

A Workshop of the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at the Commission Meeting Room located 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, Finance Director/Interim City Clerk Lee Mathes, Chief of Police Chase Richards, Utility Billing Clerk Shelly Toluba

Workshop called to order by Mayor Ash.

AGENDA ADOPTION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shaw Raetzloff – spoke to Commission on affordable housing and City owned unused properties that could be used to help the community such as a food pantry, after school programs, and a childcare facility.

No further public comments at this time.

CITY PROPERTY ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

City Manager Anderson stated this workshop will begin to identify property owned by the City to gain full understanding of the City's real estate portfolio and will start the discussion by outlining current City properties via a map and cross-reference spreadsheet. There are properties within the portfolio currently in use, some with and some without agreements, and other properties have associated restrictions. Opportunities available to the Commission include public/private partnerships and lease options at several locations including the Johnson Complex located at 192 14th Street and the Harbor Master house located at Scipio Creek Marina. In the FY 26/27 budget, there is an expense line item that has been included in the CIP to complete the restoration of the old City Hall located at 1 Avenue E, and selecting a permanent City Hall location is one of the objectives of this workshop.

Commission discussed permanent location for City Hall, Harbor Master house restoration, use of old fire station property after demolition, utilization of History, Culture & Arts building, future use of Johnson Complex, and sites for affordable workforce housing.

Commission discussed with deep concern the African American Museum construction completion date and would like for Attorney Hartman to write letter to both Monolith Construction and Hammond Design stressing the completion date of December 1st as the Commission doesn't feel like the building will be completed by the December 1st deadline.

Mayor Ash opened the floor for public comments.

Donna Ingle provided an update on Botanical Gardens ongoing construction.

Willie Tolliver discussed future plans for Johnson Complex and lack of construction progress made on the African American Museum.

Anita Grove provided corrections to the list of City owned properties.

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

Brenda Ash, Mayor

Lee Mathes, Interim City Clerk