

A Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Commission Meeting Room located at 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Present: Mayor Brenda Ash, Commissioner Despina George, Commissioner Donna Knutson, Commissioner Adriane Elliott, City Manager Charles Anderson, Finance Director/Interim City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Chase Richards, Utility Billing Clerk Shelly Toluba

Mayor Ash opened meeting.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Knutson.
Motion carried 4 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 2026-04 – FY 26/27 BUDGET

Mayor Ash read the following statement:

The City of Apalachicola total budget for FY 26/27 is \$7,090,553.00. Millage rate to be levied is 8.3457. The percentage by which this millage rate to be levied is a 6.40% increase of the rolled back rate of 7.8435. The second public hearing and special meeting to adopt FY 26/27 millage rate and budget will be held September 29, 2026 at 6PM at the Commissioner's Meeting Room located at 74 6th Street, Apalachicola, Florida.

Karen Kessel spoke against increasing Library Department fees.

No further public comment. Public Hearing closed.

SPECIAL MEETING

RESOLUTION 2026-08 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 26/27 MILLAGE RATE

Mayor Ash read Resolution 2026-08 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA LEVYING THE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, STATING THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLLED BACK RATE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to tentatively adopt Resolution 2026-08 to tentatively set the FY 26/27 millage rate at 8.3457 mills which is a 6.40% increase of the rolled back rate of 7.8435 made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Knutson. Motion carried 4 to 0.

ORDINANCE 2026-04 – TENTATIVELY ADOPT FY 26/27 BUDGET

Mayor Ash read Ordinance 2026-04 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.

Motion to tentatively adopt Ordinance 2026-04 to tentatively adopt FY 26/27 budget made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carried 4 to 0.

APPROVE MONOLITH CONSTRUCTION FOR M0034 RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION PHASE 1

City Manager Anderson stated RFP2026-004 was issued and ran for 63 days. Monolith's bid was objectively reviewed based on technical qualifications, relevant marine/municipal construction experience, timeline feasibility, and cost-efficiency and Monolith provided a fiscally responsible cost structure that aligns directly with the budgeted grant expectations, minimizing the risk of project delays or cost overruns.

Motion to award the contract to Monolith Construction at total bid price of \$1,608,448.20 for M0034 Riverfront Revitalization Phase 1 project and authorize staff to finalize and execute contract made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carried 4 to 0.

City Manager Anderson announced that a groundbreaking ceremony for this project will be held on September 25th at 3PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner George. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes, Interim City Clerk