

Minutes of a regular of the City Commission of the City of Palatka held on the 11th day of November, 1999.

PRESENT:	Mayor	Tim Smith
	Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
	Commissioner	George E. Sanders
	Commissioner	Hernan Azula
	Commissioner	Ish Edwards

Also Present: City Manager Allen R. Bush, City Attorney Edward E. Hedstrom, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, Finance Director Ruby M. Williams, Planning Director Adam Mengel, Police Chief Bill Dolinski, Fire Capt. Randy Porter, Acting Water, Sewer & Streets Supervisor Sam Willis, and Main Street Manager Debbie Banks.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Randy Porter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10/25/99 and 10/28/99 – Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

STUDENT RECOGNITION – November, 1999 – Mayor Smith asked Commissioner Sanders to assist him in presenting certificates to the following students in recognition of their academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance:

Faye A. Nelson	Mellon Elementary School
Justin Frederick	Moseley Elementary School
Ryan Ford	E. H. Miller Exceptional Education School
Natalie Barber	Beasley Middle School
Willie Reynolds	Jenkins Middle School
Endia Davis	Palatka High School
Brandon Smith	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Heidi Starling	James A. Long Elementary School
Brittany Beach	Peniel Baptist Academy & High School
Bryan Manning	Putnam Academy

PUBLIC COMMENTS/RECOGNITION – none

AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICE/STORAGE SPACE – Mr. Bush read a letter he received from the Red Cross asking for donated office/storage space. He explained the Red Cross has moved their headquarters to St. Augustine and is trying to relocate in Palatka. They would like some space in the City Hall Annex (Building Department) building. Commissioner Brown said the City bought that building for City expansion. The north end of the Train Depot, formerly the Recreation Department, is available. It needs some work, which the City may be able to do with grant money. It has its own bathroom. It is centrally located and is next to the Price-Martin Center, which the Red Cross uses during emergencies. Mr. Bush said they already have FDOT money set aside, and a historic preservation grant, and are looking for the match. They should hear within the month on those funds, which should totally restore the building. The Commission may want to bring the model train people in for an update from them. Commissioner Brown said the City has been very generous with them. They have taken over more than half of that building. Part of that building is supposed to be dedicated for meeting rooms; there is one meeting room left. In answer to Mayor Smith's question, Mr. Bush said the office is not useable. If the grant money does not come through, the Red Cross people may be interested in restoring it themselves. Commissioner Sanders agreed with Commissioner Brown in that the Annex Building is for City Hall expansion. Mr. Bush said he will contact Red Cross, show them the room and give them the status. They may want to look at doing the restoration themselves. Mayor Smith said the Commission supports having a local Red Cross office and the Train Depot office is a good suggestion.

FRED GREEN FIELD PETITION – North Side Historic District Representative Lori Gallaher stood in for Patti Vogt, who could not attend. She said a petition has been circulated in the neighborhood asking the City to take down the baseball perimeter fence and remove the swings and basketball hoops. Right now the perimeter fence is down and

it is very dangerous as it hangs over onto the sidewalk; her own children have been scratched by it. The baseball part is wonderful; it is well maintained. It is the outside play area that is a problem. Children play there unattended and vandalize the fence. The swings and equipment stay broken all the time; one day the swings were in the yard at 422 Madison Street. Every time new equipment is put up, it is torn down. It is an eyesore. Mr. Bush said the City repairs that fence on a regular basis; they have tried different ways to put the fence up, but vandals always find a way to take it down. It is a never-ending battle. At one time a group came in and said if the fence is not there, balls will roll on to the road and children chasing the balls may be hit by cars. Ms. Gallaher said they use it for gymnastics. Rotary Field has a higher fence with razor wire across the top. It looks like a prison, but that fence is never torn down, because they can't climb up and swing on it. That is what happens; she sees it every day. There was an old mattress that lay there for 10 days; the kids put it there so they could jump onto it from the swings. There was stuffing everywhere. Last night the police were running kids on bicycles out of there; after that the kids dumped over the garbage cans and turned on the water spickets. It is an eyesore and a danger, and they don't know what to do. Mayor Smith said the City is reluctant to take the fence out, since it is a ball field. They can work with a fence company to get suggestions on how to put up a vandal-proof fence. Mr. Bush said the fence they want taken out is a separate little fence that parallels the sidewalk. Commissioner Brown said they play basketball there all the time. They don't have enough places for these kids to play, and are trying to keep up the parks to give them places to go. Ms. Gallaher said they know who the children are that are destroying the park; they are not homeowners in the neighborhood. The homeowner rents to their parents, maybe he could be made responsible for the damage his tenants cause, or even be made aware that his renters are causing this problem. Mayor Smith said the youths would be responsible for the destruction of any property, no matter who owns it. This is a law enforcement issue and should be dealt with from that perspective.

Ted Fox, President, Northside Historic District, said they have around 30 signatures on this petition. People are tired of the vandalism. It is a hazard and potential lawsuit for the City. They would like to see the basketball courts come out entirely. There are 30 more people who did not sign the petition, but who want to see at least something done; maybe an 8-foot fence that kids can't climb on, or some way to secure the courts in the evening. Every time it's repaired, it's down within hours. Mayor Smith said currently there is not enough for the youth in the community to do. The same issue comes up on S. 14th Street around Hank Bryan Park. That issue is not destruction of city property, but from the congregation of people playing basketball. They are working now to install several new basketball courts at Lefty Turner Park, as well as updating the baseball field. That may help so one facility doesn't get overused. He suggests letting the City Manager report on what options are available to remedy the situation, whether it's a higher fence, stronger fence, or no fence at all. Commissioner Sanders said he has made reports to the Commission about the vandalism at this park. Law enforcement should be called out to take those children who vandalize this property to their parents, and let them tell them what's being done. Some parents just don't care what their children are doing. They need to take a hard approach. This vandalism occurs in broad daylight. Commissioner Edwards said an 8-foot fence with a locking gate may work. Mr. Bush said if the concern is for children running into the road, they can put up heavy posts with cable running through it for fencing, which is somewhat indestructible. Commissioner Brown said some of the park's use may ease up once Lefty Turner Park is finished. She said the basketball leagues will be starting up soon, and if she can get some of these kids on those teams they will get some guidance, structure and mentoring. She will take confidential calls as to who those kids are, and will try to have parents and ministers get across to them that if they keep tearing it up, they just won't have it anymore. If they take it away, the kids will find something else to destroy. Commissioner Azula said there is a high fence around the courts at 14th & Crill, which seems to be very effective. He believes it has three strands of barbed wire running across the top. Mayor Smith said they will look at all these options; either Commissioner Sanders or Edwards can make a report back to the neighborhood association. Mr. Fox said the Association is willing to work to keep the Park. Mayor Smith said they would like to work with the Association to make it more of a community park rather than just a playground. Mr. Bush said either he or the Parks Director will attend the Northside Association's next meeting. Ms. Gallaher said the kids who play basketball really aren't a problem, it is the neighborhood kids who strew trash.

Mayor Smith said one problem is the time lapse between games and trash pickups; the longer the cans stay full, the more opportunity there is to strew it. Ms. Gallaher said these kids' parents watch them vandalize the property. Mayor Smith said it is still destruction of property, which can be remedied by calling the police while it is occurring. If they don't know who is doing this, they can't put an end to it. Commissioner Sanders said twice someone has knocked the bib off the water hydrant pipe. Sam Willis should put a cut-off at the ground so it can be cut off when that happens.

REPORTS:

a) Report of Canvassing Board – 10/29/99 and 11/2/99 meetings – City Clerk Betsy Driggers reported the Canvassing Board met on these two occasions, and she submitted the minutes of those meetings to the Commission for approval. Those minutes are attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting. Commissioner Azula made a motion to accept the report of the Canvassing Board for its 10/29 and 11/2/99 meetings. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

b) Lefty Turner Park – Award of Building Construction Bid – Mr. Bush said the project committee reviewed bids on the concession stand and pavilion on November 5, and recommended awarding the bid to Armstrong Contracting Services, Inc. for \$90,870. A & E Contractors was the low bid, but the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce had no record of them and they were not listed in the phone book. Also, Armstrong is going with a conventionally constructed building instead of a metal building, much like the Melrose building. The Commission has already awarded the contracts on the electrical and fencing. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to award the project to Armstrong Contracting Services, Inc. for \$90,870. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Commissioner Sanders asked what is being built for that price. Mr. Bush said they are getting a 100' x 50' pavilion and a 40' x 50' building under that roofline that will contain concession stands, restrooms, storage and an electrical vault. The remainder of the building is a covered patio with a concrete floor.

James Norwood, 803 N. 19th Street, thanked Mr. Bush and the Commission for their assistance with this project. He said this will be a multi-purpose building, with area for programs and a portable stage. They have a lot of functions at the Park and this will improve the quality of entertainment and recreation in that area. The target date for completion is January 10, as they hope to have it ready for Martin Luther King Day, but realistically it may not be completed until mid-February. Mr. Bush said he spoke to the contractor today. They hope to make that date barring any problems. Commissioner Brown said Senator Holzendorf would like an update and sketches of what is going in at the Park. She would also like to be invited to the re-opening of the park. Mr. Norwood thanked Senator Holzendorf for the park she played in securing the grant to make sure their children have recreational facilities. Commissioner Brown suggested naming the pavilion after her. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed. Commissioner Brown said the newspaper should run a story on the Park's progress.

c) Removal of fire district from Section 18-62 of City Building Code – Mr. Bush said they had to go back to the 1956 Code book to find the reason for this section. Apparently it was created for a specific purpose, to keep junkyards and/or waste handling material plants out of that district, which lies southerly of Dunham Street and easterly of 18th Street. The (b) part was removed at some point, but the (a) portion is still there. At this time, there is no purpose for this language. Commissioner Brown said Dunham & 19th Street was a junkyard. Commissioner Brown made a motion to direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance deleting Section 18-62 from the Palatka Municipal Code. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

d) 6905 Old Wolf Bay Road – Planning Board Recommendation to annex, rezone to C-1A from County C-1, and amend Future Land Use Map to Commercial from County Urban Reserve – Putnam Diagnostic Imaging Center, Inc. – David Taylor, Agent and business manager, said the property lies adjacent to their current property. The City limits runs right along the building line; they would like to bring all of their property into the City. The County is currently rezoning this property to C-1 from R-1. Commissioner Brown made a motion to accept the Planning Board's recommendation to annex, rezone to City C-1A to from County C-1 and amend the Future Land Use Map to Commercial

from County Urban Reserve. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Mr. Mengel said the rezoning ordinance will be put on 1st reading at the next meeting, at which time the annexation and land use map change ordinances can also be adopted. Mr. Hedstrom said the rezoning ordinance needs to be read twice, and they usually coincide the 2nd reading of the rezoning ordinance with the adoption of the rezoning and land use change ordinances. Mr. Bush asked Mr. Taylor if they are doing the zoning process and construction permitting concurrently; Mr. Taylor said they have already had one meeting with the County, the advertisement was done, and they are going back for a second meeting on the rezoning. There is no problem with that. Mr. Mengel said the plans will all come through the City, but it would be better for the City if they go through a commercial rezoning process with the County prior to the City's annexing the property, so it will be brought in as commercial. The County will have acted on that prior to the City's rezoning. Mr. Sanders said he has had some experience with that diagnostic center since his wife has been ill, and it was a good experience. Her doctor in Gainesville was very impressed with their work. He has spoken to others with a similar experience. Palatka is very fortunate to have this addition to their medical facilities. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed.

e) DBE Program Plan – Award of Contract – Mr. Bush read a letter from Roland Luster with FDOT's Lake City Aviation Department explaining the need for an update to the City's individual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Plan in preparation for any federal funding for CIP projects at the airport. The engineers have solicited various firms, and have recommended the firm of Riverview Consultants, Inc. at a price of \$6,000. This is a very good price from a very capable firm. This expense is also grant eligible. Commissioner Sanders made a motion to award the contract for the DBE Plan update to Riverview Consultants, Inc. for \$6,000. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

ORDINANCE – the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BY REVISING SECTION 2-170(c); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. The results of a roll call vote are as follows: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Sanders and Mayor Smith, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

ORDINANCE – the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BY REVISING SECTION 2-170(d), AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to place the ordinance on its first reading. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. The results of a roll-call vote are as follows: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Sanders and Mayor Smith, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was placed on first reading.

APPOINTMENT – Code Enforcement Board - Commissioner Brown made a motion to accept Richard R. Whidden's resignation from the Code Enforcement Board. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Brown made a motion to appoint Terrill L. Hill to the Code Enforcement Board to serve the remainder of Mr. Whidden's term, to expire September, 2002. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

APPOINTMENT – Firefighters' Pension Board – Commissioner Brown made a motion to appoint Andy Jordan as the fifth member of the Firefighters' Pension Board, as recommended by that Board. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

This ends the items on the Agenda.

Mr. Bush said he has a letter from Roger Baltz, the County Administrator, who submitted a proposed Interlocal Agreement between the City and County for the new industrial Park. This agreement is based on previous discussions. He asked the City to review the draft and return it with any comments. Mr. Bush said he and Mr. Hedstrom have both

reviewed it and it is as they verbally agreed upon. The City will run water and sewer into the Park and in return the Park will be annexed into the City. He would like permission to have the Mayor and City Clerk execute the contract and return it at once. Commissioner Sanders made a motion to allow the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Interlocal Agreement on the new industrial park between the City of Palatka and Putnam County. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Commissioner Brown passed out a report from CDBG. She was in Tallahassee at a meeting. The new regime is making a lot of changes. The Dept. of Labor is being split up and enlarged in some places. She met the new secretary of HUD, a former W. Palm Beach city commissioner who knows how cities operate. One of her directors is a native of the St. Augustine/Palatka area. The 75% cut in CDBG funds went to the Senate subcommittee; it was not passed and has now gone to the House subcommittee. Mike Sittig with FLC is asking that they all write letters to the congressional delegation to let them know how the City feels about the cuts. Mr. Bush said they are in the process of preparing a letter to all the congressional delegates on behalf of the City of Palatka.

Commissioner Brown said the Code Enforcement Board is going to begin enforcing clean-up in certain areas. She wants to make sure all the properties that belong to the City have been cleaned up, also, before they start asking others to do the same. She spoke with Mr. Mengel about properties that may be suitable for home construction, and she would like to sit down with Mr. Bush and talk about offering some of these properties to City Employees, who might not qualify for a home in the present system. If they had a piece of property they could obtain at a reasonable cost, it would help them out. It will get these properties back on the tax rolls and will give on-the-job incentives. HUD has a project for non-profit agencies that teaches young people construction work. This would create more business opportunities for the citizens. Mayor Smith said he met Ms. Banks and Neil Avery in the South Historic District today. Mr. Avery now owns 80% of the homes on Dodge Street between Crill and Kirby. He and the other homeowners have been cleaning, painting and landscaping the homes there and it has made a tremendous difference in the area. Mr. Avery spoke to them about issuing citations on minor code violations. Ms. Banks said they are notifying people that they can pay the citations at the building department in lieu of going to court, which people prefer to do. He would like Mr. Mengel to encourage all his code enforcement officers to start giving out warnings and even citations, if warnings don't work. Commissioner Brown said they need to give Mr. Avery an award for all he has done to improve the City. He also did a great job with the old Palm Furniture building, and the apartments on Emmett Street. Mayor Smith said he also had some suggestions on working with abandoned properties, based on what they are doing with those properties in St. Augustine.

Commissioner Brown said she has been trying to get two lots cleaned up on 10th off of Main Street. The homeowner beside these lots lives alone; people sell drugs there and hide in there while doing drugs, and someone has been trying to break into her house. They have tried to contact the owners, but have not been able to force a clean up. She asked if they can send prison labor in there to clean it up. Mr. Bush said he can check that through DOC; they may or may not allow clean up on private property. Mr. Hedstrom said you can't just send people in without a lien. Commissioner Brown said she has been asking for this for two years. Debbie Banks said Ponce de Leon Rogers and Laura Thomas have been before the Codes Board, but no response has been received from either of them or their heirs. Mr. Hedstrom said Mr. Rogers' house was one of the first torn down under court order. Ms. Banks said Mrs. Bennett and Bill Haygood own the lots at the corners of 10th and Main, and Mrs. Bennett called in and said she didn't have the money to maintain them. They are looking into her giving those properties to the City. Mr. Bush said they have to be careful about back taxes; Ms. Banks said taxes are due for 1998 and 1999. Mr. Hedstrom said he will get with Mrs. Banks on this. You should always check the title on any property for liens, because when you accept it you also accept the liens. In time, they will all drop off. Commissioner Brown said they could offer the lots to employees for the cost of paying off the liens. Mr. Hedstrom said he can have a title check done on these lots. Mayor Smith asked Mr. Bush to check with DOC on sending a prison crew in to clean it up. Mr. Bush said they can put their own lien against the property for the cost of the clean-up.

Commissioner Brown thanked Jeff Norton and his crew for planting trees on Oak Street from 9th Street back towards the Post Office on the causeway, and some on 9th street. They planted Dogwoods and Redbuds so they will have a tree-lined street coming into town. The people who live there are very happy and are watering them. It discourages parking on the causeway and beautifies the road. Mr. Sanders said they have another 800 trees that are being planted. In two or three years they will be very hardy and apt to live.

Commissioner Sanders said he has been speaking to someone about charging clean-up or demolition expenses to the tax bill instead of putting a lien on the building. He will have a report on this by the next meeting.

Commissioner Sanders said today is Veteran's Day. He went downtown and there is only one flag flying, other than the Courthouse, City Hall and the Park. In the years he was in business on St. Johns Avenue, he went up and down the street asking people to put their flags out on special occasions. There are many people in this area who served in various wars, but Veteran's day has turned into just another holiday. The City's flag at City Hall is very faded and old, and needs to be changed.

Commissioner Azula asked Mr. Hedstrom for an update on the status of the pending lawsuit Chief Dolinski has said he may bring against the City. Mr. Hedstrom said he'd had no additional contact from Chief Dolinski's attorney. Commissioner Azula said he has had many calls on this subject from people wanting to know what the City is doing about the situation. It is time to look into this; the Commission gave Mr. Bush their support on this matter, but evidently it has not resolved itself yet. Commissioner Azula made a motion to terminate Chief Dolinski effective immediately, saying this has gone over and beyond what is acceptable. The City has not heard from his attorney and is under siege from the Chief. It is time to take action and completely support Mr. Bush, and eliminate any problems the City may have with this. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion for discussion and asked where that puts the City with the lawsuit. Mr. Hedstrom said he received a letter saying they were going to sue the City; he responded to it and that is where the issue lies. In his opinion, threatening a lawsuit is just that. People can rattle sabers all day long, but until they step up to the plate, nothing is going to happen. Even if they withdraw it, it doesn't mean it will go away; they can change their minds tomorrow. Commissioner Sanders said the matter should be left to Mr. Hedstrom and Mr. Bush. These are the people that are involved, and until they make a recommendation to the Commission, no action should be taken. That is the legal way to approach it. They do not know all the circumstances. The City Manager will inform the Commission at the appropriate time. Commissioner Azula said they have every right as a commission to address this issue, realizing there is a problem that is not going away. They would be remiss if they didn't. This opens the door to other supervisors threatening lawsuits against the City. They cannot be always on the defensive and intimidated by the shadow of lawsuits brought by supervisors. Chief Dolinski is a supervisor and is a professional employed by Mr. Bush. He has to be accountable to Mr. Bush and the City's Charter. This has gone on long enough. They need to address it as a commission, it is perfectly right for them to do it, and it is time to do it. He does not like doing this, but he also does not enjoy reading about this saga in the newspaper. They owe it to the citizens to be better than this. The Commission should look into this and realize they have every right to make this decision, and delaying it does not change things, before something else comes up in the newspaper that makes them look even more indecisive. Commissioner Sanders said the more the Commission fans the fire, the more the newspaper is going to report. They write what they want to. Mr. Hedstrom is not going out on a limb and the Commissioners should not make this a big issue. It is an issue, but until the Commission knows what the whole scope of this is, they should not get into it without the advice of the City Attorney and City Manager, who will clue the Commission as to the appropriate time to take action. He does not want to jump to conclusions. Mr. Hedstrom suggested the Commission go into "executive session", a process outlined under the Statutes wherein they consult with its attorney. No one is allowed into the session except the commission, attorney, city manager and court reporter. The records are sealed until the matter is once and for all finished. That would be the opportune time for them to meet in private, closed session and discuss the matter. Mayor Smith said he would vote against the motion. He is just as concerned as Commissioner Azula is about this continual issue. Upon his review with Mr. Hedstrom and the City Charter, it indicates

all employees, including department heads, work under the City Manager, and he has the right to suspend or remove, with the concurrence of the Commission. Before he would vote to do that, he would like that recommendation to come from Mr. Bush, should it come to that. Whether they have received a letter from Chief Dolinski's attorney or not doesn't bother him; anyone can sue you for anything. That's just the way the system works. When someone says they are going to sue, his comment is 'just come on and do it; that's why we have attorneys and we will defend ourselves as vigorously as we need to.' In doing that, you put it in the hands of the legal system, which looks at all the issues and makes a decision based on legal precedence. He does not like going through this any more than anyone up there. He gets many comments from the community asking why the Commission doesn't do something about this, and the Commission may have to at some point, but not until the City Manager makes that recommendation. If they don't take that position, it looks like they are managing the people under the City Manager and are taking him out of that loop, and that is not the Commission's role. They vote to concur on all actions the City Manager takes with all employees in the City. Mr. Hedstrom suggested the Commission not get distracted by the threat of a lawsuit; that is immaterial. The real issue is whether the Police Department is going to be run autonomously, or whether it is going to be part of the City with the City Manager as the administrative head of that Department. That is the only issue the Commission needs to focus on. That is what Mr. Bush is focused on.

Mr. Bush said he thought this issue had been put to rest until the article appeared in the newspaper the other day. Everyone knows the history; he asked the police chief to attend a meeting; he did not do so. He was suspended for a short period of time. After the article in question appeared a few days ago, the newspaper reporter called asking additional questions. He called Chief Dolinski and made it very clear that this is bad for the public image of the City. Apparently the Chief disagrees with his management style, and if they cannot see eye to eye and things don't change, they will not be able to work together. Chief Dolinski understands that, and that is what he is telling both the Commission and Chief Dolinski today. Chief Dolinski is either going to work with him and they are going to get along, or he will take action and will come back to the Commission with a recommendation. If he sees more in the newspaper, and this thing continues, rest assured he will come back with a recommendation. Commissioner Brown said she felt the need for discussion on this because everywhere they go they hear about this. They get accused of feeding the newspaper these things. They all only want the best for the City. She also wanted to hear what the attorney had to say. They need to have an understanding that they do have a city manager and the people the City hires work under him, and his recommendations to the Commission are what they follow. She withdrew her second to Commissioner Azula's motion, saying she felt they needed to have that discussion. If the City Manager has these type problems again, they need to stand behind him and have him come to the Commission with a recommendation, as long as his actions are fair. Mr. Bush said those problems will not continue. Commissioner Sanders said whenever a reporter calls you and you tell him things, he will print it; that's his job. This person makes a big deal out of anything. When he is called, he has no comment until he hears from the City Attorney and City Manager. He will vote his conscience when he gets their recommendation. He is not going to go out on a limb when a newspaper reporter calls him. Anyone who sits on the Commission should be very careful about what information they put out, as they may not have all the information. You have to make informed decisions after you do get the information. There being no further second to Commissioner Azula's motion, the motion died.

Commissioner Edwards asked if Code Enforcement had found the sewer leak in the Southside Historic District home that he had called in; Ms. Banks replied they had.

Mayor Smith said the back entrance to City Hall is looking shabby and needs a paint job and general clean up. The rug that is normally at the top of the stairs is just piled up in the parking lot. The front of City Hall looks good.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone of the League Conference on November 18 & 19. The Commission has only one meeting in December, on the 9th. He wished everyone a good Thanksgiving and reminded everyone of the great country they all live in and why they serve on this Commission.

Captain Porter gave the Commission an update on Chief Howard's condition. He is still retaining fluids and is being seen on an outpatient basis at the Mayo Clinic. They have not yet made a diagnosis.

Ms. Driggers said she will be out all the following week at the Municipal Clerk's Institute in Clearwater. She will have hotel/directions packets made up for the commissioners who are attending the Legislative Conference, which she will drop in their mailboxes.

Mayor Smith thanked former Commissioner Flagg for attending the meeting. Rev. Flagg reminded everyone that Mr. Bush has a birthday coming up in two weeks. Mr. Bush reminded everyone that Rev. Flagg has a birthday the day after his.

Mayor Smith thanked James Norwood for attending the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR