

Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr.  
Apalachicola City Commission Regular Scheduled Meeting  
Inaugural Address  
October 2, 2007

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I like to welcome each of you that is in attendance here tonight and to also invite you to visit often, stay informed and to take an active role in your local government.

I'm deeply honored to have been elected by you as your Mayor of this Historic City. And I thank you for your confidence and trust. However, before going any further, I like to thank outgoing Mayor Sandy Howze for his hard work and contributions over the past four years. His passion for his community has not gone unnoticed and we wish him well in his future endeavors. I'm also pleased that each of the incumbent Commissioners have been re-elected for another term. I have really enjoyed working with you all and I'm look forward to the same productive working relationship over the next four years.

The goal now is to make Apalachicola the most livable city in the entire State of Florida. So what does this mean? It means that as a city we can enforce the law and practice fair and accountable government. It means that as a city we can safeguard our resources by eliminating wasteful government spending. It means that we can think creatively and look at ways to improve the overall operation of our government. It means that as a city we can work together to offer a desirable quality of life for all of our citizens.

To meet these goals. Tonight I will be presenting to the City Commission for their consideration a Code of Ethics. The citizens and businesses of this community are entitled to have fair, ethical and accountable local government which has earned their full confidence for integrity. Also, as a measure to save on transportation cost and to eliminate wasteful spending. I will be presenting a Vehicle Use Policy for members of the Apalachicola police department. Lastly, I will be presenting for Board consideration ways to improve upon the operation of our government by demonstrating the need to create a city manager's position. Which has been repeatedly recommended by the City Auditors.

The Apalachicola Board of City Commissioners has the lead role, and as your Mayor I will work to ensure that we play our part. However, to be successful in securing our reputation as the most livable city in the State, I will need the support of the City Staff, the City Commission and you the community.

Thank You.