

Mayor
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Commissioners
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Mayor Ash and Commissioners –

Here is an update for you and the community on items of interest.

- Two-weeks ago, the City was notified that we no longer qualified as a “reduced/zero match” grant community for the Resilient Florida grant applications we submitted. Leslie Glaze researched and challenged this determination. Yesterday, we received word that our Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO) designation qualified us to submit the grants without any required match. Great news!
- With Leslie Glaze leaving for another job opportunity, I am working to contract grant management duties through the end of the year. This will keep our \$45M worth of projects on track and progressing. Also, Leslie was to fulfill our disaster recovery grant management (if needed) and as we are in hurricane season, I will be piggybacking an existing contract to temporarily hire Summit Group Consulting to perform Disaster Recovery and Grant Administration and Planning Services (if needed).
- Last Tuesday, Micah Priest accepted the city’s employment offer to become the City’s Planning and Operations Director. Micah has more than 15-years of experience in Association Management, new construction/modification construction, and architectural review. He will begin work on Monday, September 14th.
- The City Attorney and I hosted an Interlocal Agreement workshop to brief the City’s appointee (Commissioner Knutson) to the Independent Water/Sewer District board and the community on the draft interlocal agreement the city is formulating. The meeting was very successful and highlighted the challenges and opportunities that accompany establishing the new district by Dec 1, 2026.
- The City will be hosting a Riverfront Revitalization Groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 3:00pm at Riverfront Park (180 Water Street), with an informal reception immediately following at the Apalachicola Yacht Club. As you know, this is an exciting \$4.7M project that includes the disassembly of the historic Popham Building, reconstruction of the Anders pier, establishment of dedicated boat trailer parking, ADA accessibility improvements, landscaping, lighting, and other infrastructure projects downtown and at several private businesses who participated in the project.
- The city has contacted three companies to perform appraisals of 11 city properties associated with our Water/Sewer Utility system transfer. I have received 1 quote back and will follow up on this next week so the appraisals can be accomplished. The lead time from award to completion is 8-10 weeks.

- The City transmitted a letter today to Gov DeSantis's office, DEP Secretary Lambert, Senator Simon, Rep Shoaf, and NWFLWMD Exec Director Lyle Seigler on the City's concerns with the imminent timeline to establish the independent water and sewer district by December 1, 2026. The short timeline and lack of an identified path of future employment for our employees drove the need to send the correspondence.

- We received word yesterday that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Investigation into Apalachicola has been closed. The closing statement of the investigation states; "After conducting witness interviews, reviewing financial records, and consulting with each State and Federal agency involved in this investigation, no criminal predicate related to the misuse of finances or water quality was identified. It is recommended that this case is closed." The City has submitted a records request for a copy of the investigation and when received it will be forwarded to you.

Chuck

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