drinking water projects. The projects are the new Well #8, funding for our existing wells 5-year maintenance program, and Drinking Water Plant Improvements which includes potential construction of a hydrogen sulfide and total organic carbon treatment system. We have not been officially notified but wanted to pass on this good news.

- Water/Sewer meter audit; I spoke with FL Rural Water about timing for their assistance, and we will be formulating a plan on how to get out and touch all ~ 2200 meters and verifying the accounts. This internal audit will occur in the new year.

- Water Rate Study; The city has received a draft copy of the water rate study and will schedule a briefing to the commission and community. We would like to send out notices in the January bills so customers know when the meeting will be held.

- Remote Participation and Vimeo; staff contacted Howard technologies and there is not any remote participation capability with the current system we have. We are looking at other options, and I will bring this up at the January meeting in my city manager report.

- Local Bill; now that the delegation meeting has occurred, I compiled a list of commission/community questions along with items that the city is requesting to be added/addressed in future versions of the bill. The filing deadline for the local bill is January 9th, so the requests were sent to Senator Simon and Representative Shoaf's office yesterday. This will allow for simpler changes to the bill before filing, when formal amendments become the vehicle to accomplish any changes.

- Stay Informed: Ashley Webb, in her PIO role is working hard to get the "Stay Informed" newsletter distribution list compiled and our domain authenticated so we can start sending information out to the community. We are using Intuit's Mailchimp as our

platform, have developed the background and template that will be used for all email notifications. Our goal is to have this up and running in early January.

- I will be scheduling a workshop at 5:00 pm before our regularly scheduled commission meeting on January 6th for the commission to continue their discussion on the Local Bill.

- Hiring; we have the Community Development Coordinator and Code Enforcement Officer position advertised as of last week. After working with Chief Varnes, this Code Enforcement position has been morphed from just code enforcement to now include Harbor Master duties. These are duties that align with code enforcement and allowed the pay range to be increased to a level that should make this position more attractive for qualified applicants.

- I met with County Coordinator Michael Moron and Finance Director Erin Griffith to discuss several items having to do with past practices, county permits, and remote participation in commission meetings.

- Angela Creamer (Finance Clerk) has been working with Duke Energy to identify certain city accounts that will be moved to different rate plans. Due to her hard work, this move will save the city ~ \$8,000 a year in energy costs.

Charles V. Anderson
City Manager, City of Apalachicola