

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 27th day of September, 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 E. Holmes, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, Finance Director Ruby Williams, Police Chief Gary Getchell, Fire Chief Rudy Howard, Planning Director Adam Mengel, Main Street Manager Debbie Banks.

INVOCATION – The Reverend L. D. Osteen, Pastor; St. Johns Baptist Church

MOMENT OF SILENCE – in memory of those who lost their lives and loved ones in the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – D’arcy Miller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 8/16/01 & 9/13/01 – The clerk asked the Commission to only consider the minutes from 8/16/01, which she has submitted as corrected, and disregard approval of the 9/13/01 minutes, which they have just received and not had an opportunity to read. Commissioner Azula moved to approve the 8/16/01 minutes as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – Mayor Flagg presented Patricia Milton, Utility Billing Clerk, with a gift certificate, city lapel pin and certificate honoring her as Employee of the Month. Ruby Williams, Finance Director, said Ms. Milton has worked for the City since 10/17/75 and has readily adapted to many program changes over the years. She is a loyal employee and has always gotten the utility bills out on time.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg read and presented a proclamation to Fire Chief Rudy Howard designating October 7-13, 2001 as Fire Prevention Week.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – September, 2001 – Commissioner Azula assisted Vice-Mayor Brown in presenting certificates to the following students in recognition of their academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance:

Kevin Davis	Beasley Middle School
Rebecca Robinson	Browning Pearce Elementary
D. J. Rigdon	E. H. Miller School
Jennifer Ward	James A. Long Elementary
Megan Harris	Jenkins Middle School
Cassie Haire	Kelley Smith Elementary
Andrea L. Cutrer	Mellon Elementary
Christopher Shepperd	Moseley Elementary
Kari Floyd	Palatka High School
Branden Zavala	Peniel Baptist Academy
Katrina Bunyon	River Breeze Elementary

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING – Levy of millage rate (7.3) and adoption of budget appropriations per TRIM calendar requirements – Mayor Flagg opened the public hearing. Mr. Bush said the millage rate proposed by the Commission is 7.3 mills, which is 8.6% above the rolled-back rate. The budget is as presented at the 9/13/01 meeting. There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2001 TO RAISE THE NECESSARY REVENUE TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

2001-2002 in its entirety. Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the Levy Ordinance on second reading as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The levy ordinance was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF MONIES FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE SEVERAL GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY, AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE SEVERAL SINKING FUNDS OF THE CITY TO PAY INTEREST ON AND PROVIDE FOR THE RETIREMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING BONDS AND OTHER FIXED OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY, AND FOR PALATKA GAS AUTHORITY, FOR AND DURING THE FISCAL YEAR A.D. 2001-2002. Commissioner Azula moved to pass the appropriation ordinance on second reading for adoption. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The appropriation ordinance was declared adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA – The following items are recommended by Staff for approval:

- a. SURPLUS GALLION GRADER – Transfer out of Streets Dept. Inventory – Per recommendation of Bernard Williams, Supt.
- b. EXECUTE PROJECT AGREEMENT for FDEP Clean Vessel Grant Program – Pump-out Facility for City Dock – Per City Manager’s recommendation
- c. EXECUTE ARCHITECTURAL AGREEMENT for renovations to Larimer Arts Center – Bob Taylor, Project Architect – Per City Manager’s recommendation.
- d. EXECUTE ENGAGEMENT LETTER – Davis, Monk & Co. – 3-year contract for Audit Services – Per City Manager/Finance Director’s recommendation.
- e. AMEND GENERAL FUND – Donate \$73,445 to Airport Enterprise Fund to Clear Old Debt – Per Auditors’ recommendation
- f. AMEND F/Y 2000/2001 BUDGET– Per recommendation by Ruby Williams, Finance Director
- g. APPOINT CANVASSING COMMITTEE for 2001 Elections per Clerk’s recommendation – Mayor Flagg, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Norwood and Clerk Driggers

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

EDGAR JOHNSON SENIOR CITIZENS’ CENTER – Proposed long-term lease and request for additional acreage – Steve Overturf, representing the Senior Citizens’ Center, said they are very appreciative of the support the City has given to them for this project. He presented three different drawings for a center to be located on the cemetery property behind Miller’s Shopping Center, adjacent to Oak Hill West cemetery. If they stay with the ½ acre, as originally proposed, the water retention area and parking will be very tight, and there is no room for future expansion. He presented two other schematics; one showing a building layout on ¾ acre, and one on a full acre. Both those proposals show room for future building expansion and the one-acre has room for expanded parking. Putnam County’s senior citizen population will increase by 60% over the 20 years. They definitely need future expansion. They are trying to be prudent in their projections. Mayor Flagg commended them for their work on this project, and said the Commission understands they are trying to put a Master Plan in place for the future. Mr. Bush said he recommends approval of scheme A, for ½ acre, as it will meet their immediate needs. This does not mean they won’t consider future expansion. If another worthwhile project comes along and needs space, they need to consider reserving space when and if it comes about. He discussed a combined retention area, which means they would be able to do something along the lines of scheme B. The City has no way of knowing what future needs for other projects will be. They will consider the senior citizens center’s needs when other requests come along. The commission’s options for that property would vanish if they approve scheme C or B as presented. Per questions, Mr. Bush said a shared retention pond would be between the two sites, leaving plenty of room for another facility; a retention pond can be moved, if need be. This gives everyone options. The senior citizens’ organization would be notified if another agency comes forward and wants to place a building next to theirs. They can ensure their facility is constructed in a manner that it can be expanded in the future. The retention pond would only be sufficient

for this particular building; if another building is added, the pond can either be relocated or enlarged to accommodate both buildings. The City needs to keep its options open.

Susan Eubanks, Senior Center Board Member, asked how much land is available. Mr. Bush said if they use the full acre, it will leave about 30 feet from their site to the end of Elmwood Avenue. It's a little more than a full acre. Ms. Eubanks said if someone else builds a building and they share a retention pond, they are land-locked. Mayor Flagg said there is no guarantee that someone else will build there. She understands that there are other causes that are just as worthy as theirs, but is concerned about how much land they would have available based on a shared retention pond. Mayor Flagg said the Commission intends to accommodate their immediate needs, and as they expand, they need to keep the Commission informed, who will try to do everything in their power to comply with their long-term needs. The City is not putting up all this land for projects. Commissioner Norwood moved to accept Mr. Bush's recommendation to approve Scheme A, a ½ acre site, for the Edgar Johnson Senior Citizens Center. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

As to the lease, Mr. Holmes said he drew up a proposed lease with blanks for the number of years and the amount of rent. In speaking with Mr. Overturf, they would like a 99-year lease. It is up to the Commission to fill in those blanks, and all parties can debate the terms. Per the question, Mr. Overturf said DCA has a five-year interest in the building. Mr. Bush said they have always considered 20 years a long-term lease, and asked if that is reasonable for them. They can add renewal clauses. Mr. Overturf said they would like a minimum of 50 years, which will protect their project. Twenty years would not constitute a prudent use of the grant money if it can't be protected any longer than that. This is a \$200,000 - \$300,000 building. Mr. Bush said he does not know of any 50-year leases, but that is up to the Commission. Mr. Overturf said he believes the Chamber lease is 50 years. Mr. Holmes said the concept of singling out one group and giving them exclusive right to city property is one he is not comfortable with. This is public property being allocated to one group, not in a bid process and for all intents and purposes, the City is giving it to them for a lifetime. They are not talking about even fair market value, but \$1.00 per year. Situations differ; they have a state grant for funds, and there is a need, but whether it's 20 years or 50 years, they are taking public land and giving exclusive rights for its use to one group. In a long-term situation they should include a reverter clause which states that if the property ceases to be used for its intended purpose, it reverts to the City. Then it doesn't make a big difference as to how long the lease is, whether 20 or 50 years. Mr. Overturf clarified that the state requires the building be used as a senior center for five years. Commissioner Brown said she is not in favor of granting anyone a 50-year lease as it obligates future commissions. She thinks 20 years with first option to renew is fair. Mayor Flagg said the parties need to come to a consensus on the number of years. Mrs. Eubanks said the lease specifies that the land is to be used for a senior center only, and would not allow a sub-let. Mr. Holmes said he believes a reverter clause is more important than the term of years, as it makes the term of the lease immaterial should they stop using it as a senior center. Per the question, Mrs. Eubanks said they need a lease soon, and time is of the essence. Mr. Holmes said he needs a copy of the grant agreement so he will know what the State's rights are within the first five years. He is concerned that the State could actually take the property away from the City during that time, should the Senior Citizens Center not live up to their end of the bargain. Mr. Overturf said the City has already signed that agreement, and both the prior City attorney and the County attorneys have looked over and blessed the grant agreement. They are committed to operation for five years for certain. Per discussion and consensus, Commissioner Norwood, Mr. Bush and Mr. Holmes were directed to meet with Mr. Overturf and other board members to come to a consensus on the building scheme and lease terms, to be brought back for consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Norwood moved to table the item until the next meeting date of October 11, 2001. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

ORDINANCE – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A REASONABLE AND UNIFORM CONTENT NEUTRAL REGULATION THAT WILL REDUCE THE ADVERSE SECONDARY EFFECTS THAT ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE UPON THE CITY THEREBY PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND

WELFARE OF THE CITIZENRY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENT ORDINANCE; STATING THE INTENT OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT; REGULATING THE LICENSING AND LOCATION OF ADULT THEATERS, ADULT PERFORMANCE ESTABLISHMENTS, SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES, ESCORT SERVICES AND PHYSICAL CONTACT PARLORS; PROVIDING GENERAL PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR LICENSING OF ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSING; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND DENIAL OF LICENSES; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION FEES; PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND REPORTS; PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION AND APPEAL OF APPLICATIONS; PROVIDING FOR IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION; PROVIDING FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; PROVIDING FOR DISTANCE AND ZONING RESTRICTIONS OF ADULT ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR OPERATIONAL RULES OF ADULT THEATERS, ADULT PERFORMANCE ESTABLISHMENTS, SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES, ESCORT SERVICES AND PHYSICAL CONTACT PARLORS; PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PROHIBITED ACTS BY CUSTOMERS, WORKERS, OPERATORS AND ESCORTS; PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL PROVISIONS PROHIBITING SPECIFIED SEXUAL ACTS; PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL PROVISIONS REGARDING ADVERTIZING AND SOLICITATION; PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL PROVISIONS REGARDING FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS AND FAILURE TO MAINTAIN, PRODUCE AND DISPLAY RECORDS; PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL PROVISIONS REGARDING OPERATION AND EMPLOYMENT BY UNLICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CRIMINAL PROVISIONS PROHIBITING MINORS; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS RESTRICTING HOURS OF OPERATIONS AND USES OF RESTROOMS AND DRESSING ROOMS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to place the ordinance on second reading for adoption, as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Mr. Holmes said Mr. McLaughlin has asked that the record reflect by reference all of the materials that were submitted by both sides during discussion on the first ordinance, which the commission voted on 8/16 on and 9/13 and contained an amortization clause. He would like the record to reflect that all of Mr. McLaughlin's testimony and evidence be submitted into the record for the reading of this ordinance, along with all other testimony and evidence that was introduced at 8/16 and 9/13 meetings in support of the ordinance. The existing store is only grandfathered in as to the setback requirements, but all other provisions of this ordinance will apply. It is already properly zoned. It would be impossible for that facility to comply with the setbacks unless it moves to another location. Per the question, any business that was in operation by July 1 is also exempted from the state statute on school setbacks. He does not know if this business was or was not in operation by July 1. The City has no control over state statutes, and the City has no authority to exempt any business from a state statute. Whatever else the law requires, they must comply with. Mr. Bush said they are not talking tonight what the state can or cannot do, but what their ordinance calls for, and the only thing they are exempt from is the City's setback requirements. Commissioner Edwards announced he will abstain from voting on this issue, as he was not present for most of the testimony that was given on the previous versions of the ordinance. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioner Azula, Brown, Norwood and Mayor Flag, Yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BE AMENDED BY REVISING APPENDIX “A” TO SECTION 86-314 AND APPENDIX “A” TO SECTION 86-315 THEREOF, PROVIDING NEW WATER RATE SCHEDULES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2001, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Azula moved to pass the ordinance on second reading for adoption as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Mr. Bush said this constitutes a 2% increase, per the 1998 bond issue. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Norwood and Mayor Flag, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BE AMENDED BY REVISING APPENDIX “A” TO SECTION 86-344 AND APPENDIX “A” TO SECTION 86-345 THEREOF, PROVIDING NEW SEWER CHARGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2001, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS RESPECTIVELY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Per the question, Mr. Bush said this amounts to a 2% increase, and is the third of four rate increases per the Sewer Sliplining Bond Issue of 1998. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on second reading for adoption as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2-32 TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES SETTING AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BY SETTING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AT \$1,333.00 PER MONTH AND THE SALARY OF THE REMAINING COMMISSIONERS AT \$1,000.00 PER MONTH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on second reading for adoption as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Edwards, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted. Commissioner Brown said she would like the Code amended to add an automatic cost of living increase each year. Mayor Flagg asked Mr. Bush to check into that and determine what other cities are doing. The County Commission and constitutional officers’ salaries are set by population figures. The community is not aware of the sacrifices they have to make for the job and do not understand why they need raises or how they are funded. They want to address this before the next budget workshop.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

City Manager Allen Bush said the Commission has a separate attachment for an advertising contract for the Palatka Daily News. Staff has discovered that if the City signs an agreement to purchase a minimum of 150 column inches, or about ½ of the City’s average yearly use, the price is reduced by \$2.00 per column inch and could amount to a savings of around \$1,000 per year on advertising costs. Staff recommends the City execute the contract in order to start obtaining the new rates on October 1, which is the start of the new budget year. Per the question, Mr. Bush said the PDN is the only vendor of this service in the area, and the City currently does this type of business with PDN now. This type of contract does not lend itself to a bid process. It is a single source; there is no other local daily newspaper. Mr. Holmes said they are the only newspaper located in this jurisdiction, and he does not see a problem with it. Commissioner Norwood moved to authorize execution of an advertising contract with the Palatka Daily News beginning October 1, 2001. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

City Attorney Don Holmes had nothing to report.

City Clerk Betsy Driggers said she will be out of town during the week of October 8 – 12 at Institute, and the regular meeting falls on the 11th. The commission can either hold the meeting as scheduled, move the meeting, or cancel the meeting, as they see fit. The City Manager will be out of town the October 12 – 21, and Ruby will be having surgery on the 19th and will be out for two weeks. If they decide to hold the meeting on the regularly scheduled date, they will need to close the agenda next Thursday so an agenda can be prepared before she leaves town. She can make arrangements for someone to perform her duties during the meeting. Mr. Bush said there is nothing coming up that is pressing. Mayor Flagg said he is not in favor of shifting meetings as long as there is no emergency. Ms. Driggers said Mr. Mengel has some issues coming up, but she does not know how pressing they are, and there is also the issue of the Senior Citizens Center, which will come up at the next meeting, whenever they deem that will be. Mayor Flagg said the Finance Director should be able to be the back-up for that meeting, so there should be no need to change the agenda deadline. Mr. Holmes said he will be out-of-town on October 25th on vacation. Ms. Driggers said she is leaving Sunday, and she will have to have the

agenda prepared by Friday of next week if they still want to hold the meeting. Mayor Flagg said he does not want to close the agenda before Friday at 5:00, so she should go ahead and do her agenda, and if they need to, they can do a supplement. Mrs. Williams and her staff should be able to handle that. Commissioner Azula said he received three agendas today, and they have discussed cutting off agenda items on Friday so this would not happen. The contract on the Daily News was not on the original agenda; this is happening too often. The commission set a rule that there should be no more changes after Tuesday mornings. Mayor Flagg said when Mr. Bush gives his report he deals with certain issues, and if those issues are something he wants the commission to take action on, he is following instructions. There were some items in this particular agenda, like the appointment of the canvassing board, which had to be done, and Fire Chief Howard's proclamation, which the Clerk received today. Proclamations are more of a ceremonial item and can be signed without commission action. They do need as much advance notice as possible in order to make informed decisions. Many times the Clerk is put on the spot because people push her to get items on the agenda after the cut-off, and he backs her up whenever possible. If it constitutes an emergency, they can deal with it in a special meeting. It also makes more work for the Clerk when she has to re-do an agenda.

Ms. Driggers received a memorandum from the League of Cities asking for nominations for an appointment to the Insurance Trust Board. If they want to nominate someone it needs to be endorsed by the entire commission and submitted by October 25. Commissioner Brown said she sits on that Trust until 2004. They have some vacancies and they are trying to get a broader base of representatives from across the state. They probably would not let two people from the same area sit on that board. Mayor Flagg asked her to confirm that. He believes if two people from this Commission sit on that board, it would constitute a sunshine violation. They could encourage one of the smaller municipalities in Putnam County to submit someone from their commission.

Finance Director Ruby Williams had nothing to report.

Police Chief Gary Getchell thanked the Building Dept, Fire Dept. and Street Dept. for the help they rendered during the lot clean-ups they have been doing. They are getting a lot accomplished. Per the question, the property owners decided which trees were to be taken out and which were to stay. People aren't hanging out there anymore. Commissioner Brown said she received a call from a citizen saying he can now sleep at night, and he is grateful for the property clean-up.

Chief Getchell said Palatka's crime rate has slowed down; they are not getting as high a volume of calls for services. Putnam County Sheriffs are also experiencing a reduction in crime. His department is in the process of reviewing policy and procedure. He is specifically looking at trying to reduce liability for the PD and the City, and is looking at some of the high-risk issues. Some of the decisions are not going to be popular with the officers, but nonetheless need to be addressed. They have implemented some in-service training and have been meeting with probation/parole and sentencing organizations and listening to their issues. Tomorrow from 8:00 am – 5:00 they will be conducting a community policing program, and everyone is welcome to stop by. An officer from the Lakeland PD is coming in to run the program. It was important to bring someone in from the outside to give his officers an outside view on the pros and cons on this type of endeavor. All the supervisors will be there, and they have handpicked a couple of officers from each shift, plus some detectives, to attend. At least 60 – 70 percent of the department will be there. The road supervisors will be the determining factor on whether or not this program is going to work. Per the question, they are going to be doing some diversity training, but will be doing it differently from the way it has been done in the past. They are bringing in some outside people and will set up a citizens' panel to hear from people in the community so that they can share their experiences with the officers. Commissioner Brown said the League is targeting diversity training through their Faces of Florida program. She will try to get a tape on that for him.

Chief Getchell said around the end of October they will begin their team building program, and he will be doing the facilitation on that. When he gets those dates firmed up, he will advise the Commission. They are getting ready to conduct the new promotion process. He has set aside October 25 & 26 for that. He has revised policy completely; it

will be an open forum similar to the way the Commission selected him. There will be four separate panels comprised of a cross-section of the community judging four different types of real-life scenarios. People will be doing roll-playing with the officers so they can get a feel for how the officers would handle a situation. They won't be using any type of written test. There will be an interview, but questions will pertain to areas of concern that supervisors have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. They will make sure they have a diverse population of panel members, including residents, clergy, business-owners, elected officials, judiciary, law-enforcement administrators from other agencies. He has begun calling people to fill his panel, and has invited Mr. Bush and each of the commissioners to participate. So that they don't run into Sunshine law problems, if there is more than one commissioner, they will be put on separate panels.

Fire Chief Rudy Howard said the first day of October they will begin the home safety/911 addressing/smoke alarms door-to-door campaign, and will continue until they have covered the entire city.

Chief Howard said tomorrow the FD will conduct a road-toll in order to raise funds to benefit the emergency services employee relief fund in New York. The tolls will be collected at 11th & St. Johns, and there may be a second location at 2nd & Reid in front of City Hall. Mayor Flagg said he is concerned whether or not the City regulates these fundraisers, as he sees children and inappropriately-dressed people standing in the middle of the road. Palm & Crill seems to be the most popular place. If something happens and someone files a lawsuit, the City will surely be named as they are allowing these things to happen, and at least need to require a courtesy permit. As soon as the situation in New York happened, people were all over the various types of media soliciting donations. They are permitting people to be legally robbed, and there seems to be no check and balance. If it is going to happen within the City Limits, they need to know who and what before it happens. Chief Howard said all his people will be wearing safety vests and uniform dress, and will look professional. They will have proper signage. Mayor Flagg said drivers at least need signage warning them that there is someone in the road up head collecting tolls. Mr. Holmes said he is concerned for two reasons. One is on the workers' comp liability, and the other is the city being named in a lawsuit. Even when workers are working on a road, they hire off-duty deputies to run their blue lights to warn drivers that they are approaching a hazardous situation. Chief Howard said the fire trucks will be parked there, and if the Commission desires, they will run their red lights to let people know they are in the road. Mayor Flagg said many people are turned off because it seems that people are always standing in the road soliciting change, and some people tend to speed up when going through so they won't have to stop. They need to monitor when these things are happening and police need to issue warnings when people are creating a traffic hazard and/or are not properly dressed.

Chief Howard said he was able to witness the "Mt. Tabor Experience" last Tuesday night, and very much enjoyed it. The pastor had a good message and he will return.

Mayor Flagg asked if he and the City Manager will be putting together a job description for Fire Chief. Mr. Bush said the advertisement has been composed and is going into several Internet sites. It will be open through part of October and will close sometime in November. He should have his committee put together by that time. Mayor Flagg asked him to draw up a time-line for the Commission so they will know what to expect.

Planning Director Adam Mengel had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Brown:

- Said Greenways and Trails people are coming here to dedicate a park at Buckman Lock on October 27 from 10:30 – 12:00 noon, and would like the commissioners to be present.
- Commissioner Brown said several cities have asked employees to donate \$1.00 or more each to be sent to the League for donations to be sent to people who are in need of assistance.

Commissioner Azula:

- Said he meant no reflection on Mr. Bush when he brought up the issue about agenda additions. It is much easier when they get things in advance, but he may have chosen a poor example to use. Mr. Bush said it just came up today, and needed to be signed by October 1, and that is why he made the decision to bring it before the Commission.
- Said he has been discussing the insurance issues with Mr. Bush. They would like to find a way to offer employees a little better break, and he is looking forward to working on that issue. It bothers him that an employee gets a raise, and then he/she loses it due to the rising cost of benefits. It is hard when you are actually taking home less money than the prior year. If the Commission can do anything for the employees, they should. The ones who are hurting the worst are those making the least money. He has no right answers for the lower-paid employees who have approached him. Sometimes the higher-paid employees have to bear more of the burden.
- Said the City's hosted a great NEFLC meeting at the Golf Course. The food was great, everything went well, and Ms. Driggers did a tremendous job with the arrangements and door prizes.

Commissioner Edwards:

- Asked if Mr. Bush had checked on the flags at the PD. Mr. Bush said the PD is supposed to purchase a new flag. Chief Getchell said flags are hard to come by these days, but they are still trying. Commissioner Edwards said he has 5' x 9' flags available at the Guard office, and he will take one to the PD to see if that will work.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said he is going to attend an Environmental Quality league meeting, as he is on that committee, so if they have any concerns, they should let him know so he can get them to the Committee for discussion. He attends that meeting on October 12.

Mayor Flagg:

- Said on behalf of the Commissioner he would like to express his gratitude to all of the City departments on the work they did during the recent storms. In some areas where roads were washed out, the barricades are a problem. They need to be lit up, and some of them are in terrible condition. People are running into them in areas that are not lit up. He knows that people steal those lights, but unlit barricades are a liability to the City. Commissioner Edwards said the barricades on Main Street in front of Fred Greene Field are very dangerous. If you are coming down that road at night, you are up on them before you know they are even there.

Former Commissioner Sanders was welcomed to the meeting.

Chief Howard said he received a call today from Senator Smith's office that there is a bill before the senate to add fire and emergency services personnel to the law enforcement officers worker's comp bill, that says if they are injured rendering any kind of aid, they will be covered under workers' comp.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, Revisited: Ezekiel Johnson, Palatka, said there is a hole in the street right beside his house at 809 N. 14th Street. There is a barricade in the hole with a light on it. He also would like the Commission to do something about the boom boxes. 14th Street is terrible, and they need to patrol it. They could pass out numerous fines. Mayor Flagg said they are trying to settle the boom box issue. Mr. Holmes has asked for an AG's opinion on whether or not the City can raise its fine to \$100 for violations.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner Azula