

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 22nd day of January, 2004.

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

Also present: City Manager Allen R. Bush; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Ruby M. Williams; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Ken Venables; Planning Director Adam Mengel, Airport Manager Mike Cavello, Main Street Manager Cathy Nagengast

INVOCATION - The Reverend Clarence Mallory, Jr., Pastor; Bethlehem Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Patrick Alexander

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 1/8/04 - Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

2003 POLICE DEPT. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - Anne Keyes was presented with a plaque recognizing her as Police Department Citizen of the Year 2003. She was selected by the members of the PD and is a consistent community activist.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - Planning Director Adam Mengel joined Mayor Flagg in awarding Pam Sprouse, Building Permit Clerk, with a gift certificate, City lapel pin and Certificate of Recognition as January, 2004 Employee of the Month.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH - January, 2004

Commissioner Sanders joined Mayor Flagg in recognizing the following students for academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at their respective schools:

Kenny Merritts	Beasley Middle School
Corey Davis	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Terren Evans	Central Academy School of Excellence
Ja'Quette Jackson	Children's Reading Center
Nathan Brinker	E. H. Miller School
Joshua Nyberg	James A. Long Elementary School
Erin Kennedy	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Kymara T. Boyd	Mellon Elementary School
Johnathan Neely	Moseley Elementary School
Bailey Pickens	Palatka High School
Brooke Wannamaker	Peniel Baptist Academy
Antonio McRae	River Breeze Elementary

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, invited the Commission to the Main Street Promotions Committee meetings each Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. at the Main Street Office. Downtown Palatka, Inc. Merchants Association is re-forming and will be having their first meeting on Monday at 6:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. They will be e-mailing the Commission members their agendas as well as minutes of their meetings.

Clint Snyder, 3400 Crill Avenue, Conlee Mural Committee, thanked the Commission for their \$1,000 contribution for f/y 2003/04. Half of that money is going to Visit Florida USA and brochures for distribution at the various visitors' and welcome centers around Florida. They printed 20,000 of the new brochures. Various murals are in different stages of development.

Mr. Snyder noted that the Commission is seeking new names for the Village Recreation Center building. He submitted the name of H. S. MacKenzie, who is the longest-serving

senator on record. Mayor Flagg asked him to put that in writing and submit it to the Clerk for consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Authorize the City Manager to negotiate with Passero Associates for Airport Engineering Consulting Services;
- b. Authorize City Manager to negotiate with EMS for Airport Stormwater Master Plan Engineering Services.

Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

NEW AIRPORT ENGINEERS - Mike Cavello introduced Andrew Holesko with Passero Associates. They are currently in contract negotiations. He also thanked the members of the Airport Consultation Committee for their work in choosing these engineering firms.

Andrew Holesko, Passero Associates, Fernandina Beach, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve the City of Palatka. There was a lot of good 2-way communications between his firm and the advisory committee. This seems to be a good fit. He lives very near Palatka, just outside Green Cove Springs, and plans to visit Palatka often.

RESOLUTION - The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST A SUPPLEMENTAL JOINT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR UPGRADES TO THE FUEL FARM AND RELATED PUMPING EQUIPMENT, TO INCLUDE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A 12,000 GALLON FUEL TANK AND REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF EXISTING TANKS AT PALATKA'S KAY LARKIN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the Resolution as presented. 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. Resolution No. 7-116 was declared adopted.

RESOLUTION - The Clerk read a Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$700,000; PLEDGING THE CITY'S "UTILITY ENTERPRISE FUND" AS THE SOURCE OF REPAYMENT OF SAID LOAN; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE REQUIRED ASSURANCES TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS THE CITY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN CARRYING OUT THE CITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE LOAN AGREEMENT. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the Resolution as amended, showing the amount of the loan to be \$736,000 in the title and paragraph 2. 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. Resolution No. 7-117 was declared adopted.

Mr. Bush said the reason for the loan was due to moving the effluent disposal site to the golf course, which meant rebuilding the sprinkler lines and pond at the golf course, a longer line and some additional treatment. This accounts for the additional plant.

WWTP UPGRADES BID AWARD - Mr. Bush said the low bid on the WWTP Upgrades is \$925,000 from Medders Construction, Inc., which includes a new filter, splitter box, transfer and other pertinent parts. The engineers also recommend bid alternate B, an allowance program, which amounts to a contingency. The total award recommended is \$925,000 to Medders Construction Company. This includes everything but the pond, which the loan will target. He is requesting the award of this bid item be added to the Agenda as an emergency item, as they need to get this project started as soon as possible. Commissioner Azula moved to add the award of bid on WWTP upgrades to the agenda as an emergency item. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Sanders moved to award the bid for WWTP upgrades to

Medders Construction in the amount of \$925,000. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

RESOLUTION - Mr. Bush read his memorandum into the record. He recommends the amendment of the Golf Advisory Board to include 2 representatives from the PMGA, 2 representatives from the PWGA and 2 representatives from the PSGA (Seniors).

The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THAT CERTAIN RESOLUTION NO. 2-35, ADOPTED JULY 26, 1979, ESTABLISHING THE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the Resolution 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. Resolution No. 7-118 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE Regulating Private Alarm Systems - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATELY OWNED ALARM SYSTEMS; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR REGISTRATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS; ESTABLISHING DUTIES OF ALARMS USERS AND ALARM COMPANIES; PROVIDING FOR FEES AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved the pass the ordinance on 2nd reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion.

Abe Alexander, Safe Touch Security, P.O. Box 224, Palatka, said it has been several months since they began meeting at the PD on this ordinance. At that time, he proposed an educational approach, and is now requesting the same. He challenges the City on two items the Chief cited as reasons for needing this ordinance. It was made clear at a prior meeting that there are nowhere near 72 alarm providers in the City, and the \$100,000 cost was inflated 500%. He cannot endorse any other game plan. He was not fooled or misled just because this information came from Chief Getchell. This commission must do some soul-searching. He said many decisions this commission has made are demonized decisions, and he cited some of those decisions he believes were demonized. He read a letter from his supervisors stating it was not their wish to travel to Palatka to speak on this item, but did so at the behest of city officials per their telephone requests. This carries him back to the 1960's.

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 APPOINTMENTS

Boards, Committees and Committee Liaisons - Mayor Flagg said each of them represent the City in various capacities. Now is the time to decide if appointments should be made as they were previously, or if someone would like to change their assignments (list of current appointments filed). Commissioner Brown said Lefty Turner Park does not have a working committee anymore, so that can be deleted from the books. She has been appointed to the St. Johns River Heritage Committee. She would like that appointment noted on this list.

PENSION BOARD - Current appointments: General - Mayor Flagg; Police - Commissioner Norwood; Fire - Commissioner Azula. All expressed a desire to remain as appointed. Commissioner Sanders said he would like to serve on a pension board. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Commissioner Sanders to the Fire Pension Board, Commissioner Norwood to the General Pension Board, and Mayor Flagg to the Police Pension Board, all for two-year terms ending January, 2006. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

LIAISONS - City of Palatka Boards & Committees - Commissioner Azula said he would like to remain as liaison to the Golf Course Advisory Board. Commissioner Sanders said he would like to remain as liaison to the Tree Committee. Commissioner Brown said she would like to be appointed as liaison to the CDBG Citizens Advisory Task Force, a

position currently held by Commissioner Sanders. She would like to get them looking at housing. Commissioner Sanders said he would like to remain as liaison to the Airport Advisory Committee. Commissioner Brown said she would like to add Greenways and Trails Liaison to this list. Jeff Norton goes to those meetings, and she would also like to attend, as she has worked on local and state committees and lobbied for land to put this system in place. Mayor Flagg said he already sits on the Tourist Development Council as well, and would like that to be a part of this motion. Commissioner Norwood moved to make commissioner appointments as listed. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUTNAM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - One year terms - Mayor Flagg, Commissioners Brown and Azula currently serving. Meetings called as necessary, usually held at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Azula noted he has a conflict with that time and is unable to attend those meetings. Commissioner Norwood moved to appoint Mayor Flagg and Commissioners Brown and Norwood as Commission appointees to the Putnam County Development Authority. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUTNAM COUNTY RECREATION COMMITTEE - Commissioner Norwood said he would like to remain as Commission Representative.

PUTNAM/CLAY/FLAGLER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL - Commissioner Norwood noted he is the current appointee, but has a scheduling conflict with these meetings and can no longer serve. Commissioner Sanders volunteered to serve in this capacity.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE - Commissioner Brown said she would like to remain as appointee.

SJRWMD LIAISON - Commissioner Azula said he would like to remain as liaison. Per the question, Mayor Flagg said when other appointments come up they can be added to this list.

Commissioner Sanders said he would like a report on these meetings at commission meetings. This should be a written report given to each commissioner as a part of the agenda. Mayor Flagg said a copy of the minutes from the meetings should serve this purpose. If there are no minutes, a short memorandum should serve. Commissioner Norwood moved to appoint himself as commission representative to the Putnam County Recreation Committee; Commissioner Sanders as commission representative to the Putnam/Clay/Flagler Economic Development Council Board of Directors; Commissioner Brown as commission representative on the NE Florida Regional Planning Council; and Commissioner Azula as commission liaison to the SJRWMD Board of Directors. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Police Chief Getchell - Scooter update - Chief Getchell said 25 people attended the meeting at Price Martin Center, and no one attended the meeting at James A. Long Elementary School. 15 people attended the update meeting. A large part of the discussion centered around retailers not informing buyers of the laws prior to their purchase. A group even suggested that the City either purchase the scooters back from them or designate an area for scooter riding. He advised this group to propose these suggestions to the Commission. Chief Getchell suggested that the Commission, as a local elected body, may want to write a position paper for the Legislature on how they believe legislation should proceed. The PD is currently looking at options for providing a place for children to ride and plan to bring back an option within the next 4 - six weeks. They have had no complaints since the meeting.

Commissioner Azula said he had a close call last night with a child on a scooter who flew out in front of him while driving in his neighborhood. Chief Getchell said they are taking an educational approach; they are stopping people on scooters, talking to parents and passing out flyers. These are new items; as time passes, these issues will go away.

One of his officers has written a citation to a 12-year old who tried to flee when the officer tried to stop him. If the Commission wants to take a position on this, now is the time. Mr. Bush said insurance is the problem with scooter parks, just as it is a problem with skateboard parks. If this is what the City wants to do, it should be a joint effort between the various cities and the County Recreation Department. It is too much for smaller cities to take on. Chief Getchell said they are reaching out to other entities to determine if they have a place for these scooters. The feedback he has heard is that the municipalities should provide facilities for people to ride scooters. They are going to try to make these arrangements. At this point, they are stopping offenders and working with parents.

Commissioner Brown said Greenways & Trails is currently looking at bike paths, and the City has previously looked at bike paths, but many city streets are too narrow. She asked if they can designate a pathway for bikes and scooters. Chief Getchell said the Weed & Seed process is exploring that possibility. Much of this is going to depend upon how the legislature defines scooters. Mayor Flagg asked Mr. Bush to discuss this issue with the regional and state League of Cities; this may be a legislative issue for the League. It is certainly a public safety issue. Commissioner Sanders asked if children are going to be allowed to move scooters under power from their homes to this designated site. Chief Getchell said at this point it is not legal. Mr. Bush said they have already looked at something similar to this with skateboards; there are many requirements that must be met.

Fire Captain Randy Porter - Said Fire Marshal Holley has elected to retire at the end of this month. Interviews were held before a panel of professionals, and Mark Lynady has accepted an offer to succeed him as the new Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal Holley's official last day of work will be in March, but he will be on vacation after January 30. His retirement party is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on January 30th at the Kay Larkin Station.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said he attended the Putnam County Fire Service Task Force Meeting wherein they presented the final report. Captain Porter made a very good presentation, as did Chief Venables. The report was outstanding and quite extensive.
- Said Woodmen of the World presented the Airport with a very large flag, which was raised yesterday. He has asked for another flag. He'd like a letter to go to the Woodmen association for this and prior flags they have donated.
- Said he spoke with a Brinks Security representative this past week who informed him that most cities have a false alarm regulation ordinance, so this is not a new thing.

Commissioner Brown:

- Said she attended a Heritage River meeting yesterday and heard an update on the raising of the Shands River Bridge. There was opposition from Clay County who said it would disrupt their boat traffic. Commissioner Sanders said the boat repair industry wants to move away from Jacksonville and go further south, creating a shortage of boat repair businesses. The Shands bridge prevents larger boats from moving south down the river, and was purposely built that way due to the construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. The FDOT also wanted to build Palatka's current bridge low so as to restrict traffic, but Congressman Bennett interceded on Palatka's behalf and prevented it.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said due to the weather, the MLK parade and celebration was rescheduled for this Saturday. They will begin lining up for the parade at 9:30 a.m. After the parade, a formal program and celebratory events will take place at Lefty Turner Park. He is unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Mayor Flagg:

- Said he noted the January expiration of Gary Nilsson's term on the Fire Pension Board and asked when that will be addressed. The Clerk answered she will advertise for applicants and it will be addressed at the next commission meeting in February. She has notified Mr. Nilsson that he needs to come in and fill out an application for reappointment. The next Pension Board meetings are scheduled for February 17.

- Said the FDOT has scheduled workshops for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the plans for the Strategic Intermodal System. They need to coordinate their attendance with Putnam County to ensure proper representation and to show a united front by attending these meetings together. Their issues and needs are the same.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Azula.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR