

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of Palatka, Florida held on the 12th day of February, 2004.

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

INVOCATION - The Reverend Charles Smith, Pastor; Church of God of Prophecy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Constance Belton-Snyder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 1/22/04 - Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

PROCLAMATION - C. S. Belton Family - In honor of Black History Month, Mayor Flagg read a Proclamation honoring the C. S. Belton Family, who have made a significant contribution to Palatka's cultural and historical Black History.

PROCLAMATION - Step Up, Florida! - Mayor Flagg read a proclamation designating February 23, 2004 as Step Up! Florida Day, and presented it to David Kastenschmitz, Putnam County Health Department Representative. Step Up, Florida! is a non-competitive physical activity event with a goal to increase physical activity among Florida citizens. The City has put together a team to participate in this on Monday morning, February 23.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Concur on appointment of Jeff Norton to 2-yr. term on Employees Pension Board;
- b. Concur on appointment of James Griffith to a 2-year term on Police Pension Board;
- c. Appoint Jud Neufeld as Pilot Representative and Nick Florentine as at-large citizen representative on Airport Advisory Board;
- d. Approve \$6,900 addendum to David Church Construction's contract to renovate West Oak Hill Cemetery Office/Restrooms
- e. Execute Master Consulting Service Agreement with Passero Associates, LLC for Kay Larkin Airport Engineering Services;

- f. Approve Change Order #2 in the amount of \$1,625 to Armstrong Contracting Services' contract for Old Palatka Water Works Phase II renovation;
- g. Authorize execution of a release of lien canceling a \$15,571.26 Code Enforcement Board Lien, Case No. 010-66 (Greeno);
- h. Reduce the Code Enforcement Board lien on 104 Oakdale Drive from 10,407.42 to \$2,257.42.

Mr. Bush asked the Commission to pull Item 3(e), Passero Associates' Master Consulting Agreement, per the City Attorney's request. Mr. Holmes has submitted a memorandum (filed) noting his concerns with the contract, which needs to be re-worked. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt items a, b, c, d, f, g, and h on the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS - Police Chief Gary Getchell, said Officer Steven Taylor took an inventory of street lighting needs all over the City, due to complaints of inadequate lighting from citizens and commissioners. Officer Taylor said he undertook a comprehensive study of lighting needs in the City as a crime deterrent, as part of his Community Policing Initiative project. He passed out a map showing his recommendations for street lighting improvements, and new sites for lighting where it is badly needed. He identified 31 malfunctioning streetlights, which have all been repaired at no charge to the City. He did not know whose responsibility it was to order maintenance of street lights or street light placement, so he contacted Jeff Womble with FP&L. FP&L will repair street lights at no charge, and will place new street lights at a charge of \$15.00 per year. Mr. Bush said it has long been city policy that all crews and especially police, since they are out on the streets at night, are to report malfunctioning street lights so they can be called into FP&L for repairs. Apparently, this has not been happening. Most times FP&L will ask for a specific location and/or pole number when taking the complaint, so whomever is calling it in needs that information. After a discussion on reporting street light malfunctions, consensus of the Commission to route all internal street light concerns and complaints to Officer Taylor. Mayor Flagg said the street lights are owned by Florida Power & Light; therefore, citizens should report street light malfunctions to Florida Power & Light via an 800 phone number which is listed in the phone book before calling the City with these matters. Commissioner Azula commended the PD for their community policing program and the great strides they have made in improving community/police relations.

PROSTITUTION FOCUS GROUP UPDATE - Sam Deputy, representing the focus group, said their group of 20-25 people meets regularly to talk about solutions to this problem. Many participants were in attendance; they stood and were recognized. Mr. Deputy said the group believes the drug problem drives this problem. Prostitution provides its practitioners with money to purchase drugs. Pride in the community is great, but something is holding citizens back from reporting open prostitution; many people believe someone else will report it or they are afraid to report it. Their focus group would like support and research in certain areas. They would like photos of the 'johns' placed on the PPD website, which will hamper demand for these 'services.' Around 50% of Palatka's prostitutes are infected with the AIDS virus, and if this was made known, many 'johns' may think twice about contacting them for services. They should look at what

other cities around the state are doing to correct the problem. They should train and equip the city's utility workers with cell phones so they can report prostitution when it is happening. Many times, by the time one gets to a telephone to report it, the prostitutes are off on a 'job.'

This group also believes there is not enough education on how to report prostitution. When he moved here he received nothing from the City on how to report crimes and was surprised when he called 911 and find the SO at the other end of the line; he thought he had the wrong number. The City should publicize a crime tip line and publish something for residents at least once a year on how to report crime, and that it is safe to do it. Prostitution on the 700 and 800 blocks has been reduced, but they don't want to just move it to another block. They have established a 'network' between downtown businesses on reporting when the prostitutes are out on the corners. Commissioner Sanders commended the PD on their efforts to curb prostitution. He agrees that they need to work harder on deterring the 'johns.' He'd like to see them arrested and prosecuted, and these arrests publicized. They need to get the local ministers involved. Mr. Deputy said many 'johns' are not appearing in court to answer their charges. The state requires 'johns' to be tested for STD's, and this information goes into a statewide data bank. Mayor Flagg said this is a community issue and a community problem, even if it is not happening on every corner. He agrees that residents need to be empowered to report crimes and prostitution. They will take heed to these suggestions and will follow through on them.

ORDINANCE - Rezoning 100 Memorial Parkway & 123 S. 2nd Street - 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 Sanders moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as presented. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Per the question, Mr. Bush confirmed that the City of Palatka, HUD and First Presbyterian Church are the applicants. He read from the Planning Board notes which state that the Downtown Riverfront Zoning was a more appropriate classification for this block. The Church is allowed there in any event. Commissioner Norwood asked if all property owners had been contacted; Mr. Mengel noted they had been, as noted on the list of affected property owners in the agenda packet. 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 passed on 1st reading.

VILLAGE RECREATION CENTER BUILDING OCCUPANCY - Mr. Bush read his memorandum into the record (filed). Per the Commission's instructions, he asked for public input on how the building should be used, and asked interested clubs and organizations to contact him. Some clubs wanted to use the building on a weekly or monthly basis for a fee. Some of the residents had complained about the past use of the building as a clubhouse, due to the noise, traffic and crowds. He has proposed a sharing of the building by Putnam County YMCA, Keep Putnam Beautiful, and Red Cross, with separate leases. They should work out space needs on their own. Per the question, the

Clerk said they have answered all pertinent questions for nominal leases and have all met the Attorney General's criteria. Per Commissioner Norwood's question, Mr. Holmes also confirmed that these three organizations apparently meet the attorney general's criteria for holding a municipal nominal lease. The leases should be short-term leases. Commissioner Sanders moved to enter into nominal leases with Putnam County YMCA, Keep Putnam Beautiful, and Putnam County Red Cross for the space at the Village Center. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

RENAMING OF VILLAGE RECREATION CENTER - Mayor Flagg said there are two submissions; one is to name the building after Senator H. S. MacKenzie and the other is former Mayor Frank M. Hancock, Sr. Commissioner Sanders said Mr. Hancock has been a strong presence in the community for many years. He has worked with the Boy Scouts and other youth in addition to his work with high school athletic programs, awards and scholarships for both male and female athletes. He has enabled many students to attend college. He loves this community and has demonstrated a high plateau of citizenship. He believes he should be considered for this honor. Commissioner Brown asked for more information on Senator MacKenzie. The Clerk said his nephew was former city manager Hank Bryan, whom the park is named for, and former Commissioner Bryan is his grand-nephew.

Allegra Kitchens, 1027 S. 12th Street, said she remembers Sen. MacKenzie from her childhood; he was the editor of the Palatka Times Herald and served in the state legislature for 32 years. He loved this community and was very active in it. She believes the City should honor his memory and his family by naming the building the Henry S. MacKenzie Center.

Commissioner Azula said Frank Hancock is a former Mayor and has done so much for the community. Not to diminish Senator McKenzie's contributions to the community, but it would be more appropriate for the County to bestow upon him a countywide honor. He believes naming the building for Mr. Hancock would be more appropriate since his contributions were more localized.

Commissioner Norwood said he would like to submit the name of Willard Cooper, whose life's work has been in recreation involving youth in the community. They want to recognize someone for their contribution to recreation, and Willard Cooper is well known throughout the state for his contributions to recreation. Many Individuals know who he and of his contributions. He did not know that tonight was the deadline for submissions, but he would like the Commission to consider naming the building in his honor, and hopes they can table this for the next meeting. Commissioner Brown moved to table consideration of the name change for the Village Recreation Center until February 26, 2004. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Adam Mengel, Planning Director, said the City of Palatka now owns the property at the corner of Bronson and N. 9th Streets through the foreclosure process, and they will look at disposing of that property through public sale. The property at 815 Laurel was also

sold at auction to a private bidder for \$6,100.00, which will go to the City. Mr. Holmes said these properties worked their way through the Codes Enforcement Board process through hearings and fines, and eventually the City was able to successfully foreclose. Both parcels had recurring violations. One parcel was purchased by a local private citizen for \$6,100, which will go to the City. No one bid on the other parcel, so the City was able to purchase it for \$100.00. This is a permanent solution to these Codes issues.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said he has been here for 5 years, and asked if any commissioners here have looked at a plan for city growth as it relates to type of growth future growth and opportunities to control it. They need to look at plans for annexation and how they want to shape the city in the future. Is the commission interested in holding workshops to look at future annexation, economic development and infrastructure? They talk about economic development, but need to put incentives in place to encourage it. Right now growth is slow, but growth is coming, and they have the opportunity to control it. The City cannot grow to the east. They know growth is happening south on Hwy 19 and west on Hwy 20, but they also need to encourage it north on Hwy 17. Per the question, this is not in the context of a revision to the comprehensive plan. They need to look at annexation and the impact of growth on city services, as well as the type of industry they want to attract. They need to be adequately staffed and have adequate resources in place for growth, because every time a new business comes it impacts every facet of city services. Mayor Flagg said the Commission probably needs to revisit the Comprehensive Plan, and he agrees this needs to be done. The commission changes over times, and the aims of the commission change accordingly. It is time to revisit the overall plan. He had envisioned scheduling a town meeting at the Price Martin Center, jointly between the City Commission and Planning Board, and other representatives from local government entities. This needs to take place prior to budget workshops and should involve all department heads. He'd like to see a power-point presentation on the current plan and planned revisions. It may take more than one session. Mr. Bush and Mr. Mengel can set those meetings up. Growth is inevitable. They need to look at the City as a whole and create a balance overall. They need to discuss enclaves as well as infrastructure, annexation and planning.

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said a bill is going through the House that will change the annexation process to make the process more accessible. There is going to be tremendous growth west on Hwy 20 and South on Hwy 19. Mayor Flagg said they have talked about urban service areas and need to incorporate that into the Plan. They need to set mutual goals between the City and County.
- Asked if the Senior Citizen's Center is going to release the property the City leased to them back to the City, as they now have another site for the Center. Mr. Bush said the lease does contain a reverter clause in the event that they do not use

the property. Mr. Holmes said they can have them execute a quit-claim back to the City relinquishing all claims to the property, or formally cancel the lease.

Commissioner Brown:

- Said she recently traveled to Tallahassee to do some lobbying and visited Rep. Pickens' Office. The only photo of Palatka in his office is an old black-&-white turn-of-the-century map/photo. Palatka needs to donate some nice color photographs of the area for people who visit his office. The City Manager's office also has outdated and bland wall decor, and needs to be a showplace for Palatka.
- Said she believes they have terrific people working for the City and would like the Mayor to put together a committee to nominate employees for the awards the League is giving to outstanding city employees. They don't need to let this pass. She asked Mr. Bush to find out the deadline for this application and make sure they have nominations in several categories. Mayor Flagg appointed Marcia Lane, Allegra Kitchens and one city representative to nominate someone for the Florida League of Cities' Awards Program.
- Said Congresswoman Brown's aid will be in town on February 17 to talk to them about grants and appropriations, and they will be coming to City Hall to sit down and talk with them at 1:00. She would like the Commission to have an opportunity to meet with them. They will be in town around noon and have appointments scheduled throughout the day, and will only be in town a few hours. Mayor Flagg noted they have pension board meetings scheduled throughout the day.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Azula.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR