

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 11th day of March, 2004.

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 M. Williams; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Ken Venables; Planning Director Adam Mengel, Police Lt. James Griffith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 2/26/04 - Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the minutes as presented; Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

PROCLAMATION - Putnam County Fair Week - Mayor Flagg presented a proclamation to William Revels of the Putnam County Fair Authority declaring the week of March 23 - 28, 2004 as Putnam County Fair Week.

PROCLAMATION - Brain Awareness Week - Mayor Flagg presented a proclamation to members of the Pilot Club of Palatka declaring March 21 - 26 as Brain Awareness Week.

PROCLAMATION - March as Women's History Week, and dedicated it to all the women in attendance. Mayor Flagg then announced an awards program that will be held at the March 25 meeting. The City is asking for nominations for Women's History Month 21st Century Achievers Awards.

Allegra Kitchens read an excerpt from an article she wrote commemorating Palatka's 150th sesquicentennial celebration. The excerpt was about Mary Emily Boyd's convincing the Union Army not to burn down Palatka during the Civil War. Mayor Flagg read a news release calling for nominations for 21st Century Achiever Awards.

RETIREMENT - Palatka PD Lt. Brian Keith - Police Chief Gary Getchell presented Lt. Keith with a plaque recognizing his 21 years of service, saying his photo will be displayed in the Police Officers' Hall of Fame at the PD. Mayor Flagg presented Lt. Keith with a City of Palatka pin. Police Sgt. Alex Sharp and a contingent of fellow officers presented Lt. Keith with a gold watch, in honor and recognition of 21 years of selfless and dedicated service to the citizens of Palatka. Lt. Keith introduced his wife, children and other family and friends who came to see him honored.

Mayor Flagg introduced Jim King, the new Director of the St. Johns River Community Action Partnership, formerly Putnam-Clay-Flagler Economic Development Opportunity Council, and welcomed him to the community, saying they all look forward to the good things his Agency's work will produce for the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Len Freeman, 422 River Street, Downtown Palatka, Inc. thanked the Commission and Mr. Bush for allowing them to do their presentation at the last meeting, and for working with them on their issues. They have since held a meeting with city officials and Cathy Nagengast, and are very encouraged. They received permission to put their six teams together and are diligently working on that. He reiterated their recommendation for representation of the eight members per team, for a total of 48 people. He has a slate of people to present to the Commission at the March 25 meeting. He would also like to bring the approved slate from Downtown, Inc. prior to that for them to look over in advance. There has been a tremendous surge of momentum and interest in this entire issue, and he is very pleased with their progress. They are all anxious to get to work.

Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, Downtown Palatka, concurred with Mr. Freeman on the success of the meeting they jointly held this past week, which was more professional than any prior meeting he had attended. He thanked the City for lending the Promotions Committee a city employee, Jeff Norton, who is working with them on a presentation on the City's streetscaping for the next meeting. He invited the Commission to the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 27, and to a spaghetti dinner to be held the night before the Rowing Regatta. More information is forthcoming. He would like the Commissioners to help welcome the regatta participants.

Allegra Kitchens, S. 10th Street, said the March edition of Southern Living has a full-page article on Palatka's Azalea Days.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Declare listed Airport equipment as surplus for disposition as per recommendation.
- b. Authorize the Mayor to execute a Release of Lien canceling the \$\$25.00/day fine imposed by the Code Enforcement Board on 611 Kirby Street.

Commissioner Azula moved to pass all items on consent as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

LEASE REQUEST - Family Medical & Dental Centers - Mayor Flagg said the applicant withdrew this request. The amount of acreage available was not sufficient for their needs.

LEASE REQUEST - Palatka Yacht Club - dockage at City Pier for floating clubhouse - Mr. Bush read a memorandum he received from FDEP into the minutes (filed). Michael Eaton with FDEP has asked representatives from the Yacht Club to contact him to work out a concurrence on from the FDEP prior to this coming back to the City Commission.

ORDINANCE - General Employees DROP Plan - 2nd Reading, Adopt - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 4, THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN, TO INCLUDE A SECTION ENTITLED DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN (DROP); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the

ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption 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. The ordinance was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE - General Pension Plan - Eligibility for Vesting - 1st Reading - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY REVISING SECTION 2-169(a), GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN, VESTED FORMER MEMBER STATUS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on first 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 passed on first reading.

ORDINANCE - Firefighters' Pension Plan - eligibility for vesting - 1st Reading - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY REVISING SECTION 2-239(a), FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION PLAN, VESTED TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Azula moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as presented. 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 ordinance was passed on first reading.

ORDINANCE - Police Officers' Pension Plan - Eligibility for Vesting - 1st Reading - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY REVISING SECTION 2-250.180(a), POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION PLAN, VESTED TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Azula moved to pass the ordinance on first reading 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. The ordinance was passed on first reading.

ORDINANCE - General Pension Investment Policy Revision - 1st Reading - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY REVISING SECTION 2-205(2)(f), REMOVING REAL ESTATE FROM THE LIST OF PROHIBITED INVESTMENTS IN THE CITY GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN INVESTMENT GUIDELINES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Sanders moved to adopt the ordinance on first 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 passed on 1st reading.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

City Manager Allen R. Bush read his memorandum into the minutes (filed). The pre-construction meeting was held yesterday, and Meaddors Construction will begin construction on the WWTP improvements next week. It will take 20 weeks to complete. Cragg's Construction will begin construction of the golf course pond improvements the day after the Azalea Tournament. After that is completed, Oceanside will come back in and complete the irrigation system. They believe this project will be completed in August, at long last.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Brown:

- Said she has spoken to Mario Taylor about his pending visit to Palatka. He is very excited about it.
- Said they had talked about having someone from the FLC come talk to them about their roles as commissioners and form of government. Mr. Bush said he'd like to discuss that with her further; also, Mr. Holmes has also been asked to put a presentation together for the Boards. Mayor Flagg said they are also looking forward to a workshop on parliamentary procedure, and this is something all their boards need to attend.

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said he has received complaints about the accumulation of sand that has settled in the cracks on the bridge and around the medians, and asked if there is a regular maintenance schedule; if so, he'd like a copy of it. Mr. Bush said the City sweeps it on a regular schedule. There are a number of log and sand or rock trucks on that highway and they drop bark and sand all over the roadway, and it doesn't take long to build up. It's a lot of roadway to maintain, and when they finish their scheduled sweeping they start right back over again.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Asked when the City plans to begin the planning sessions they spoke about in earlier meetings. Mr. Bush said they are working on a schedule, and will have one in place before the end of March.

Mayor Flagg:

- Said he is looking for a draft schedule of planning and budget meetings to be forthcoming from the City Manager on updates to the CIP and comprehensive plan. There are a lot of things that are getting ready to happen, and when they are talking about infrastructure, they are not just talking about pipes. They need to make sure staff and all departments are up to where they need to be. They need a reality check, and want to be proactive and have a positive encounter with the anticipated growth.
- Said At the next meeting they will be addressing Palatka Housing Authority Board Appointments. There are two actual vacancies and one term expiration to address.

- Said on March 26 from 10:00 a.m. - noon there is a meeting at SJRWMD's governing boardroom that is related to the update on the 2000 District Water Supply Plan. They need to be sure the City has representation there. Commissioner Azula is the Liaison. If anyone has a conflict and can't attend the meetings for which they are the liaison, please let the City Manager know.
- Said earlier today he and Vice Mayor Brown attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Senior Citizen's Center. It was a very positive event and everyone is excited about the new Center.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR