

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida held on the 22nd day of February, 2001.

PRESENT:	Mayor	Karl N. Flagg
	Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
	Commissioner	Hernan Azula
	Commissioner	Ish Edwards
	Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Allen R. Bush; City Attorney Donald Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Ruby Williams; Planning Director Adam Mengel; Police Chief Dick Schauland; Streets & Sanitation Supt. Bernard Williams; Golf Pro Greg Bacon; Water & Sewer Supt. Sam Willis, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton; and Main Street Manager Debbie Banks

INVOCATION – Sister Mamie Bryant; Holy Temple of God

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Bill Townsend

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A correction was noted on Page 216 by Commissioner Azula. Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the minutes with changes. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION – Mayor Flagg presented Daniel Kelly, CEO of Putnam Community Medical Center, with an Outstanding Service Award in recognition of the Medical Center’s ICU unit being named one of the “Top 100 Hospital ICU Units” in the United States. Members of the nursing staff and administration also came forward to accept the award.

PROCLAMATION - Mayor Flagg presented Dr. Ahmad, who was joined by his wife, with a proclamation naming Friday, February 23, 2001, as “Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Day” and also presented him with a Key to the City. Dr. Ahmad said he has made Palatka his home since 1973, raised his children here, and truly loves his patients. He wished his father could be present.

Mayor Flagg and Bernard Williams presented the following employees of the Sanitation, Maintenance and Water/Sewer Departments with gift certificates in recognition of their hard work and dedication to their jobs:

Sanitation: Roosevelt Baskins, Robert Brown, Ed Chandler, William Cox, Lamar Dumas, Keith Ellis, Tamekia Ford, Louis Howell, Tim Johnson, Cerafina Maudesby, Henry Miller, William Neely, Robbie Thomas, Ronald Valentine, Bernard Williams, Lawrence Barlow, Connie Morris, and Elton Starling.

Maintenance: Henry Campbell, Ule Robbins, Buddy Thomas, and Tim Weber

Water/Sewer: Raymond Tucker (storm drain maintenance – jet pack operator)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – February, 2001 - Mayor Flagg asked Commissioner Azula to join him in recognizing the following students for their academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at the following schools:

Edgar Klein	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Erin Blount	Beasley Middle School
Dylan Harris	E. H. Miller School – February
Erika Smith	E. H. Miller School – January
Kalynn McDaniel	James A. Long Elementary School
Danielle Kennon	Jenkins Middle School
Tara Reid	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Steven C. Watson	Mellon Elementary School
Cynthia Beasley	Moseley Elementary School
Kacie Anderson	Palatka High School
Morgan Mast	Peniel Baptist Academy

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Clint Snyder, 7300 Crill Avenue #32, Chairman of the Conlee Mural Committee, updated the Commission on the Mural Committee's activities and passed out a copy of their new brochure. They are planning a new mural on Reid Street depicting the riverfront circa early 1900's. In conjunction they will have a St. Patrick's Day Antique Fair/barbeque/entertainment fundraiser downtown on the courthouse lawn. There will also be a St. Patrick's Day Parade at 6:00 p.m. and block party downtown.

By Consensus of the Commission, Agenda Item 4 was moved to the front of the Orders of the Day.

RIVERBOAT OWNERSHIP – John Henley and Allegra Kitchens presented on behalf of Palatka Riverboat, Inc. Mr. Henley read a list of the members of the Riverboat Committee. Vice-Mayor Brown is the Chairman and driving force behind this effort. Their objective is to obtain a riverboat to be docked at the Palatka riverfront, to attract tourism, promote education, and serve as a convention center. They have looked at using the riverboat as a ferryboat to Murphy's Island, an ecologically pristine island. The Superintendent of Schools and Chamber of Commerce have endorsed this effort. A professionally prepared feasibility study done in 1999 came back with a favorable assessment of the program, and suggested that 20% of the available sailing time would accommodate all the costs and expenses of boat operations for an entire year, so as an example one paying trip per week (i.e. wedding) would pay the expenses. The big question is under whose authority would this boat operate. One option is to bring in an out-of-town owner, who would bring in his own personnel, and bank & invest in his own community. A second option is a local entrepreneur who would own and operate the boat, which would provide a greater commitment to the local economy, but if he does not make the desired profit, he will leave. The third option is community ownership. Their non-profit organization has neither shareholders nor investors expecting a return. Money generated by the boat will be recycled back into the community. It is only a matter of time before Palatka has a riverboat.

Allegra Kitchens said they are here to ask the City Commission to accept ownership of the Riverboat. They are submitting a ferryboat grant application, and if a government body such as the City owns the boat they will have a better chance of securing the funds. Palatka Riverboat, Inc. proposes to lease the boat from the City for \$1.00 per year. They will operate it, and will accept responsibility for all expenses, including insurance. The City will have no liability and take no risk. Mayor Flagg noted a memorandum submitted by Mr. Bush on the subject (filed). Mr. Bush said the main concern with ownership is liability. They will have a better chance of obtaining the grant if the City accepts ownership and applies for the grant. Proof of insurance is a requirement, and other concerns can be spelled out in a lease. Mr. Holmes said his concern is one that is present any time the city has a facility and delegates or allows the use of it by one particular entity without taking bids for its use. He does not cite this concern in order to provide a stumbling block for the Riverboat Committee, but this is an issue of consistency. Anytime there is a city/taxpayer resource that will be entrusted to a given group, they need to make certain they do not open the City up for criticism for not opening it up for others to take advantage of it. Commissioner Brown said everyone will have use of it. They let groups use the Larimer Building and Tilghman House for \$1.00/year. The riverboat would be the same. It would be just like the Bronson House. They won't own it. Mr. Holmes said anytime you have one resource that the City owns and you give it to one group, you open yourself up to criticism from other groups who were not given the opportunity to bid for its use. He was not on board when these other leases were negotiated. They City can restrict the field of applicants by saying it should be run by a non-profit operation that is structured similar to this committee. Odds are there won't be any other bidders. If the Commission does not believe this is a valid concern, so be it. Mr. Bush said the application is based on a public/private partnership. There could be a way that the application is structured so that Palatka Riverboat, Inc. would still be a partner while ownership remains with the City. Commissioner Brown said they aren't saying no one else can bring in a boat. Other boats may come in after this boat comes in. They aren't trying to monopolize the dock or the river. They are trying to revitalize the downtown and showcase their river. None of the money that will be generated will be for anything other than public use. Mayor Flagg said no one is

suggesting that Palatka Riverboat should not be the recipient, but counsel is making a valid point. A motion can be entertained contingent upon these questions being answered. Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the City's application for a grant to obtain a ferryboat, to be leased to Palatka Riverboat, Inc. for \$1.00/year, contingent upon legal and technical aspects of the bidding process and leasing agreement to Palatka Riverboat be worked out to the Commission's satisfaction. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Brown said they are asking for a \$2 million grant.

CONSENT AGENDA: Staff Recommendations on the following:

- *a. Planning Board Recommendation - request to Rezone a parcel of land located at Moody Road and Pontiac Street from C-1 (General Commercial) to C-2 (Intensive Commercial) – Nancy S. Jones, Agent for James E. Miller, dba On Golden Pond, Inc. (recommendation to deny) – Advertise Public Hearing for March 22, 2001
- *b. Planning Board Recommendation – 507 3rd Avenue - Annex, amend the Future Land Use Map from County Urban Service to City Medium-Density Residential (small scale) and Rezone from County AG to City R-2 – Marc Spaulding, agent for Edward Schmidt (Recommendation to approve) - advertise public hearing on March 22, 2001
- *c. Recommendation on Replacement of Network Server – Bid Award of \$1,995.00 to Lynn Hoffman

Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

HARD RIDERS SPRING BIKE FEST – Wayne Troiano, Putnam County Scholarship Fund & Debra Spires, Levi's Place – Riverfront Park Occupancy April 20, 21 & 22; Alcohol ordinance variance April 21 & 22; Noise Ordinance variance April 21, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and April 22, 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mr. Troiano said his non-profit organization was approached to sponsor this event and they have agreed to do so. They will be doing this under his organization's insurance, which is with K & K Insurance in Orlando. They will provide the liquor license, also. Specific details will come from Mrs. Spires. Mrs. Spires passed out a copy of a flier giving details on times and events. They have 17 sponsors and vendors. The biker games are approved by the FDOT. Mayor Flagg said the question keeps coming up as to whether or not this will be a non-profit event and what benefit the Scholarship Fund will receive. Mrs. Spires said the Scholarship Fund will receive all proceeds after expenses. Levi's Place will not make any money except increased business in the bar from patrons. Mayor Flagg noted there will be a "hard riders" worship service at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church and asked if they have any questions or concerns.

Rev. Bob Bronkema, First Presbyterian Church, said they want to ensure the noise variance will be enforced for the 22nd and no events, vendors, noise or drinking before 12:30 in the afternoon. They have no problems with bikers coming to worship with them. Mayor Flagg said they have a concern on the placement of the beer tents. The police department will be enforcing the drinking area restrictions. There should be ample signage directing people where they are and are not allowed to go with their containers. The City will enforce the conditions on the noise and alcohol variances. Ignorance will not be an excuse, and they should educate themselves on the codes. If they have any questions, they should ask them. Within 30 days after these festivals, all of the various departments who are involved in these festivals should submit a report to the Commission. They need to know whether this festival was a success or if there were problems. Mrs. Spires said they have Rolling Thunder and ABATE coming in to provide security for the beer tent. Commissioner Brown said she hopes the bikers are not as rude as some have been to her in the past. Mrs. Spires said the person who called her a bad name was not a biker and had no authority to be there directing traffic. Commissioner Brown said he was dressed in biker attire and was standing in front of her business, and presented himself as someone directing traffic for them. Commissioner Norwood said there are three festivals now, which are legitimate festivals. They have had conversations on limiting festivals and setting up criteria for festivals. Every time a festival comes up they have a discussion on alcohol. If they are ever going to draw the line, now is the time to do it. They can't continue to grant alcohol variances for every festival and still support a family environment. He would like some legal counsel on limiting alcohol use. Mr.

Bush said this is similar to the auto shows they have on St. Johns Avenue. They don't have alcohol sales. Mr. Holmes said unless there is a set of objective, articulate standards they are using to dictate what a festival can or can't do, they will have a problem denying them an alcohol variance. The only standard he is aware of that they have used in the past is they be a non-profit organization and the proceeds go to some worthwhile cause, and no business is profiting from the sales. If that is their only standard, then anyone who comes in and meets the criteria will get the variance. You can work out additional standards that can be applied to not only new festivals but also existing festivals. Until the Commission establishes these standards, there is nothing they can do to differentiate between festivals. Mayor Flagg asked if they can impose a moratorium on new festivals for the year. Mr. Holmes said just because a festival has been held in the past it does not mean they can be granted special circumstances. You can put a 12-month moratorium on festivals that have not yet been permitted and use that time to come up with standards. Commissioner Norwood said the City has a right to know where the funds generated by festivals are going, and who is receiving them, and that it be published where the citizens can see it. Mrs. Spires said they will provide that. Commissioner Norwood said criteria needs to be established for a check and balance on the festival proceeds. Commissioner Azula said as he understands it, the festival guidelines that are to be worked up will not apply to any of this year's festivals. He recommends a moratorium not be put in place until after the study is completed. There are three festivals coming up in the spring and one in late summer, and not all have been applied for. Mayor Flagg said the city is hit with a big bill for these festivals in overtime, sanitation, public safety, etc.

Debbie Banks, Main Street Manager, said she received a memo from the Clerk requesting information from every department on any expenses incurred on any festivals. It is her experience from doing Blue Crab Festival for seven years that there are guidelines that need to be established, and she looks forward to working with staff and establishing those guidelines. They need to establish occupational license fees, possibly establish a festival fee, enforce the fees for the carnivals, etc. When the City issued a moratorium on occupational licenses, they still issued licenses with the stipulation that they can be revoked pending the establishment of new guidelines. Commissioner Azula moved to approve the riverfront park occupation for April 20, 21 & 22, grant the alcohol variance for April 21 & 22, with no sales prior to 12:30 p.m. on April 22, approval of one beer tent in the amphitheater area, and grant the noise variance for April 21, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and April 22, 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. Mrs. Spires said there will be 15 – 20 thousand bikes coming in and it will be very hard to confine them to one beer tent. Mayor Flagg said they don't have a choice. There is an ordinance that states that alcohol cannot be served within a certain distance from churches, and they don't want to break their own laws. Ms. Driggers noted the hours on the application differ from the hours being granted for the noise variance under the motion, which are noted on the agenda, and wanted to be sure everyone understood what hours were being granted for the noise variances, which go from 10:00 – 7:00 p.m. instead of midnight on April 21, and 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on April 22. Mayor Flagg said they can use the park during the times they applied for, but the noise ordinance times will be enforced as to the hours noted on the agenda and in the motion, and the organizers need to make sure the participants are notified of these hours. They will do whatever is necessary to enforce those hours. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed.

REPORTS:

a.1. Conditional Use for Temporary Reduction of Parking Spaces for Auto Show at Palatka Mall – Mayor Flagg said the Commission can study the handouts they have already received on these items. Adam Mengel said he included the minutes from the meeting where this was approved and some background history on the issue. He passed out a letter from Speedy Marketing addressing this. Per the code, parking space is to be used for parking; if there are additional spaces they can be used for other things. It is common for large parking areas to devote space to fireworks or vehicle sales. In order to do a “fix” on allowing outside auto dealers to do this the City would have to disallow them across the board. Mayor Flagg said these are valid concerns brought up by individuals who are affected by this type of sale. It is crucial to support those dealerships who are here and paying taxes and supporting city services. Commissioner Norwood said they need to also look at carnivals in parking lots, and individuals with hot dog

wagons. When you start granting variances, you have to do it for everyone. He wants to support the local dealerships. They pay the fees and have to abide by all the rules, and invest money in the community. He would like to deny any parking lot sales in order to protect local dealerships and not have to deal with these things on a case by case basis. Carnivals and large lot sales can be held at the fairgrounds. There should be better communication between the Planning Board and City Commission. Commissioner Edwards said he has always been opposed to outside people coming in and doing parking lot sales. Commissioner Azula concurred and said some of the car dealerships have been here for sixty or seventy years. Their employees depend upon them for livelihood. People who buy cars from gypsy dealers need warranty service for those cars, and they end up at the local dealerships. The gypsy dealers are taking the money and go back to where they came from, and are not responsible to anyone for what they sell. They take away from the local economy. Taking up parking spaces takes away from parking space for people who want to shop at these stores. It creates a fire hazard. He likes non-profit organizations; carnivals are different. The local dealerships use the airport. In order to be fair, they need to make no exceptions for parking lots. Mayor Flagg said the members of the Automobile Association need to know the impact and be included in this loop before a final decision is made. Commissioner Brown said they need to look out for local businesses. They need to make this issue clear so people will understand they don't need to come in and ask for variances. Mayor Flagg said Mr. Mengel is researching what is being done by other communities, and will bring that back along with a recommendation from the Planning Council on this issue, and keep the Automobile Dealers Association in the information loop. Commissioner Edwards said he does not think there is a gray area now. A local dealer was denied permission to do this for an RV show at Walmart, and just did it anyway. Mayor Flagg said the penalty was only \$157.00, so it was worth it to the dealer to break this law and hold his show. They also need to look at the issue of penalties in order to make the City's point of how seriously they take these infractions. Mr. Holmes said there is no language in the ordinance that allows for a "conditional use" permit for a reduction of parking spaces. Right now, it can't be done, so there is no discretionary issue. Mr. Mengel said it can't be done lawfully by anyone, whether in town or out of town. Mr. Holmes said you can also file a suit in circuit court asking for an injunction against the businesses that allow this in their parking lots, which prohibits them from doing it in the future. Commissioner Brown said they can give them a large enough fine to generate some funds to do some good for young people.

a.2. Public Hearing on Riverfront Master Plan – Mayor Flagg noted this is information only. The Planning Board hearing will be held on March 6, 2001 at 4:00 p.m.

a.3. Parking of Heavy Vehicles in Residential Districts – Adam Mengel said he, Sgt. Fells and Margaret Dwyer have prepared a handout on this, which he distributed. It denotes a proposed truck route, which would require a revision to the Code. It will remove heavy-vehicle traffic from neighborhoods. It is modeled after Starke's ordinance almost word-for-word. The proposed route is DOT approved roads, with deviations allowed for local deliveries. They are still looking for locations where these vehicles can be placed, and would like to investigate a city-sponsored truck parking lot. Mayor Flagg asked if there is a prohibition against parking overnight in a residential area. Some trucks get lost and end up in residential areas. Hwy 19 does not cross Hwy 17, but some trucks do not realize that. Commissioner Brown said there needs to be a sign at the end of Hwy 20, at 9th & Reid St., telling people that they need to turn either right or left to stay on Hwy 17. People get lost all the time. Mr. Bush said they need to have DOT come to Palatka and come up with a plan for signage throughout the area. Mr. Mengel said many trucks end up at the underpass on Hwy 20. There is signage denoting a truck route off Hwy 20 onto Palm Ave. to Hwy 17. This is something that comes up regularly at the Community Traffic Safety Team meetings. Mayor Flagg said Palm Avenue is not a good choice for a truck route; it should be Hwy 19. He asked Mr. Bush to contact DOT on these truck route issues. They need to start giving people who park their trucks in residential areas warnings letting them know they should find another place to park their trucks as of whenever the law takes effect, and the fine should be substantial enough to get their attention. These trucks are damaging the infrastructure. This issue needs to be presented to the Planning Board for action. Commissioner Norwood asked if there is already an ordinance banning trucks from residential areas. Mr. Bush said you cannot park a vehicle overnight at a residence. Commissioner Norwood said you need to give people an

opportunity to find someplace else to park before you start enforcement. He asked what the liability is to the City if they provide a place for people to park these heavy vehicles and things are stolen. Mr. Mengel said there would be liability even if there were a sign posted to park at your own risk. There are many people who operate logging trucks that park in their neighborhoods. The City would be obligated to provide some remedy if they prohibit parking in neighborhoods. Mayor Flagg said the employer has an obligation to provide a place for heavy vehicle parking. Mr. Mengel said C-2 does permit commercial parking.

Ann Keyes, 1802 Napoleon Street, said she is very concerned with trucks in residential neighborhoods. She has lived on Napoleon Street all her life, and these heavy logging trucks have become a real concern over the past few years. This is a public housing area. Safety is a concern. They litter the neighborhood with old tires. They have a problem with double-parking. These trucks come through four and five times every day. They waited a long time to get their street paved, and were proud to have them paved. Now they have these speeding truckers coming through and tearing them up, and creating a safety hazard for children. They are not paved with the same material used for heavy traffic roads like Hwy 17. She is pleading for help on behalf of the homeowners on Napoleon Street. Mayor Flagg said the Police Chief can address enforcement of the laws, but once the officers leave the area the problem starts again. This is happening all over.

Police Chief Schauland said the reason this is happening in these areas is because that is where the drivers live. As far as purchasing lots to park trucks, the County fought this same battle in Interlachen Lakes Estates. The truck owners themselves found other places to park. The proposed ordinance is worth taking a look at; it provides arteries for trucks to go in and out of areas and spells out when you can detour from those arteries and when you can't. It would go a long way towards giving them something to enforce. Mayor Flagg asked Chief Schauland to work with Mr. Mengel to give them something to look at for future adoption. Mr. Bush said under this proposal, a large truck can go anywhere in the City provided it has a destination point. It can stay overnight if it is in an enclosed structure. You aren't eliminating the trucks themselves from traveling all the residential streets. Mr. Mengel said the key term is "point of destination"; you can't drive home to have lunch or the like. You must have a commercial destination. Mr. Bush said you can still drive home to park overnight provided you have an enclosed area. The fines seem to be substantial enough to get someone's attention. Mr. Bush said most of these infractions would generate just a traffic ticket. Mayor Flagg said they should make sure there are no loopholes in enforcement leverage of the ordinance. Mr. Mengel said Section 94-193 has never been a well-written section. Some parts are easy to interpret and/or enforce; other parts are too disjointed. His proposed ordinance is written in a way as to be enforced by the police department and not open to interpretation as a zoning code violation. Chief Schauland said this won't be a uniform traffic citation but rather a civil citation or a complaint affidavit. Mr. Bush said there is where they have had problems, and asked if there is any way to make it a uniform traffic violation. Chief Schauland said not unless the legislature passes a statute on it. The Sheriff's Dept. was very successful with this in the Interlachen area. They issued notices to appear on a civil citation, got violators up before Judge Miller and got \$100.00 fines each time.

a.4. Request to Set Fee to cover Amendment of Code Text Request – Mayor Flagg noted this request comes on behalf of Marie McMahan, who desires a change in the zoning ordinance. Staff has included a memorandum recommending a fee of \$693 for application, which will cover actual advertising costs. Commissioner Norwood moved to set the administrative fee for Marie McMahan's code amendment request at \$693.00. Commissioner Edwards 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 2-182(1), RATE OF MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS; SECTION 2-250.10, FIREFIGHTER MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS; AND SECTION 2-250.245, POLICE OFFICER MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AMOUNTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to place the ordinance on 1st reading as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The results of a roll call vote are as

follows: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. The ordinance was placed in its 1st reading.

GOLF CART FLEET REPLACEMENT – Mayor Flagg noted the Commission has been provided with a proposal for replacing the golf cart fleet, and asked why this was not an issue brought up at the last budget workshop. Greg Bacon, Golf Pro, said he had every intention of this fleet making it through the year. He planned to budget for their replacement next year. The batteries are dying and will not hold a charge; he is picking up three to five carts a day from the course. His option is to either re-fleet or replace the batteries and brakes in the carts. He proposes re-fleeting with an option to defer payments until 10/1/01, the beginning of the next fiscal year, and budget the carts accordingly. The financial institution has no problem doing this. He did not plan to come in mid-year and ask for this. The present fleet is worth around \$54,000. To fix them would cost \$26,300. The longest he has ever had a cart was six years, and these are four and one-half years old. Three are unsafe and he can't let them out. Commissioner Brown asked if he knows where the money is coming from to pay for this. Mr. Bush said he informed Mr. Bacon he needed to show how he was going to pay for this. He came back with a proposal for advertising on the sides of the carts and a fee increase for cart rentals, which can be implemented immediately. Mr. Bacon said they pay \$500 per month for preventative maintenance on carts now. With a new fleet, they have a man who comes by once a week to provide parts and maintenance under a 36-month bumper-to-bumper warranty. They propose to increase the cost of cart rentals from \$12.75 to an even \$13.00. That will generate an additional \$8,500. The advertising consists of three ads per cart, 6" x 8", one on each side and one on the front, at a revenue of \$16.25 per cart per month for 36 months, or a five-year deal at \$26.25 per cart per month. He recommends the three-year deal. The advertisers are soft-drink advertisers and the City will have final say on the advertisements. This will generate an additional \$10,530 per year for three years for doing nothing other than giving them the advertising space. Mr. Holmes now has the contract, which he is looking over. Mr. Holmes said his concerns are the same with this as with the bus stop benches. He has no problem with this, but if you are going to take a municipal asset and allow someone to advertise on it, you need to issue an RFP. It may be there is only one company that wants to do, but it is not fair to single out one group and give them exclusive rights without doing a request for proposals. Either way, the City does not lose. Mr. Bacon said this proposal will net \$6,800 for the Club after the golf cart expense. Commissioner Norwood said he is in favor of this proposal, and asked if the City has ever considered privatizing the golf course. Mr. Bush said it was at one time, but it was a bad experience and the City took it back over. Mr. Bacon said the city originally built the course, and it has gone private twice. Commissioner Norwood said the City keeps putting money into it, but it is a club. It serves its purpose and provides recreation for some of the citizens of Palatka. It is exclusionary based on its fees. City assets should be open to any and everybody. The City is not recouping costs from the golf course and gets nothing from it other than some of the citizens have an opportunity to play golf. Commissioner Brown said the golf course is open to the public, and it takes care of itself for the most part. They approached the County about helping to support it, but that did not come to fruition. Mr. Bush said it has been running a deficit over the last few years; it is like any business, it has up and down times. They have been working on cutting costs and increasing play, and they talk about this considerably. A golf course is an asset, just like an airport. People look to see if you have one before they move here. If it were privatized, it would be more exclusionary, and may even be in danger of being broken up and sold as home sites. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the purchase of a new golf cart fleet provided no general funds are used to effect the purchase. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE REVIEW – Mayor Flagg said the Clerk has prepared a memorandum along with attachments, and noted this is a "homework" assignment for the Commission; the packet is for review. Ms. Driggers said staff recommends turning this issue over to the City Attorney so he can bring back a report and opinion as to what the commission is allowed to do under the statute to make changes to the occupational licenses. Mayor Flagg asked the Clerk to put this item on the March 22 agenda for a report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST –the Clerk read Commissioner Azula’s 2/22/01 conflict of interest declaration into the minutes. Commissioner Azula declared a conflict and abstained from voting on a bid award for two water & sewer dept. vehicles.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Mr. Bush said he met with Mr. Holmes on the bus stop issue from the last meeting, and they came to the conclusion that since there are now two companies interested in this, a formal RFP should be issued specifying what the City is looking for. They will make a decision based on the proposals received.

Commissioner Brown:

- Said this is in reference to all the doctors that were here tonight. There was a time when the City had a “welcome wagon” who made contact with the new professional and business people in town. They should think about having a “welcome” program at Price Martin Center.
- There are two vacant lots on the corner of 10th & Main Streets, which would be suitable for a garden. She has spoken to the people at the Caring Center about getting permission from the owner for them to plant a garden there to grow food. The lot needs to be cut down. This is a way of feeding people and cleaning up the city. The City would do nothing other than to help bring it about and maybe draft an agreement for use by the parties wishing to do this.

Commissioner Edwards:

- Asked if a resident backs over a sewer line in their yard and it breaks, does the City fix it free of charge or do they charge for the work? Mr. Willis said if it is on private property, they should call a plumber. The maintenance of the lateral lies with the recipient of the sewer services. In the past they had problems with many plumbers who merely push clogs down into the City’s line, submit a bill to their customer and tell them to call the City. If they are parking on the sidewalk, which breaks up and breaks the sewer line, they are also responsible, and the same with the parkway. If they cause the damage to their sewer line, they need to get it fixed. Mr. Bush said if they do push a clog up under the asphalt and can’t get it out, the City does not allow them to tear up the street. Commissioner Brown said the City calls the r/w its property, but they ask citizens to maintain it. Mr. Bush said if they are having a problem, they can come in and pay for a renewal from the meter to the curb stop. If they break a line, they should have a plumber fix it. They have gone in many times and repaired lines on the r/w if fault cannot be pinned down, but that lateral is there solely for the purpose of serving that one customer. The ordinance was adopted specifically because of plumbers pushing obstructions through the lines until they got it on the City’s side, then charging a fee and telling people to call the City as it is their problem now. To combat that, they passed this ordinance. If the line breaks, the City will make the necessary repairs to water & sewer lines on the City side of the meter.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said from time to time city employees have to go unstop restaurant grease traps, and he does not understand why the City does not charge a fee for this. They need to look at a fee for city personnel, vehicles and other equipment. Mr. Willis said this is not necessarily the case; they have had to react in the past to situations where grease builds up in the main sewer lines due to malfunctioning grease traps or lack of maintenance. They don’t take city vehicles on to restaurant property and open up grease traps; there are companies in town that do that. They remove grease from the public sewers. He sent around a memo two weeks ago with a suggested fee to be charged to local restaurants to compensate for the time the City spends on opening up grease-clogged sewers. He attended a ‘grease school’ today and learned aspects of grease trap maintenance which he will be discussing with building officials in order to address user fees and permitting of grease generators, and identify people who are using the grease and stay on top of them so they are not always reacting to problems caused by grease. Commissioner Norwood asked if they have a way of clamping the lines so as not to push grease back into the grease trap when they are cleaning out the lines. Mr. Willis said if everything is installed properly, nothing will be forced back into the grease trap. Commissioner Norwood said there are environmentally friendly ways to take care of the problem and these individuals need to be encouraged to take

care of this so city vehicles and personnel are not running around taking care of the problems generated by grease in the lines. Mr. Willis said they have sent a bill to a local restaurant for a clog generated by this particular restaurant because they were able to determine the restaurant that caused it. Mr. Bush said grease traps should be inspected periodically and this is something the building department should be on top of. Mr. Mengel said there is a schedule for maintenance and inspections with the restaurants, but these guidelines are loosely followed. Mr. Bush said according to Mr. Huntsberger there are substandard grease traps in town that do not work, and these should be addressed. Mr. Willis said he brought back information on the parameters set by the State. They can identify problem areas and target them for higher priority. Anyone who is a 'grease generator' will be addressed. The recommended interval for inspection is quarterly to semi-annually. A paper trail can be established so that inspection dates can be documented. Mr. Mengel said inspections have been sporadic in the past and they don't have a good idea of who all the grease generators are. Once this is established they will have a better handle on it. They know where the problem areas are. Commissioner Norwood said the City needs to do their part to make sure grease generators are complying. Mr. Mengel said they are coming up with a plan to do just that.

Commissioner Azula:

- Said the sweeper is being run through Reid Street around 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. He asked if they can do that at a time when there is less traffic as it is causing traffic congestion. Mayor Flagg asked Mr. Bush to take care of that.
- The condition of the buildings on 2nd Street is bad and they need to be addressed. Mr. Bush said they have pressure washed them and that is the extent of the money they have to put into them. They don't want to put a lot of money into these buildings as they will hopefully be demolished or refurbished by a new owner.
- The walls and plaster in City Hall needs to be addressed. Coming up the stairs there is plaster falling off the walls. Mr. Bush said he will address this.

Ms. Driggers said tomorrow is the deadline for advance orders on Azalea Festival T-shirts, so if anyone wants to order a shirt they should see her before they leave tonight.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Norwood, seconded by Commissioner Edwards.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR