

Proceedings of a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the evening of December 20, 2000.

PRESENT:	Mayor	Tim Smith
	Mayor-Elect	Karl Flagg
	Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
	Commissioner	Ish Edwards
	Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.

ABSENT:	Commissioner	Hernan Azula
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Also Present: City Manger Allen R. Bush, City Attorney Don Holmes, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, Finance Director Ruby Williams, Fire Chief Rudy Howard, Police Lt. James Griffith, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton, Main Street Manager Debbie Banks, Accounting Clerks Holly Harris and Rosalyn Jones, Billing Clerk Patricia Milton

PRELUDE – The Reverend Timothy F. Robinson, Jr., Assoc. Minister, Mt. Tabor First Baptist Church, accompanied by Bishop Larry E. Boston, Pastor, Lighthouse of Hope Church of Jacksonville.

INVOCATION – The Reverend Wayne Thompson, Pastor, First Baptist Institutional Church of St. Petersburg.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS – Palatka High School R.O.T.C. Color Guard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Putnam County Sheriff Taylor Douglas

A vocal selection was performed by Sam Mowery, Deacon, College Park Baptist Church, accompanied by Adam George, SJRCC, Christ Independent Methodist Church

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone to the inauguration ceremony for the installation of Karl N. Flagg to the elected office of Mayor. He introduced the platform guests as follows: Rev. Wayne Thompson, Sheriff Taylor Douglas, Rev. George McRae, Melissa Miller, Esquire, Judge Edward E. Hedstrom, Judge James A. Ruth, Kandyce Flagg, Terricena Flagg, Karla Flagg, Former Mayor Eugene “Punk” Walker, Rev. Charlie Raburn, and Palatka Fire Chief Rudy Howard. He also welcomed other distinguished audience guests and dignitaries. He then introduced the members of the City Commission and Staff. He expressed thanks to his wife, Darlene and children, Ryan and Bryn, for their help during his 13 years of service as Mayor. His service to the citizens of Palatka hinged upon their support. He dedicated his successes as Mayor to them.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLE – Rev. George E. McRae, Pastor, Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church of Miami, presented a bible to Mayor-Elect Flagg, his God-son, saying there is no document in the hands of human beings that carries more power than the word of God. This one resource will be useful and powerful in any situation.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL & NAMEPLATE – Commissioner Ish Edwards presented Mayor-Elect Flagg with his nameplate, saying the City Commission must work as a team. They are a group of individuals who must work together towards a common goal. They will all rise up to meet the challenges of this City and will face the future together. It is an honor to be elected to hold office in this community.

Commissioner James Norwood presented Mayor-Elect Flagg with a gavel and badge, saying they both grew up together. Mayor-Elect Flagg is the City’s #1 Fan. They must strive to build a consensus not only amongst the Commission, but also amongst the citizens of Palatka. They charge him to keep order, keep them on task, and lead them where they need to go.

INTRODUCTION OF KARL N. FLAGG – Melissa Miller, General Counsel for SJRCC, said Karl, the son of the late John Henry Flagg Sr. and the late Effie Lee Flagg Smith, was born and raised in Palatka, and has a close and loving family. He was a youth minister at his church at 11 years of age, and achieved recognition as an honor graduate

and Senior Class President of Palatka Central High School, Class of 1977. He received his degree in Mortuary Science from Miami-Dade Community College, and attended SJRCC while studying marketing and management. He completed his Pastoral Ministry studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and was ordained in April, 1991 at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church of Palatka, where he has been the Senior Pastor ever since. He has built a successful business as the president of Karl N. Flagg Serenity Memorial Chapel Funeral Home. His life has always taken the direction of helping others in times of great need, as evinced in his volunteer leadership in civic services.

OATH OF OFFICE – Judge Edward E. Hedstrom, Putnam County, 7th Judicial Circuit, said he is pleased to be entrusted with the duty and right to administer the oath of office to public officials, as he is being allowed to so do tonight by Judge Nichols, the administrative judge for this county. He served as City Attorney for the City Commission with Mayor-Elect Flagg and the rest of this Commission, and could not have asked for a finer employer. He has witnessed Mayor-Elect Flagg’s dedication, compassion and desire to make Palatka a better place. He is one of five commissioners; each commissioner brings a different viewpoint to the discussions. In order for him to be an effective mayor, he will need to build consensus so the Commission can move forward and operate effectively.

Judge James A. Ruth, Duval County, 4th Judicial Circuit, said he has known Mayor Elect-Flagg all his life, having grown up across the street from him and next door to Commissioner Norwood. Mayor-Elect Flagg is a person of integrity, honesty, and is the type person needed in government today. Instead of politicians, they need people who want to serve and will remain in touch with the community. He has always been a person with true religious convictions, and will not forget where he came from. He read an appropriate bible verse from Psalms 75:6.

Judges Hedstrom and Ruth administered the Oath of Office to Mayor/Commissioner Flagg, joined by his wife Terri, who held the bible, and his children. Mayor Flagg was then escorted to his seat on the Commission by his wife and children. Donald and Larry Boston performed a vocal selection.

WELCOME – Vice-Mayor Brown said Mayor Flagg’s parents would be very proud of him tonight. Few people know or understand what the job of a mayor or commissioner is. They take all the blame and get very little appreciation. The position is theirs 24 hours a day, and people expect them to be available at all times. Progress is coming and they need to be ready. Their former mayors have shown them the way. They will learn to work as a team, and agree to disagree without falling out. They each have a hope and love for this community that surpasses all others. They are his team; they are here to support him, and hopes he will support them in kind.

MAYOR’S RESPONSE – Mayor Flagg welcomed the audience and gave all the glory to God, who granted him the opportunity and privilege to stand before Him and all of them this evening. He was born and raised in Palatka, attended public schools and SJRCC. Palatka is truly home to him. He will provide progressive leadership and engage & empower all citizens to partner with the City in enhancing the quality of life here. There are many issues that need to be addressed. He is attuned to the challenges before them. They much revisit the past as they redefine reality by confronting and embracing change. They much utilize partnerships with both public and private entities. Growth is inevitable and welcome. They must set goals that are achievable and beneficial to all. They must evaluate the City’s revenue sources, debt service, and level of services. His personal commitment to God, his family and this community leads him to accept the challenges before him. He is aware he must master the spirit of cooperation amongst this Commission. They must all have a clear and precise idea of the problems and goals they desire to reach. Opportunity is all around them. He thanked those who preceded him in the office of Mayor and said he wished to honor them tonight.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg read a Proclamation naming December 20, 2000 as “Mayor Frank M. Hancock, Sr. Day”. Former Mayor Hancock served as Mayor of Palatka from January, 1962 through December, 1965. Mr. Hancock was unable to attend.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg read and presented a Proclamation to Former Mayor Eugene L. “Punk” Walker honoring him for his nearly 19 years of service as a former Mayor of the City of Palatka, declaring December 20, 2000 as “Mayor Eugene L. ‘Punk’ Walker Day”. Former Mayor Walker served as Mayor of Palatka from January, 1966 through December, 1969, and again from July, 1971 through December, 1987. Former Mayor Walker accepted the Proclamation with thanks, saying he and Mayor Flagg have been friends for many years. Since 1924, the City of Palatka and Putnam County have been good to he and his family.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg read and presented a Proclamation to Former Mayor Tim Smith honoring him for his nearly 13 years of service to the citizens of Palatka, declaring December 20, 2000, as “Mayor Tim Smith Day”. Former Mayor Smith served as Mayor of Palatka from January, 1988 until tonight.

Mayor Flagg thanked all those who participated or contributed to this inauguration program, which he dedicated to Almighty God and the memories of those who have honorably served the City, especially The Honorable Leon S. Conlee and his beloved mother, father, grandparents, brother Bill, and countless others who have impacted his mother’s and his life. He thanked the inauguration committee, specifically Edison Ingram, Dothea Smith, Brenda Valentine, B.J. Johns and Betsy Driggers; City administration and staff, SJRCC and Florida School of the Arts, Mt. Tabor First Baptist Church, Holiday Inn of Palatka, Pilot Club members, and others who contributed to this event. He asked his family to stand and be recognized, and expressed his love and appreciation to them.

BENEDICTION – The Reverend Charles Raburn, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church of Palatka; President, Greater Palatka Ministerial Association.

Bishop Larry E. Boston performed a vocal selection.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR