

Proceedings of a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000.

PRESENT: Mayor Tim Smith  
 Commissioner Mary Lawson Brown  
 Commissioner Hernan Azula  
 Commissioner Ish Edwards  
 Commissioner James Norwood, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Allen R. Bush, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, Finance Director Ruby M. Williams, Police Chief Bill Dolinski, Fire Chief Rudy Howard, and Water, Sewer & Streets Supervisor Sam Willis.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and read the following call:

TO COMMISSIONERS: MARY LAWSON BROWN, HERNAN AZULA,  
 ISH EDWARDS AND JAMES NORWOOD, JR.:

You are hereby notified that a special meeting of the Palatka City Commission is called to be held at the regular meeting place of the City Commission at City Hall, 201 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, in the City of Palatka at 11:30 a.m Friday, February 25, 2000.

The purpose of the meeting is to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of commitment to Holly Ridge Limited Partnership for a \$518,500 loan (copy attached).

/s/ Tim Smith

We acknowledge receipt of a copy of the foregoing notice of a special meeting this 24th day of February, 2000

/s/ Mary Lawson Brown  
 COMMISSIONER

/s/ Hernan Azula  
 COMMISSIONER

/s/ Ish Edwards  
 COMMISSIONER

/s/ James Norwood, Jr.  
 COMMISSIONER

Mr. Bush said this loan pertains to the tax credits application for the highrise replacement housing. It requires a 10% match. The project has been estimated at a little over \$5 million. Ten percent comes to \$518,500, which this commitment letter pledges, at a 0% rate 40-year balloon to be paid at maturity. This is required to get the maximum points on the application. He intends to come up with the money. The Downtown Redevelopment Agency will repay the City's General Fund the money for the purchase of the 100 Block. Those funds would be used to make the City's match and the debt will be amortized with tax increment revenues. He asked the Commission to authorize the Mayor to execute the letter of commitment. This is the last step in the tax credit application. Commissioner Norwood moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Commitment authorizing a loan of \$518,500 to Picerne/Holly Ridge Limited Partnership. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Mr. Bush said although this is a loan, they will also be pursuing any available SHIP monies, and some in-kind and other costs will all be deducted from this. The possibility that the City will actually have to pay out the entire amount is very slim. In order to get enough points to qualify for the tax credits, the City needs to be on-line with the match. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed. Mr. Bush said the tax credit application will go in on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They should have an answer within a few months.

Mr. Bush reminded the Commission that AAU has asked anyone interested to come to Forrester Field this evening between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. They intend to honor "Lefty" Turner during the baseball tournament being held there.

Commissioner Brown said as things come up on Affordable Housing, she will pass them on to the Commission.

Mr. Bush said if Picerne's application fails, they can try again next year. Because of recent developments with the marina contractors, the City can go ahead with plans for the 100 Block. Commissioner Brown said she has spoken to several members of the SHIP board, and they said if Mr. Campbell's application does not make it, the next people in line will automatically get the SHIP funding. This is the first apartment-type building they have done with SHIP funds; usually it is homeowner type dwellings.

Mayor Smith said he read an article in the Gainesville Sun that the City of Gainesville is building five skate parks. Mr. Bush said they are doing it under their recreation department, and those parks will be manned. The main reason the City could not get insurance is the fact that the proposed park is unsupervised. He suggests they go to the County Recreation Committee and propose dual participation in a skate park under the County Recreation Program. Mayor Smith said the Park should have structured times it is open and have supervision, even if it is volunteers. Commissioner Edwards said he will approach the County Recreation Committee about it. Commissioner Brown said they need to put something in the newspaper to call for parent volunteers. Mr. Bush said they have tried that in the past. He would rather have it under the County Recreation Program with a paid employee assigned to the site. Commissioner Norwood said the problem with volunteers is you start out with all the participation you need, and after a couple of months, the excitement wears out and the volunteers drop off. Commissioner Brown said parents should be responsible for some of this and need to contribute volunteer time. When she was a parent, she attended everything her children did. There are some dedicated parents out there. It is a buy-in. They need to let people know they don't get a free ride. If they want a park and the City and County furnishes their part, they should be willing to help out if they want somewhere for their kids to go. Mayor Smith said Commissioner Edwards will present this to the County Recreation Program. Mr. Bush said even though the City is not involved in recreation, the skaters have presented a problem on the streets and sidewalks, and if they had an agreement to participate financially with the County, that may help the County to decide to participate in a park. Commissioner Brown said even though the City doesn't have recreation, the City does have recreation at the parks. They have some responsibility to the youth. The County is not doing what they should. Mr. Bush said the Parks Dept. is handling the field maintenance, and the non-profit groups are handling the scheduling. All the City has is playgrounds. Commissioner Brown said those non-profit groups are volunteers, and this is what she is talking about. Mr. Bush said the City needs to build its tax base so they can do these things. If they get back into recreation, they will have to make cuts somewhere else, whether it be public safety, parks, or other services. Mayor Smith said the key to this project will be a three-way participation: City, County and users/parents. Mr. Bush said they will give them the space if the County will secure it, post safety rules, and put an employee out there to supervise. Mr. Lambana has expressed an interest in working with the park. Commissioner Edwards said Don Adams, who made the ramps for the skaters, said he would help out. Mayor Smith said this is like little league; kids move through the ages, and there are always new kids coming in to replace the kids going out. If they don't show up, you just lock it up. Commissioner Brown said volunteers coach the teams. There are plenty of parents willing to help out.

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

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR