

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 9th day of October, 2003.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Hernan Azula

Also Present: City Manager Allen R. Bush, City Attorney Donald E. Holmes, City Clerk Betsy J. Driggers, Police Chief Gary Getchell, Fire Chief Ken Venables, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton

INVOCATION - The Reverend Pat Davidson, Pastor; First Baptist Church of Palatka

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Joyce Conlee

Commissioner Brown noted she did not attend the 9/25 meeting due to a trip to Washington

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 9/25/03 - Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Mayor Flagg recognized County Commissioner Linda Myers' presence in the audience.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

LIFE SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - accepted by Fire Chief Ken Venables, received from the Residential Life Safety Institute. Their Department has received this because no residents died in fires in Palatka last year.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - Rudolph Peshera - Mayor Flagg presented Mr. Peshera with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the 3 years he spent as an alternate on the Code Enforcement Board

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - John Vogt - Mayor Flagg acknowledged Mr. Vogt's 3 years' service on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Vogt was not in attendance to accept.

PROCLAMATION - Mayor Flagg read a proclamation naming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Accepting were Lee Conlee Domestic Violence Shelter Board Members Linda Myers, Mary Lazzaro, Joyce Conlee, Linda & Doc Lansford, Betsy Driggers, and Executive Director Shandra Riffey.

NEFLC TRANSPORTATION AWARD - Commissioner Brown noted that Palatka has received a Transportation Award from the NEFLC for the Train Depot. Commissioner Myers noted that an awards ceremony will be held on Friday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at World Golf Village. Mayor Flagg read the awards notification, intended to recognize the establishment of Putnam County's first intermodal transportation center.

PROCLAMATION - National Work and Family Month - October, 2003 read by Mayor Flagg.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Ratify Professional Firefighters of Palatka Contract Agreement for 10/1/03 – 9/30/06, per negotiations between Union Representatives and Allen R. Bush, City Manager
- b. Authorize Request for Extension Letter for CDBG#02DB-89-04-64-02-N15, Water Reuse Project, to December 30, 2004, from December 30, 2003.
- c. Continue 8/21/03 Agenda Item, "\$1.00/year Leases" to 10/23/03.

d. Continue 8/21/03 Agenda Item, "Putnam County Scholarship Fund, Inc. Lease" to 10/23/03.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the consent agenda as recommended; Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

ORDINANCE - Special Events - the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, CREATING A NEW SECTION ENTITLED SPECIAL EVENTS; PROVIDING FOR IN GENERAL WHICH INCLUDES INTENT, PERMIT REQUIRED AND DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL EVENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL EVENT SCHEDULE OF FEES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on First Reading as read. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.

The Reverend Bob Bronkema, 105 Atkins Lane, E. Palatka, asked as to Class A permits on page two, reference amplified sound, appreciates the reference to no amplified sound on Sunday before 12:30. The past few years there has been a carnival running before that time on Sundays with a train taking small children up and down Memorial & First, which disturbs Sunday morning services. There is no language to address it. Per the question, Chief Venables said this is not the Fire Department's children's train. Main Street Manager Cathy Nagengast said as she will make a note about this and as she reviews the applications and during the pre-assessment meeting, she will address it. Discussion ensued on how to address this in the ordinance. Mr. Holmes said if the activity violates the noise ordinance, then the City should not allow any exception for noise prior to that time on Sunday. If it doesn't violate the noise ordinance, they can't stop it. Mayor Flagg said this could just be an education process, and asked if they can address this under the permitting. Commissioner Brown said there should be stipulation that events cannot commence before 12:30. The Clerk said festivals are not allowed to use their noise ordinance exception prior to 12:30. They can open the festival and do things that do not create amplified noise. Rev. Bronkema said in the past they have handled it informally by asking them not to run the train until after services have ended. Mr. Bush said they can address this in the application process. Mr. Holmes said they can prohibit motorized activities prior to 12:30 so as not to disrupt church services in the application process, but he doesn't see any reason to address it in the ordinance

There being no further discussion a roll-call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Brown - yes; Norwood - yes, Sanders - yes, Mayor Flagg - yes. Passed on first reading.

FISH! VIDEO - Betsy Driggers made a presentation on the Fish! Philosophy and customer service training program (filed) and an introductory video was shown to the Commission and audience. The advantage to this customer service training program is that it can be done in house at a much lower cost than sending people to seminars. Mayor Flagg said attitude determines altitude. Everyone has a choice to make their day what they want it to be. If this promotes good attitude and customer service, they want to be second to none. This is a good program and should be utilized by the City. Each department head should be a part of the facilitator's training and can customize it to fit his/her department's needs. The Commission came to a consensus to purchase the program.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Brown:

- Said she was away the last meeting, and wants it reflected in the minutes that they all miss Commissioner Azula's presence tonight.
- Said in checking her schedule, she has a conflict with the November 20th meeting. She would appreciate it if they could move that meeting to another date. They can address this at the next meeting.

- Said she distributed information she brought back from her trip to Washington, D.C., Black Caucus and League Insurance Trust meetings. Most important is the list of important contacts. Congressman Mica invited three of them out of the 40 who attended to breakfast at the Capitol, and she was one of those three. She had a good conversation about the Airport, homeland security, Ice-TEA money, and the e-commerce bill. The e-commerce bill passed the House, and cities were upset about its passage. They had a good opportunity to lobby the Senate on that issue.
- Said she was not here, but received a phone call letting her know that she was reelected without opposition. She appreciates the opportunity to serve the Citizens of Palatka and the employees of the City, who have shown her great support and cooperation, and looks forward to the next four years. Mayor Flagg thanked her for her international representation of the City of Palatka.

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said the Fall Antiques & Art Fair will be held November 8 at the Bronson Mulholland House. So far 27 vendors have signed up, and they are looking for a good turn-out. He hopes to see the rest of the Commission there.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said the water fights wars have begun, and they all need to be advocates for Palatka and North Florida. As South and Central Florida begin having water shortages, they will be pushing for legislation affecting all cities in Florida, especially water-rich north Florida. Commissioner Brown said the NEFLC has directed Brian Teeple to look at ways to keep the Legislature away from our water sources. Mayor Flagg asked Mr. Bush to put together a resolution supported by the Northeast Florida League of Cities' members to send to the Legislature to let them know our position. Commissioner Norwood said the County is looking at water rights and places to draw water from, and believes the City should be part of those discussions. Mayor Flagg said when the County gets to that point with SJRWMD, they will be looking for the City to send representation. They will know the issues well in advance.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR