

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 26th day of September, 2002.

PRESENT:	Mayor	Karl N. Flagg
	Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
	Commissioner	Hernan Azula
	Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.
	Commissioner	George E. Sanders

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 Marshall John Holley, Planning Director Adam Mengel, WWTP Supt. Platt Drew, Sanitation & Streets Supv. Ed Chandler, W & S Asst. Supt. Rhett McCamey, and Parks Supt. Jeff Norton

INVOCATION – The Reverend Mayor Karl N. Flagg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Fire Marshall John Holley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 8/22/02 – Commissioner Sanders moved to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg read and presented a proclamation to Bill Turnbull, former band director for Palatka Senior/Palatka South High School, declaring Saturday, 9/28/02 as Bill Turnbull Day.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg presented Fire Marshall John Holley with a proclamation declaring the week of October 6 – 12, 2002 as Fire Prevention Week.

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Flagg presented Shandra Riffey, Director of Lee Conlee House, with a proclamation designating October, 2002 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

PRESENTATION – Margie Wilhelm, Director of Development, Hospice of the Lakes, introduced Mickey Jo Hansen, Administrator for Hospice of the Lakes, an organization that has been providing care to families and patients with life-limiting illness in Bradford, Putnam and Clay Counties since 1980. They service around 40% of deaths in Putnam County. They are proud to be expanding services to Putnam County with the construction of Hospice House, which is being constructed at 6500 St. Johns Avenue. November is National Hospice Month, and they are groundbreaking on the center then. She presented the Commission with a colored plaque rendition of the new Hospice House, saying they hope it will be displayed in a place of prominence.

PRESENTATION – Kirk Collier said he is the writer and co-producer of “Yard Sale – The Move” which was filmed in Putnam County and stars local residents. He took his movie to the 2002 Melbourne Independent Filmmakers Festival, as they were invited to screen a 1 – 3 minute preview of the movie. It received high marks and good reviews. Against 67 short films and features, and 13 other previews from around the world, it missed being voted the audience favorite by one vote. Around the festival they were known as the “Palatka People”, and since they made such a favorable impression, they were asked to represent Palatka at next year’s festival. This includes sponsoring a “Palatka Peoples’ Choice Award” for the movie that any festival attendees vote on as being their favorite. They also plan to supply volunteers and sponsor advertising for the festival. They are looking at holding their own film festival in the future, and are working to that end. They have formed a company, 3-C Media, to locally produce short subject movies and television programs. They are currently working on a distribution plan for “Yard Sale – The Movie” nationwide. He is working with other independent filmmakers around the state to form the Florida Independent League of Moviemakers (“FILM”), whose goal and purpose is to share resources and to work together to foster, encourage, and produce independent films. They are moving forward with great enthusiasm. He is also working towards establishing a facility in this area to produce movies and televisions programs, complete with an audience screening & community

performance stage. If the City owns any buildings that might serve this purpose, he would like to get with Mr. Bush and discuss the possibility of his occupying it for this purpose. They are working on their next feature film entitled "Off the Hard Road" which is set in a small town, along with four short-subject films. He hopes they can count on the City's continued support as they work on these projects. He invited everyone to the 2003 Melbourne Florida Film Festival, scheduled for September 11, 12 & 13, 2003.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS - Ken Mahaffey passed out an outline of events planned for the City's 150th Birthday coming in January, 2003. They are hoping everything will be free and won't cost the City any money. Events will expound on the City's history; events will occur over a 4-month time period. They will kick it off during Azalea Festival and conclude during Blue Crab Festival. A new Festival is being planned, called the River Festival, which will take place the length of the River, as part of the Heritage River Initiative. The newspaper will run short bio's on 50 of Palatka's most important and influential citizens since 1853 through present day.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – September, 2002 - Commissioner Brown joined Mayor Flagg in recognizing the following students for academic excellence, citizenship, leadership and attendance to the following area students:

Jordan Paris	Beasley Middle School
Shane Sullivan	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Jamel Walker	E. H. Miller School
Jaleesa Green	James A Long Elementary School
Daniel Merwin	Jenkins Middle School
Jesseca Gornto	Kelly Smith Elementary School
Ashley T. Smith	Mellon Elementary School
Megan McCallum	Moseley Elementary
Natalie Alford	Palatka High School
Jessica Price	Peniel Baptist Academy
Skyler Kalaczynski	River Breeze Elementary

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Amend F/Y 2000/2001 Budget– Ruby Williams, Finance Director
- b. Authorize City Manager to execute Palatka Daily News Advertising Contract effective 10-1-02
- c. Surplus metal bookshelves from old Palatka Library
- d. Surplus old fencing at City Lot

Commissioner Azula moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC HEARING – TRIM CALENDAR – Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate (7.8) – Mayor Flagg opened the public hearing. Mr. Bush noted the proposed millage rate is 7.8, which is 9.18% above the rolled-back rate. The budget has been on display for the public during the interim leading up to this meeting. He said now is the time for public input. There being no public comments, Mayor Flagg directed the Clerk to read the ordinances.

ORDINANCE No. 02-08 – 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 2002/2003 in its entirety. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results – Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-09 – 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 AD 2002-2003. Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted.

Mayor Flagg closed the Public Hearing.

APPEAL OF HISTORIC BOARD DECISION – 213 Madison Street – Thomas Pierce, owner – Planning Director Adam Mengel said the Commission's package includes the Clerk's notice of the hearing date stating the appeal was filed, Mr. Pierce's letter of request for an appeal, and two sets of minutes, one from the Historic Preservation Board's meeting of June 6, where it was continued, and from the meeting on August 11. They also have a sketch submitted at the August meeting, and a staff report with exhibits provided by applicant and staff. Exhibit B, page 6 of staff report, shows the posts inside the fire-damaged posts that are the original posts. Exhibit C is a photo of a home in St. Augustine, which looks similar to the proposed re-build on this home. Exhibit D is a narrative from a directory on the home prior to the fire. Exhibit E is a newspaper article following the fire. Exhibit F is a map; Exhibit G & H are master site files. Relevant standards for renovation are listed on Page 2 of his staff report. In their denial of this request for a certificate of appropriateness on the rebuild, the Board cited it failed to meet Standard 4, regarding preserving historically significant property changes, and Standard 6, requiring repairs rather than replacement. The Board noted that no photographic evidence exists that the posts and decorative features ever existed, which would support the re-build as submitted by Mr. Pierce.

Thomas Pierce, 213 Madison Street, said his insurance company declared his fire-damaged house a total loss, but he was not willing to demolish it, so he has spent countless hours trying to restore it. The roof and part of the four large square columns were burned off. When taking down the fire-damaged columns, they found 6 x 6 Victorian chamfered posts with the corners cut inside them. He thought it would be a good thing to go back to the original construction, but the Historic Preservation Board does not agree with him. He would like the Commission to allow him to restore the house to the original condition.

John Trendler, member of Palatka Historic Preservation Board, referred to the minutes of the August meeting, and noted the posts were found under the porch, and it was assumed they were the original porch posts. It was noted the porch was modified around 1950. It is possible that this was only a one-story porch at one time, which is consistent with that type of column. That porch would not be consistent with the porch that is there now. The original columns apparently were part of a one-story porch, and if he is restoring a two-story porch, he should restore the large columns, which were part of the two-story porch. Also, some of the work has already completed. Mayor Flagg said that issue is being dealt with through B&Z. Mr. Trendler said there is no documentary evidence that the porch appeared any other way. Commissioner Norwood asked if they are assuming the posts are not original, or do they know this for certain. Mr. Trendler said there is no documentary evidence that the smaller posts are the original columns. Commissioner Sanders said if these columns were found after the house burned, they must be the original columns. The larger columns were built around them. Commissioner Azula said the B&B has the same columns, and they are acceptable. No one is making them take them down. He does not like to see neighbors fighting over something that will make the City look better. Per the question, Mr. Mengel said they discussed the structural integrity of the porch rebuild as proposed, which centered around the type of materials used. Original hand-milled posts would not be as sturdy, and would need to be engineered individually. Building Codes are outside of this Board's scope. The Building Department would be the final inspection of the building's integrity, and the CO would not be issued if it did not meet Code requirements. Commissioner Brown said the posts Mr. Pierce wants are more attractive, and that should count for something. It looks like an old house. She does not understand why they would not want something as attractive as the B&B across the street. The Historical Board needs to be a little more broad-minded in their thinking. She moved to grant the appeal and overturn the decision of the Historic Preservation Board's Case No. HB 02-12 and issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations to the existing residence at 213 Madison Street, as proposed by Thomas Pierce, owner. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. Mr.

Bush said there appears to be an old door leading to the upstairs balcony, and asked if that isn't enough evidence that there was always a two-story porch on the house. Mr. Pierce said from what he has seen, they hewed and milled the wood on-site and built the house. Everything in the house is 1885 hard pine, right down to the trim. He has seen nothing during the renovation that points to the porch ever being only one story. The posts were inside the columns; they were never underneath the porch. He took a picture of them while they were laying on the ground. Commissioner Azula said they appreciate the work that the appointed Boards do for the City, and don't want to undermine what they do, but sometimes some common sense and compassion should be used in the decision making process. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The Certificate of Appropriateness was granted to Mr. Pierce.

RESOLUTION – The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST A JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LIGHTING CABLE AND CONDUIT FOR RUNWAY 9 AND TAXIWAYS A & B, AND THE REPAIR OF THE AIRPORT DRAINAGE CULVERTS AT PALATKA'S KAY LARKING MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt Resolution 7-91 as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. Resolution No. 7-91 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 SECTION 66-2(b), SETTING FORTH THE TIME FOR THE PLACEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE CONTAINERS AT THE CURB; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on 1st reading as presented. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Commissioner Brown clarified that the cans can be set out the night before for the morning pick up, as long as they are brought in prior to sunset the day of the pick-up. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared passed on 1st reading.

Per Mayor Flagg's question, Sanitation Supervisor Ed Chandler said they begin their commercial pick-up run at 4:00 a.m. Mayor Flagg said commercial pickup begins prior to 4:00 a.m., and he knows this for certain, so they are breaking their own policy. This morning the City trucks definitely began prior to 4:00 a.m. He trusts they will not be breaking their policy again. If it is happening at 3:00 a.m., then this Commission's word means nothing. The residents at KIVA are retired individuals, and they need to be mindful of their needs, even though they are considered a commercial account. Somehow, they need to accommodate them. Per the question, Mr. Holmes said there is nothing in the ordinance specifying commercial pick-up times – only residential. Mayor Flagg said whatever it is, if the policy says 4:00 a.m., it does not need to start earlier. Commissioner Norwood said they need to get someone in there that can enforce the city's policies. Mr. Holmes read the ordinance, which says the times shall be established by the City Manager. He sees nothing else that specifies the time. Section 66-2 specifies that all garbage containers shall be placed at the curb-line by 7:00 a.m. on the user's collection day and removed by sunset on the user's collection day. They just revised that to 6:00 a.m. The ordinance does not specify when the garbage will be collected. Section 66-5 specifies the times will be set by the City Manager. Mr. Bush said he set the time at 4:00 a.m. to give them time to run the route prior to morning commute traffic. Per the question, Mr. Bush said he is satisfied with his authority to set times. They have worked around residential complexes, and deal with them on a case-by-case basis. They just had a case with Palatka Oaks, and changed the pick-up time for them.

Commissioner Norwood said is still getting complaints of garbage trucks speeding through neighborhoods and backing down streets. Mr. Ziem called him earlier today about this. He asked what they are doing to correct the problem, if it is a problem? Mr. Chandler said he has spoken to Mr. Ziem himself and attempted to explain to him that they will deal with these problems through attrition. They are trying to establish the safest and most efficient routes possible, and trying to do as little backing as possible. It is going to take some time, and they are asking for some patience. He has been observing the drivers himself, and he takes all complaints accordingly. They are taking this day-by-

day on a trial-and-error basis for each route. They want to eliminate backing as much as possible. Mayor Flagg said they can be patient, but rather than waiting for them to ask, they would like periodic and timely updates, as this is a hot topic at the present. The best way to talk about this is in a public setting, as the entire Commission is present. Sanitation Staff needs to know first-hand that this is not just coming from ‘those folks down at City Hall.’ They are partners, and want to improve the quality of garbage pick-up throughout the City. If that is the mission, they can wait for the results, but they are not being nit-picky. If that is the consensus, then the City Manager needs to take some action. Commissioner Azula said he sees them still picking up the garbage out of the containers by hand; he cannot believe they do it right in front of him, while he is watching them. He has talked about this many times. Someone is going to get hurt, and he is not going to accept it anymore. The next time he sees it, he is going to stop them himself and hold the truck there until the supervisor comes there to discuss it. They cannot afford these mistakes; insurance costs keep getting higher and higher. Mayor Flagg said they are not in the position to micromanage anyone, and Commissioner Azula should be able to file a written complaint, sign off on it, and turn it in directly to the City Manager to allow him to deal with it with the employee’s supervisor. This Commission has made it clear that safety violations will meet with zero tolerance. They need to break the bad habits or replace some employees. Per the question, Mr. Chandler said Mr. Bush’s instructions to him were that if his employees did not follow the rules and regulations, examples would be made out of them. The same two employees Commissioner Azula is referring to were disciplined. They also stated this would be a joint effort; if anyone sees an employee hand-dumping or hand-picking, they need to report it. Mr. Bush indicated he also needs to follow some of the trucks. Mayor Flagg said they shouldn’t have to bird-dog anyone; if an employee signs off that he understands policy, and then knowingly violates policy, they should become former employees of the City. Mr. Chandler said they also have a commercial rear-end loader out there, and some of those cans must be hand-dumped. They should not be mistaken for residential workers. Mayor Flagg said they will report infractions to the City Manager, who will deal with supervisors and employees. If there is a case of mistaken identity, that can be communicated back to them. This comes up meeting after meeting. Commissioner Sanders said this is not happening all over the City; he knows the trucks that service his neighborhood, and has followed other trucks. They don’t violate policy. It can probably be traced to individuals on specific routes. Mr. Holmes said any employee directive needs to be given to the employees in writing, and be made part of the rules & regulations that they know they have to follow. Mayor Flagg said they need to sign off on this issue so the discussion can be over and done with. Commissioner Norwood said if they won’t sign, the superintendent needs to sign saying they were counseled on it. Mr. Holmes asked if employees can refuse to sign a policy, saying that is insubordination, which is a problem in and of itself. Commissioner Norwood said he has also seen the men pick up bags. He has been reading Safety Committee minutes, and has not attended any, but has not seen this subject come up at a meeting. It needs to come up because it is a safety issue. Insurance cost is one reason they had to raise taxes. Employees need to take an active role in cutting down incidents, and they need to recognize potential incidents in safety meetings. Mr. Bush said the Safety Committee deals with issues on a much broader basis. Each department has its own safety meetings where they sit down with their employees and discuss this type of topic more often. Per the question, Mr. Chandler said they keep minutes of those minutes, and copies are given to the City Manager.

ORDINANCE – the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY RESTATING THE POLICE OFFICERS’ RETIREMENT PLAN IN ITS ENTIRETY; AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF FINAL AVERAGE COMPENSATION; AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF SERVICE; AMENDING CREDITED SERVICE, FORFEITURE AND REINSTATEMENT; AMENDING INTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE; AMENDING THE POLICE OFFICER BENEFIT GROUP PENSION AMOUNT FORMULA; AMENDING THE FORM OF PENSION BENEFIT; AMENDING THE FORMS OF PAYMENT; AMENDING THE DUTY DISABILITY BENEFIT; AMENDING MEMBER SURVIVOR BENEFITS; AMENDING THE MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS; AMENDING REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on 1st reading as presented. Commission Sanders seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading.

ORDINANCE – the Acting Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA REVISING SECTION 2-250, DIVISION 7, OF THE PALATKA MUNICIPAL CODE BY CREATING A POLICE OFFICERS’ EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM; PROVIDING CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION FOR EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM; APPROVING AND ISSUING A STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL IMPACT; APPROVING THE FORM OF AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM; PROVIDING A SAVING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Mayor Flagg noted the staff recommends continuance of this hearing until October 10, 2002. Commissioner Norwood moved to continue this public hearing until October 10, 2002. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The public hearing will be continued on October 10, 2002.

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, 2002, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS RESPECTIVELY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Per the question, Mr. Bush stated the rate revisions for all utilities will raise an addition \$228,061. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders, and Mayor Flagg, Yes, Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted. Commissioner Brown noted the increases on water & sewer rates were made in order to retire the bond debt; they will not continue to raise rates every year.

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, 2002, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS RESPECTIVELY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders, 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, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED BY REVISING APPENDIX “A” TO SECTION 66-9, PROVIDING NEW GARBAGE COLLECTION RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2002; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders, and Mayor Flagg, Yes, Nays, none. The ordinance was declared adopted. Mr. Bush noted this is the first increase in sanitation fees since 1990.

PUBLIC HEARING – Annex, Amend Land Use and Rezone 105, 107 & 109 Underwood Drive – Cherry, Crawford & Crawford Trust, owners

ORDINANCE No. 02-13 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-13 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-14 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND (LESS THAN 10 ACRES IN SIZE) AS DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-14 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-15 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-15 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Annex, Amend Future Land Use and Rezone Lot 26, Orman Leigh Estates (2110 Husson Avenue) – Chavarro & Thomas, Owners.

ORDINANCE No. 02-16 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-16 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-17 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND (LESS THAN 10 ACRES IN SIZE) AS DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-17 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-18 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-18 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Annex, Amend Future Land Use and Rezoning property located at 1020 & 1030 US Hwy 19 South – Coy Alvarez, Owner.

ORDINANCE No. 02-19 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-19 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-20 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND (LESS THAN 10 ACRES IN SIZE) AS DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-20 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-21 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-21 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Amend Future Land Use and Rezone property located at 103 Underwood Drive – Ralph C. Musser, Owner.

ORDINANCE No. 02-22 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND (LESS THAN 10 ACRES IN SIZE) AS DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-22 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 02-23 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-23 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Rezoning block 164, (various addresses bordered by 10th, 11th, Main & Reid Streets), from City C-3 to City C-2 – Plimpton, et at, Agent for Brady Land Trust, owner. Commissioner Brown asked how this change will impact what may be able to locate in this area, which may be a problem for the community down the line. Mayor Flagg said according to the Planning Director, this parcel and others along the north side of Reid Street are more appropriately zoned C-2. Mr. Mengel said it lends itself more to commercial automotive uses, which is included in C-2, versus the C-3 pedestrian-oriented traffic. The Planning Board stated they felt this was a ‘spot zoning’ case, but it is contiguous to C-2 zoning to the North. They would rather see the entire C-2 corridor overlay project be referred to the Downtown Restructuring Committee. C-2 can permit auto body shops and those types of operations. Per the question, this will not change the rest of the corridor, only that one block. Commissioner Brown said she will reluctantly vote in favor of this amendment.

ORDINANCE No. 02-24 – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 42, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-24 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Closing, vacating and abandoning a portion of W. Main Street between Pine & Williams Streets – FP&L, Petitioner.

ORDINANCE No. 02-25– the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING THAT PORTION OF WEST MAIN STREET LOCATED BETWEEN PINE STREET AND WILLIAMS STREET, WITHIN THE CITY OF PALATKA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT FOR MCGREGORS SUBDIVISION, MAP BOOK 2, PAGE 14 OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-25 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Closing, vacating and abandoning a portion of Halsey Street located between Catherine Street and the Seaboard Coastline Railroad Right-of-way – FP&L, Petitioner.

ORDINANCE No. 02-26– the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, CLOSING, VACATING AND ABANDONING THAT PORTION OF HALSEY STREET LOCATED BETWEEN CATHERINE STREET AND THE SEABOARD COAST LINE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY, WITHIN THE CITY OF PALATKA AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT FOR MCGREGORS SUBDIVISION, MAP BOOK 2, PAGE 14 OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-26 was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – Rezoning 1100 Carr Street from City C-3 (central commercial) to City C-2 (intensive commercial) – John L. Wilson, Owner

ORDINANCE No. 02-27- The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 42, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, yes; nays, none. Ordinance No. 02-27 was declared adopted.

PRICE MARTIN CENTER APPLICATION – Mayor Flagg noted the most currently revised application was submitted with the agenda. Chief Getchell passed out language to be inserted on the 2nd page. He said this was discussed in the Committee as it relates to closing an event that is in violation of the rules. They don't want just any city employee to close an event; rather, they should bring the violations to the attention of the PD, who will take care of matters, and who make sure the proper report comes to City Hall. Mayor Flagg said the form utilizing the check-off format is user-friendlier. There was discussion over verbiage – to RENT or to LEASE. The address of the facility should be added. A copy of the 501-C status should be submitted with the application. Per the question, only individuals who claim to be a non-profit group have to submit proof of status; only if they plan to charge admission or take fees or donations as a condition of entrance. Commissioner Azula asked how this would affect groups that hold their club meetings at the facility and sell drinks to their membership during the meetings. They have been doing this all along. Mr. Holmes said without knowing the circumstances or the organization, technically, if it is a contribution in that you are paying a price for a portion of a bottle of alcohol, they are in effect selling alcohol without a license to do so, which is a violation of state beverage code. The way he reads this, unless you have a license to sell alcohol, you cannot sell alcohol there period. You cannot even give it away free. Commissioner Azula said if that is the case, this will affect the Bronson House, also. Mr. Holmes said unless the rule is 'hard and fast' you will have a hard time distinguishing between clubs that don't break rules, such as Rotary, and clubs that you are trying to police, like the Basketball club. Per the question, Mr. Holes said you can make different rules for different city-owned properties, so long as whatever rules you pass are legal. Chief Getchell said when they began this process the intent was not to eliminate alcohol at Price Martin or any other facility; the intent was to create legislation or rules that can be enforced as they apply to people charging for admission and alcohol. If a wedding has an open bar, they don't have an issue with that. They do have issues with people charging cover charges and selling drinks, which does violate state statutes.

If there is a club charging for drinks, even on a contribution basis, it is still selling drinks, and you can't do it unless you have a liquor license. If they allow clubs to circumvent state statute, that is not right, especially when there are other clubs such as VFW that do follow the statutes and pay the state fees for their licensing. They don't want to stop weddings; they want to stop illegal activity and those who are taking advantage of the City's facilities. Mr. Bush said you don't need a license if you are holding a wedding and you have a champagne fountain or whatever.

Mr. Holmes suggested adding the following verbiage: "Alcoholic beverages are permitted on the premises only in the following circumstances. 1) When served free of charge at invitation-only events, to which no admission, price, fee or donation is charged; or 2) At invitation-only events that have hired an approved commercial caterer with an alcoholic beverage license." This would allow clubs to hold invitation-only events there and serve liquor, which they don't charge for, and don't charge admission. Per the question, Chief Getchell said he has no problem with that language. Mr. Holmes said he will dictate this language and send it to City Hall tomorrow to be included in the application. Per the question, Ms. Driggers said Mr. Norton's staff will set the room up for these events if requested, but if they want it arranged a certain way or want a specific number of chairs, they have to let him know at least 3 days in advance. Mayor Flagg said they should submit their seating requirements at the time of applications. Per discussion, the facility will close at midnight, so clean-up should be done prior to midnight. If someone needs a variance, they should come to the Commission and ask for it. Mayor Flagg said the interim policy is sufficient for now, and they can address these changes at the next meeting. Commissioner Brown moved to table approval of the Price Martin Center Application to a time certain of October 12, 2002. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

YEAR-END SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM – Mr. Bush said the attachment (filed) reflects the recommendation of the safety committee. The year-end bonus used to be a safety bonus, but they got away from that and it became a Christmas bonus. The safety Committee recommends going back to a safety bonus as an incentive. Commissioner Norwood asked what they have done to actually have an impact on improving safety. Mr. Bush said they have done quite a bit. The Safety Committee has made good progress; they have recently redone all the forms, making them easier to fill out. All the departments have individual safety meetings. They do stress safety, and a good example is this year's claims experience. It is tremendously improved over previous years. Per discussion, Commissioner Norwood said he asked that the number of accident-free days be posted at each department, and was told it would be. He has not seen it anywhere. Mr. Bush said it is posted for City Hall right outside the door. They were put up in each department. Per questions put to dept. heads, some departments do have them posted; it is not posted at the City Lot. Mr. Bush said the safety meetings with the employees are obviously having a good effect. They are definitely thinking safety; the results speak for themselves. There are other things they can do; this is an on-going process. The Safety Committee is making good progress. Ms. Driggers said the City has gone from a 157% loss ratio four years ago to a less than 50% loss ratio for the year now ending on worker compensation. Four years ago the liability loss ratio was over 100%; at the end of the third quarter of this year, the loss ratio was at 9%, which is almost unheard of. Mayor Flagg said just because we are better than we used to be does not mean we are where we should be. Everyone has to be conscious of it; even though they are better, this still should not be the destination. There is always room for improvement. A person at the City Lot should be able to see the loss record when they drive up on the premises, and not have to go to a bulletin board to find it. They don't want this excellent record by default; they want people to think safety in every department. Per the question, Mr. Bush said knowing where they stand claims-wise is not a problem; he can get that on any given day. Ms. Driggers said the safety committee's focus is on being proactive. If any of the Commission would like to sit in on a meeting, they hold them monthly at City Hall, 3rd Thursday at 10:00. They have come up with numerous inspection and incentive programs. At the last meeting the Commission approved a reimbursement program, which is punitive, and requires employees to get involved in the cost of their own carelessness, so the taxpayer is not footing the entire bill. The program before them now is a bonus award for those employees who do consider safety first. The Committee is trying to be very proactive, and they are not happy with their numbers even though they are greatly improved. They would like to have 0% claims experience. Mr. Bush said they are doing everything Mayor Flagg has mentioned, but the problem seems to be that the Commission is not as informed as it should be. Mayor Flagg said he wants to know how the rank & file is being made to be safety conscious. When he worked with FP&L, they dealt with safety issues every day. There are things they can do to enhance their safety

record, and these things need to trickle down to every employee of the City. Mr. Bush said a thorough investigation is done first by the supervisor and then by the Safety Committee on each accident to determine if it was preventable, or who/what caused it. Mayor Flagg said if the bonus is given around Christmas time, you are creating a problem with morale at a time when people need to be joyous and happy. If the cut-off date is the end of the fiscal year, you should give the bonus sometime after October 1, rather than Christmas. Mr. Bush said they can consider giving the bonus at a time other than Christmas, such as before Thanksgiving, and then move the Thanksgiving Turkey bonus to Christmas, so people will still be getting a bonus of some type at Christmas. An explanation should go to employees in advance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Planning Director Adam Mengel said the Planning Board will hold its next meeting on October 1 here at City Hall. Among the items on the Agenda is the revision of the sign chapter of the Code, the revision of C-3 zoning chapter, a revision of the code addressing roadside vending, and special and temporary sales. There is also a re-zoning of a non-conforming commercial single-family residence on St. Johns Avenue just west of Moseley. There will be no Historic Board meeting as no cases are pending. The BZOA will hold their meeting on the 10th at 4:00 in this room. They will hear three variance request cases. Commissioner Brown said at one time they talked about allowing apartments in the upstairs portions of the downtown buildings. This was a recommendation given by the Economic Development Committee several years ago. Mr. Mengel said they will be discussing this at the Planning Board meeting. Commissioner Brown said she has been speaking a person who owns a chain of stores about opening a small grocery store downtown, and this was one of their concerns. It would create more business during the evening. Mayor Flagg said they need to sit down annually and have a City Commission/Planning Board joint workshop so that they can discuss shared vision.

Mr. Mengel said the Joint Planning Agreement with the County is not a dead issue; presently the County is still going through their land development revisions. They will resume with joint planning after that process is completed.

Mr. Mengel said this month Sonic Drive-In Restaurant is opening, Dollar Tree is moving to their new store, Beall's Outlet is opening, and the new Super Walmart is getting close to their opening. Commissioner Norwood asked where they are with the ordinance banning 18-wheelers from residential neighborhoods. Mr. Mengel said he had been working with Sgt. Fells on that, and Chief Getchell has probably not been involved in that. He will get with him on this, or get back with Sgt. Fells. It has gone through a Planning Board review, but there are other steps that need to be taken as far as enforcement goes. Commissioner Norwood said a trailer is being parked just off 19th Street on the old CSX property that runs past the old Pic-N-Save. Mr. Mengel said he does not know who owns that truck, and was not aware of it. He will look into it.

Police Chief Gary Getchell had nothing to report.

Fire Marshall John Holley, on behalf of Fire Chief Venables, had nothing to report.

City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers said she has made all the arrangements for their attendance at the November Legislative Conference in Orlando, and if anyone is unable to attend, they need to let her know before October 30 so they can get refunds on their registration fees. On Monday Morning Sonic will hold a grand-opening breakfast at 8:30 a.m., which they are all invited to. Mayor Flagg asked, in reference to a meeting being set up at the Train Station in the morning, why meetings are being set up before anyone asks if they are available. Ms. Driggers answered she did not set that meeting up, but was passing on information given to her by Mr. Norton. She was not aware if someone had scheduled it with them or not. Mr. Norton said he thought the meeting was a good idea. Mayor Flagg said he does not have a problem with them going through the building one at a time, but they are trying to comply with sunshine laws here, and sometimes they are not all available at once. They should give the Commission advance notice before they go public saying the Commission is going to be somewhere.

City Manger Allen R. Bush said next Thursday at 5:00 p.m. they will be interviewing finalists for Golf Pro in front of the City Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Brown:

- Said the NEFRPC is getting down to their final draft in getting their information in on the seven-county area that will make it easier for them to get grants from the Dept. of Commerce/ EDA. She left a copy of the rough draft with Mr. Mengel, if any of them want to see it.
- Said the River Navigator and Chamber of Commerce are trying to get together to take two weeks during May to hold a RiverFest to promote the St. Johns River heritage. If the City wants to participate, they will be happy to include them. They are looking to bring attention to the river. One of the weeks will be during Crab Festival.
- Asked Mr. Bush if everyone is getting their 5% raise this year, even the civilians at the PD. Some of them have worked in the office for a long time. They gave up their raises so everyone could have a 5% raise. Mr. Bush said they actually did a little better than 5% for the PD. Chief Getchell said he would have to go back and check the non-sworn salaries to see if anyone had topped out and not been placed into a grade that would allow 5% raises.

Commissioner Azula:

- Said he toured the Train Station today as he couldn't do it tomorrow. It is difficult for him to get off work for things unless he is aware at least a month in advance.
- Said when people out rent Ravine Gardens, or the Armory, or Bronson House, or other such places, they don't just hand the keys over to someone with no employee there to supervise. They should not do it with Price Martin. They should have an employee there during events. They need to look into getting an employee to be present during events at the Price Martin Center. It is standard practice at any building that can be rented for an affair. This is just common sense. Mr. Bush said that position should have been funded during budget workshops, which is the time to talk about those types of positions. If the Commission wants to place a person there during events, they should build their salary into the fees that are charged for the rental. They can be paid on a contractual basis, as they are needed for events. Mr. Bush said the City can't afford to place an employee in every situation, but if the renters will pay for it, they can. It can be added to the cost.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said he will be attending the Environmental Quality Meeting on the 11th, and one of the things they will be discussing is a Reverse Osmosis water system, which is something the City should be interested in. Mr. Bush said they are working on getting a reverse osmosis system in at the WTP now. Commissioner Norwood said they also need to talk about what they are going to do with the waste water that comes off the system; he suggested Mr. Bush sit down and talk with him before he leaves so he can take the City's position to that meeting. Mr. Bush said they have talked about selling the excess to G-P.

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said he received a letter from the Florida League of Cities appointing him to the Criminal Justice Committee. He has served on this committee in the past and has served as its Chairman. He is anxious to get back on that.
- Said he has agreed to serve on the Board of the Putnam County Historical Society.

Mayor Flagg:

- Said the Clerk is overwhelmed with a lot of activities, and is working with an outdated and antiquated piece of recording equipment. This equipment is likely to fail in the middle of a meeting. They are still getting lengthy minutes. Although this is not a budgeted item, they need to replace the equipment. He asked what happened after the BIS recording equipment demonstration. Ms. Driggers said when the 5-year plan was completed, this item ended up in the 2003-04 budget year. Mayor Flagg said the Company can probably work with them on a payment plan, but they need to do something now. They will still have the old system as a back-up.
- Said some of the staff feels that the Commission was not supportive of them or their position concerning an issue dealing with the Price Martin Center. It was not a matter of the Commission supporting a citizen over the staff, but because they were doing revisions that affected the usage and utilization of the Center, they sided with what they felt was the best course so that they would not be put in that position again. This is not a finger-pointing Commission. No one that comes before them is on trial. No one should feel dread that they have to come before this Commission.

- Said the trees along St. Johns Avenue have been allowed to grow in whatever direction they want to grow in, and some of the trees are actually growing against the buildings. He asked if the City has any liability if the trees create a mildew problem. Mr. Bush said Mr. Norton's crew does have an active trimming program in order to keep them trimmed back so they do not create problems. Mayor Flagg said some of the trees are just growing all over the place, and asked if they are just doing minimum trimming due to the limited staff. Mr. Norton said in the winter, usually January, they do the main trimming; during Spring and Summer they trim the limbs and leaves out of the roadway. They trim them pretty much all year long. Mayor Flagg said they do not seem to have any uniform shape to them.
- On Monday he will represent the City of Palatka at a Transportation Round Table meeting in St. Johns County. Either he needs to meet with Mr. Mengel prior to the meeting, or he may need to accompany him to the meeting. Mr. Bush said he planned to send Mr. Mengel to the meeting. Mayor Flagg said they can ride together.
- Mayor Flagg said even though this Commission has no direct authority over the High-rise, it seems that every week some issue arises. It needs to be clear that HUD owns that facility, and not the City of Palatka. They are certainly looking to enhance downtown redevelopment, and he knows there was a study put out about the catalyst for that redevelopment, and there was some planning done prior to his coming back onto the Commission. He needs to know where the Commission stands. There are rumors on the street that the Commission just wants that place to go away. It is HUD's building and they are the entity that declares it obsolete or not. There is nothing that he knows of that gives the City any authority to tell HUD what to do with their facility. A lot of these plans were in motion prior to his coming back to the Commission. He has not heard this Commission discuss the issue since he has been back. The Downtown redevelopment plans need to be moving along regardless of whether the building is coming down or not. They need to plan for either scenario. Commissioner Azula said the consultant that came and made a report to the Commission. He recommended utilizing both the 100 block and the high-rise block, saying the high-rise should be relocated and the current building demolished. The Housing Authority Board met with the Commission to talk about vacating the high-rise and giving it to the City. Mr. Bush said this began way back when they did the EC/EZ application. One concern was the condition of the high-rise. An application was prepared that demonstrated that the building was obsolete. Someone may now be questioning that determination, but the application was submitted. It was rejected the first time. Now the Housing Authority has to demonstrate that its first decision, that the building was obsolete and needs to come down, was justified. Hopefully, HUD will reverse themselves and allow them to go forward. Mayor Flagg said he was told that the Housing Authority people felt pressured by the City to do away with the building. He does not know about any meeting that he has attended that the City has put any pressure on anyone about this. He is not aware of this Commission telling anyone at the Housing Authority, who does not have the authority to get rid of a facility, to do away with it. Mr. Bush said the Housing Authority can't just get rid of a building. They have to submit a detailed application demonstrating the obsolescence of the building. That is why the application was rejected the first time. There was a question about certain dollar figures, which is something the Housing Authority needs to clarify. They can either bring in experts who can confirm the application, or come up with some new figures. Commissioner Brown said they have done study after study on what to do with the waterfront. If it does or doesn't come down, the Downtown has to be revitalized, and that is the Commission's focus. Mr. Bush said the original EC/EZ application goes back to before the City bought the 100 block. Mayor Flagg said at one time the High-rise was being emptied, but he understands now it is full again. He wants to know what the City's involvement is with this. Mr. Bush said the City's position is a "wait and see" position. They are going forward with a master plan right now. He agrees with the earlier assessment, that the building is not suitably placed, and should be somewhere else, but that is his personal opinion. The people they now need to convince are at HUD.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 upon a motion by Commissioner Brown.