

Proceedings of a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka held on the 3rd day of January, 2000.

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

Also Present: Commissioner-Elect James Norwood, Jr., City Manager Allen R. Bush, City Attorney Edward E. Hedstrom, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, City Finance Director Ruby M. Williams, Police Chief Bill Dolinski, Fire Chief Rudy Howard, Planning Director Adam Mengel, Parks Supervisor Jeff Norton, Main Street Manager Debbie Banks, Water, Sewer & Streets Supervisor Sam Willis, City Bookkeeper Holly Harris and City Accounts Clerk Rosalyn Jones.

INVOCATION – Reverend Bob Marsh, Pastor; St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and
Reverend Richard Grady, Pastor; St. Mary’s Episcopal Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Reverend Karl Flagg

MUSICAL SELECTIONS – Grace and Truth Holiness Church Choir (The Reverend Cora Fells, Pastor) - the Choir sang two selections: “Give Him the Glory” and “We Come Into This Century”.

Mayor Smith introduced the members of the Commission, appointed officials, department heads and other City personnel in attendance. He then introduced local dignitaries and commissioner-elect Norwood and his family. He congratulated Commissioner Sanders on his ten years of service to the City of Palatka, saying he has made great accomplishments, particularly from the beautification aspect. He has been a champion of the City’s Tree City designation and has worked tirelessly to rid the City of unkempt, dilapidated structures and lots. Commissioner Sanders has offered to volunteer his time and services to continue that work which is a real testament to his dedication to the City. Even though he may not be sitting on the Commission, there is still work for him to do. The City has graciously accepted his offer.

Commissioner Sanders said he has enjoyed his tenure as City Commission and hopes he has contributed to the good of the City. He has tried to give something back to the citizens of Palatka in return for their support in his business. He thanked many people for their role in helping him accomplish some of his work. He set up a Northside Neighborhood Crime Watch, assisted by former Police Chief Thies and the entire police department. They still hold police partnership meetings each month at the police station; he urged people to attend those. He worked with Mayor Smith, former Commissioner Flagg, Mr. Bush and Mr. Hedstrom in purchasing the old post office building for use as a City Hall annex to house the Planning/Building Department. Now people can get a permit the same day they apply for it, instead of having to wait several days, due to computer links with the Courthouse. He thanked those who helped him with the acquisition of the new Oak Hill Cemetery addition. He worked with the Streets Department and Boyd Thompson with Ride Solutions on putting up bus stop signs in order to get the bus transportation system running smoothly and profitably. Jeff Norton and Debbie Banks helped him with his “Five Flags of Florida” project. He presented them with a check for \$ 2,218.55 for the two proposed additional flag poles for the amphitheater, donated from the closed accounts from the old Putnam County Blood Bank, of which he was vice president. He thanked everyone for their confidence in him, and hopes he can be of further service to the City in the future.

Mayor Smith introduced the Honorable Art Nichols, Circuit Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court, who will conduct the installation ceremony. Judge Nichols said it has been his honor to conduct these ceremonies in the past. He preceded Mr. Hedstrom as City Attorney. When you work for the City, you cannot work alone; others must share your visions for the City. There is a higher authority, much higher than he, who will help the commissioners along. He asked Vice Mayor Brown to come forward and he then

administered the oath of office to her. Her son, Teddy, and two grandsons accompanied her. He then asked Commissioner-elect Norwood to come forward and he then administered the oath of office to him. His wife, Christine, his two daughters, his mother, Bertha Norwood, and his Aunt accompanied him.

Commissioner Brown thanked all those who have supported and helped her during her tenure as Commissioner. She believes God puts people in certain places at certain times for certain reasons. She has a mission that she has not yet finished. She believes she is her brother's keeper and should do what she can to help others. She gave a special thanks to her "A-Team" as they have stuck by her since 1983. She also thanked the choir and Pastor Cora Fells for their participation. She challenged the rest of the Commissioners to keep up with her during the next four years. She thanked Commissioner Sanders and the rest of the commission for the teamwork they exhibited during the past. She praised the staff, especially Debbie Banks and Betsy Driggers, for doing their best to work with each commissioner, and praised Mayor Smith for being a good and fair mayor. She believes the City is making a turn for the better.

Commissioner Norwood took his seat on the Commission. He thanked God, who deserves all honor and praise. He thanked his wife and children for their sacrifices. He thanked his mother and other family for their support. He thanked all those who worked on his campaign, and the citizens of Palatka for their confidence. He asked for everyone's prayers and support. He thanked his pastor and others who have allowed him to take on this commitment. He thanked the Commissioners who have accepted him as a new commissioner, and thanked Commissioner Sanders for the years he has contributed to the City of Palatka and said he had lain a good foundation to build upon. There are decisions they are going to have to make soon, and he does not want to make them on his own. He wants input from citizens on their concerns. He introduced and thanked his mother, his wife and children, his aunt, his Godmother, Patricia Goss, Mark Lynady, and Mike Lambert. He said the citizens are the City's greatest and most important asset. He introduced Sam Taylor, who has been an inspiration to him throughout his life. He thanked the Choir for their inspirational songs. He believes God makes all things possible.

Mayor Smith said he is looking forward to working with this commission towards the betterment of Palatka. He invited the audience to join the Commission for refreshments immediately following the ceremony.

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR