

A Workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 4PM at the Commission Meeting Room at 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Donna Knutson, Commissioner Donna Duncan, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, City Manager Charles Anderson, City Attorney Dan Hartman, Finance Director Lee Mathes

Workshop opened by Mayor Ash.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD TERM & COMPOSITION DISCUSSION

Attorney Hartman outlined inconsistencies regarding Planning & Zoning Board term limits and composition. Attorney Hartman explained that currently 5 of 7 primary members have exceeded their term limits and that the current composition is inconsistent with Code. Specifically:

1. Number of Appointees – currently there are 8 appointees to the P&Z Board (7 members & 1 alternate). The board is limited to 7 members, with only 6 appointed by the Commission.
2. School Board – the City has been appointing the school board position. The school board has not appointed the 7th ex officio member.
3. Alternate – there is no provision for an alternate in the code.

Requested actions:

1. Direct staff to advertise for nominees to be selected by the Commission at an upcoming regular meeting.
2. Direct staff to contact the school board to provide their appointment.
3. Discuss an ordinance revision and potential terms – eliminate school board appointment, eliminate ex officio non-voting member position so there is 7 voting members, provide for alternate appointment, consider providing for term limits (maximum number of terms a person can serve consecutively or at all), and any limits placed on selection and term of chairman and vice chair.

Discussion held concerning term limits, transition language, school board position, and ex officio appointment.

Commission instructed Attorney Hartman to draft an ordinance addressing the above concerns and bring back before the Commission.

APALACHICOLA WATER & SEWER DISTRICT DISCUSSION (LOCAL BILL 4103)

Discussion held in length concerning the following:

1. Legal challenge to bill – discussion of options, angles, and outcomes
2. Appointee – potential nominees
3. Transfer of utility system – what steps are involved
4. Interlocal terms/provision for negotiation
5. Public announcement – content and timing
6. Referendum placed on November ballot

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

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes, Finance Clerk