

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida held on the 23rd day of March, 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 Attorney Edward E. Hedstrom, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, Finance Director Ruby Williams, Planning Director Adam Mengel, Police Lt. Robin Edwards, Assistant Fire Chief James White, Main Street Manager Debbie Banks, and Acting Water, Sewer & Streets Superintendent Sam Willis.

INVOCATION - Russ Wynn, Living Word Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Sam Willis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3/9/00 – Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

REPORTS:

a. Lefty Turner Park Recommendations – Commissioner Norwood said he would like to pay honor to Commissioner Brown as she has a special interest in this park, and had it not been for her leadership they would not have made the progress on the park that they have. The Commission had asked him to look at whether or not revisions should be made to the Committee's membership. He moved to recommend the appointment of Eugene Foster, Sr. and Rosalyn Hill to the Lefty Turner Park Committee, both of whom have filled out the proper paperwork. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Norwood said Officer Reno Fells has also recommended Clarence Williams III be similarly appointed. He has not yet turned in his paperwork, but when he does they would like to appoint him to the Committee as well. In answer to Mayor Smith's question, Commissioner Norwood said they met on the pricing issues, and Commissioner Brown helped them to resolve those issues. Lack of communication seemed to be the crux of the problem. Commissioner Brown said the people that were appointed tonight were those who had voiced problems with the Committee's decisions, so they are now going to participate in coming up with answers. She is the Commission's liaison to the Lefty Turner Park Committee. Commissioner Norwood is the City's representative to the County Recreation Committee. Commissioner Edwards said that Jeff Norton is the City's representative on the Hank Bryan Park project, and the County Recreation Committee has given that project \$5,000 to be used towards new equipment and renovations. Commissioner Brown asked Commissioner Norwood to approach the County about funds for Lefty Turner Park, as they are in need of more matching funds.

James Williams, Jr., 1424 Ocean Street, asked questions about the Lefty Turner Park Committee's prior decisions. He said they had already appointed 10 people to that committee, and asked if they are now changing some of them. Mr. Williams said the Committee incorporated and showed the Commission the incorporation papers for "Booker-Turner Economic Governing" dated July 31, 1998, Doc. No. N98000084425. He asked if that corporation had been dissolved. Commissioner Norwood said the Committee incorporated because they were trying to get more funding through a 501-C3 status so they could collect contributions. It has not been dissolved. The officers listed in the incorporation papers are the same officers as the Committee. Mr. Williams asked questions pertaining to funds already spent from the original \$150,000 grant. Mr. Bush said the total grant has either been spent or been pledged on contracts. Per Mr. Williams' question, Mr. Bush said there was no bid on an irrigation system as there was already one in place. Mr. Williams read a passage from a document stating that any changes or modifications to 'the agreement' would be made only after they were put in writing and attached to the original agreement. Mr. Bush said that wording is from the DCA contract.

After discussion, Mr. Williams agreed to come to City Hall and get a detailed description of funds expended and funds pledged on bids under the grant.

b. City Hall Building & Annex Exterior Renovations – Mr. Bush said the City has taken bids for this work, and he recommends awarding the bid to David Church Construction for his bid of \$3,600. Commissioner Norwood said the lower bid does not make reference to any specific building; Mr. Bush said the scope of work is listed in the advertisement. Commissioner Edwards moved to award the project, per the specifications listed in the advertisement, to David Church Construction for their bid of \$3,600. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

c. Supplemental Airport Engineering Agreement with HTA, Inc. for the Airport Lift Station Project – Mr. Bush said HTA has proposed a fee of \$3,400. This is a \$400,000 joint participation project with FDOT, who is responsible for 80% of the funds. HTA, Inc. is already under contract as the City's airport engineers for three years, per FAA guidelines. The proper procedure is to obtain a supplemental engineering agreement with HTA, Inc. subject to approval from FDOT. Commissioner Brown moved to approve obtaining a Supplemental Engineering Agreement from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$3,400 for the engineering work on the Airport Lift Station project. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

d. Bus Stop Shelter Advertising – Adam Mengel said the Planning Board received a request to amend the bus stop provisions of the current zoning ordinance. Currently advertising is prohibited on bus stop benches and school bus shelters. Everything within the current code refers to prior Planning Board approval on locations, and the Board assumes that refers to a conditional use. They are requesting an ordinance be drawn up adding specific language to the Code, along with approval to amend the code to allow certain types of advertising on bus stop equipment, to be placed on first reading on April 13 and advertised for adoption on April 25, 2000. Commissioner Brown moved to accept the Planning Board's recommendation to revise the municipal code to reflect the zoning code changes, and to direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for first reading on April 13, 2000, and to advertise for its adoption on April 25, 2000. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion.

Joel Davis, 20/20 Media, said he attended the Planning Board meeting when this was discussed, and he has no problem with the procedure. Their execution of the contract depends on the outcome of this recommendation, since they need these changes to be able to move forward under their process. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed.

e. County Industrial Park Water & Sewer Line Extension – Mr. Bush said a memo with a copy of engineering proposals for the project has been distributed. The City received four responses to a request for proposals, and he is requesting the Commission appoint a committee to review the proposals, interview the firms and rank the proposals. They will then begin fee negotiations with the firms beginning with the top ranked firm. FDEP is awaiting this engineering agreement for permitting purposes. Commissioner Edwards moved to appoint Wes Larson, Adam Mengel, Sam Willis, Allen Bush and Vice Mayor Brown to a committee to review the engineering proposals for the County Industrial Park Water & Sewer Line Extension project, per Mayor Smith's recommendation. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

f. Golf Course & Streets Improvement Loan – Mr. Bush said the City has requested proposals from lending institutions for a 10-year, \$1,000,000 loan to be divided equally between the Golf Course and Streets Department for improvements to the Golf Course and certain city streets. The percentage rates and fees proposed by the four bidding lending institutions are listed. The only bid he sees a problem with is NationsBank, who requires all City bank accounts be transferred to their bank. He recommends SunTrust's guaranteed fixed rate of 5.5% over the ten-year life of the loan. Commissioner Norwood moved to accept SunTrust's bid of 5.5% for ten years plus \$1,000 fees on the \$100,000 Golf Course/Streets Department loan for improvements. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, and asked if the City already has accounts with SunTrust; Mr. Bush said the City does. Mr. Bush said a tentative street paving list is being prepared, and when it is

complete he will distribute it to the Commission, so they can recommend additions and deletions as they see fit. Commissioner Brown said there are some dirt streets within the City that have never been paved, and those streets should be targeted. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

RESIGNATION OF MAYOR TIM SMITH – Mayor Smith referred the Commission to his letter of resignation, and said this comes about due to his desire to run for Putnam County’s Clerk of Court. Per Florida Statutes, he must resign his present office to run for another public office. He wants to do this early enough so that the City can ‘piggy-back’ a special election onto the County’s fall elections, and not incur further expense by holding a separate special election to fill the vacancy. He asked the Commission to accept his resignation and call for a special election. With much regret, Commissioner Norwood moved to accept Mayor Smith’s resignation effective December 20, 2000. With much regret, Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Mayor Smith asked for approval of a proposed notice of advertisement to hold a primary election, if necessary, on September 5, 2000, and a general election, if necessary, on November 7, 2000. Mr. Hedstrom suggested revisions to the notice, which were duly noted by the Clerk. Qualifying dates will read July 17 – 21, 2000. Commissioner Brown moved to approve publishing the notice of special election, as revised. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

This ends the items on the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Brown said 42 students from Beasley Middle School will be accompanying her to Tallahassee for Legislative Action Day. A picture will be taken for the League magazine and a video will be made. If those who are attending would like to take some students around with them, please get with her. She would like to continue the practice of allowing school children to accompany them on Legislative Action Days.

Commissioner Brown reminded the Commission that Palatka Riverboat, Inc. T-shirts are on sale. The funds will go towards promoting the group’s cause. Those who wish to purchase T-shirts can give their money and shirt size to Debbie Banks.

Commissioner Edwards said he will be leaving for military duty April 1 – 15th, and will try to make it to the meeting on April 13, as he will come out of the field on that day.

Commissioner Norwood said the Azalea Festival Committee did a good job with the Festival. The crowd behaved very well; there was only one small incident. The Festival spoke well for the City of Palatka.

Commissioner Norwood said he enjoyed participating in the March of Dimes Breakfast fundraiser, and looks forward to doing it again next year. He complimented the organizers and said this is one way the City goes on display, and they all get a chance to interact with others.

Commissioner Norwood said he would like to coordinate with other commissioners on Legislative Action Day activities.

Commissioner Norwood said the Cultural Arts Committee put on a banquet for Miss Jacksonville, which he attended along with Commissioner Brown. Miss Jacksonville was presented with a city lapel pin and Key to the City. The soloist was excellent. He hopes to see better participation for these events from the commissioners and citizens. Commissioner Brown said the City is usually well-represented at these functions, and if people can’t attend it is usually due to a conflict.

Mayor Smith reminded the Commission that the April 27th meeting has been moved to April 25, 2000.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone that Project Play will be under construction during the first week in April. He has gotten permission from the City Manger to erect one of the

City's tents there for the food tent. They will need between 400-500 workers there each day, all day, during those five days. Orange Park is building one this week. This is a wonderful project and will be a great addition to the City. He urged City commissioners and staff to go out and volunteer for the project.

Ms. Driggers deferred to Commission Norwood for an update as to the Northeast Florida League of Cities' Board's recommendation on an appointment to fill former Commissioner's Sanders seat on that Board. Max Royal has asked for commission concurrence on the Board's recommendation. Commissioner Norwood said in fairness to both himself and the League, there is concurrence by all parties involved that Allen Bush is to be appointed to finish out the existing term, and the Board will appoint him for the next new term. He is very comfortable with that decision. Mr. Bush said he is willing to serve out the remainder of former Commissioner Sanders' term on the NEFLC Board.

Ms. Driggers said she has spoken to David Palmer with Palatka Daily News, and he assured her the Did You Know? Column will start running this week. The City has submitted items for the first week from the Building Department, and she will be asking other department heads to submit items for the column, also. If any commissioner has a suggestion as to items, please call her with them and she will get them in. Mr. Hedstrom asked that she run the items through his office for approval before submission to the newspaper. Mayor Smith asked her to submit the items to the Courier Journal for publication, also.

Mayor Smith asked for an update on Chief Howard's condition. Commissioner Azula said he is home from the hospital, and is supposed to be back at work in a few weeks.

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

CITY CLERK

MAYOR