

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2004.

PRESENT:	Mayor	Karl N. Flagg
	Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
	Commissioner	Hernan Azula
	Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.
ABSENT:	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, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton, Acting Golf Pro Clyde Connor

INVOCATION - Reverend Roy Trembly, Francis Baptist Church. Mayor Flagg asked Rev. Trembly to remember Commission Sanders in the invocation, as he is in the hospital tonight.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Don Peterman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 3/25/04 - Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

PROCLAMATION - Relay for Life - Mayor Flagg read and presented a proclamation to Kathy Deschenes and associates designating April 19 - 24, 2004 as Relay for Life Week in the City of Palatka.

PROCLAMATION - National Crimes Victims' Week - Mayor Flagg read and presented a proclamation to Vice Mayor Brown designating April 18 - 24, 2004 as National Crimes Victims' Week in the City of Palatka.

PROCLAMATION - Community Development Week - Mayor Flagg read and presented a proclamation to Allen Bush, City Manager and Jeff Norton, Parks Supt., designating April 12 - 18, 2004 as Community Development Week in the City of Palatka. Mr. Bush noted that Palatka has been extremely successful in obtaining CDBG grants, which have been used to upgrade infrastructure, roads and streets, drainage, downtown street-scaping, and housing.

PROCLAMATION - National Strengthening America's Communities Week - Mayor Flagg read a proclamation designating October 18 - 24, 2004 as National Strengthening America's Communities Week, with the theme, "Voices of America's Youth," in the City of Palatka. Mayor Flagg noted there will be activities every month leading up to October encouraging our community not to get behind our youth, but to get with and beside our youth to encourage them. All of us touch the lives of our youth and we want to make sure citizens are putting forth the effort. This proclamation will be replicated and placed in all our area schools to remind all of us that we have a responsibility to protect our most precious resources -- our youth. They are not only our future, they are our present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Authorize execution of contract with EMS for Kay Larkin Airport Master Storm water Design and Environmental Permitting for \$190,519.20.

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

RESOLUTION - The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST TO AN AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF PORTIONS OF RIGHT OF WAY ALONG SR15, SR 20 AND SR100 WITH THE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the resolution as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The resolution was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE - 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, REVISING THE POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION PLAN BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (4) FROM SECTION 2-250.160, INTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE; CREDITED SERVICE; AND BY REVISING SECTION 2-250.165(b), NON-INTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE; CREDITED SERVICE; REMOVING THE EXCLUSION OF CREDITED MILITARY SERVICE THAT COULD BE USED TO OBTAIN A BENEFIT FROM ANOTHER RETIREMENT PLAN; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was passed on first reading.

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE/TRIM CALENDAR - Commissioner Brown noted that they will all be out of town on April 13 and will not be able to attend the Downtown Palatka meeting. The Clerk noted she had advised Sam Deputy of that, and he said he would see they were brought up to date. Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the Summer Meeting Schedule/TRIM Calendar as presented (filed). Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Clyde Connor, Acting Golf Pro - Mr. Connor read his report on replacing the fleet of golf carts (filed). The fleet is now out of warranty and the City is incurring all repair costs. His proposal shows what the new lease will provide for and the savings it will provide. Per Mr. Bush's question, Mr. Connor confirmed EZ-Go said if the city accepts the agreement, they will honor the warranty on these carts until the new fleet is delivered in July. The official lease is up in October; however, if they stay with EZ-Go they will forego the last balloon payment. The new lease will begin in July and will run for three years. This has been a good fleet and EZ-Go has given them excellent customer service above and beyond their agreement. Mr. Bush noted that if the City pays the \$1,100 per cart balloon payment, the City will then own the carts and maintenance costs will go up. This is a good proposal and he recommends going with this. Mayor Flagg asked why they are not doing this at the end of the lease; it did not come up on the CIP and is indicative of his concerns. Mr. Connor said the warranty was up after three years and it is not cost effective to keep this fleet. Mayor Flagg said if they can only get a three-year warranty, they should only have a three-year lease, and not a four-year lease. Mr. Bush said he questioned the same thing, and had to negotiate a continuation of the warranty until they take possession of the carts at the end of August. Mayor Flagg asked if this should trigger a competitive bid. Mr. Connor said the competitors can't even come close to this. Mr. Bush said by having a balloon on the end, you reduce your payments over the life of the carts; by doing away with the balloon, that's where the savings comes in. Per the question, Mr. Connor said he does not know if the former Pro put this in the budget. Mr. Bush said there is a yearly amount for carts in the budget. Mr. Connor noted they are raising cart rates by \$1.00 this summer. Mayor Flagg said that is what budget workshops are for. Commissioner Norwood said they need to look at the entire golf course as a whole. The golf course has not been 'solvent' during his tenure, and he questions whether it will ever get there. Commissioner Azula said there is a lot of construction going on right now and the outcome remains to be seen. This issue with the carts needs immediate attention. The community needs a golf course. The county needs a golf course. They could sell or lease it, but closing it would be devastating for the community. He agrees they need to take a look at it. He hopes once the reuse project is completed, there will be a lot more play. This may be out of the normal budget purview, but it's business and they need to take care of it. If this is the best bid, they need to go with it. Many businesses turn over their fleet before getting to the balloon payment; it is good business sense.

Mayor Flagg asked why this is coming up now; this should come up at budget time, along with the \$1.00 cart rental fee increase. Mrs. Williams said the batteries last just

over three years. It will cost between \$16,000 - \$17,000 to replace the batteries for the entire fleet. Mayor Flagg said they need to purchase better batteries. Mr. Bush said it is not uncommon to drop off balloon payments. He also had a problem with the warranty running out before the lease expired, and he expressed his displeasure to EZ-Go. That is why this deal was negotiated. Commissioner Brown said if you're having problems with a vehicle prior to the lease expiration, you need to get rid of it. They are working hard on these grants to run the effluent to the golf course for irrigation. If batteries in these carts are going out, they need to do something. They can use that money for something else they need. Sometimes, even though the lease is not up, it makes good business sense not to 'see it through.' It was worse when they 'piece-mealed' the fleet. They were struggling with carts every year on the budget. Mayor Flagg said regardless of the warranty, the lease doesn't expire for another year. That's the point. They will be dealing with this again in three more years. Commissioner Brown moved to accept the proposed four-year lease agreement with EZ-Go on a new fleet of golf carts for delivery in July, first payment in August, 2004. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Commissioner Norwood said they still need to set aside time to reevaluate the golf course as a whole. There are options besides closing the golf course. Mr. Bush said when the budget was put together, it should have taken into consideration an increase for the last six months of the year. They negotiated helping the City through this fiscal year with EZ-Go, and EZ-Go agreed to do that. Commissioner Norwood said they also talked about turning over the fleet in increments instead of all at once. Mr. Bush said if you start trying to do that, you end up spending more money. This lease began late in the fiscal year. Under the terms of a lease, the manufacturer takes care of all the maintenance and costs, and you have a fixed cost for a certain number of years. These new carts will come in much closer to the new fiscal year. Mayor Flagg said if they had made provisions for this during budget time, this could have gone on the consent agenda. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed.

**HISTORICAL MARKERS** - Mr. Bush noted he has attached the information the Commission asked for at the 3/25/04 meeting. The market price range is \$1,500 - 1,600 each. Commissioner Brown said Black Heritage Trails may donate them, or participate in the purchase, and she would like to inquire about that. They may want to come up with a way to raise funds for them. There should be some of these set around town for historic and tourism purposes. Someone may want to sponsor them. There are many famous buildings that no longer exist. She wants her children and grandchildren to be able to see the City's legacy through historic markers. Mr. Bush drew their attention to the second page, reference funding, noting there is a mechanism in place to apply for a grant to pay half the cost if the applicant is a non-profit group.

**REQUEST FOR DONATION OF FILL DIRT** - Habitat for Humanity - Mr. Bush said Mr. Peterman has made a request on behalf of Habitat for 1,000 yards of fill dirt for its housing site on Westover Drive. He distributed his memorandum of recommendation (filed). This fill dirt has a value of \$4.00/yd. He recommends that the City treat this fill dirt as a valuable commodity, and Mr. Peterman understands this. They make donations from time to time to other worthwhile organizations within the City, and if Mr. Peterson wants to make a request for an in-kind donation, the Commission can deal with that when it comes. Mr. Peterman noted he understands and will put that request in writing. Per the question, Mr. Bush said the contractor is already delivering the dirt to the WWTP for storage, and will deliver the dirt elsewhere for free if it is within approximately the same distance.

**FRANK M. HANCOCK HONORARIUM** - Mr. Bush noted his recommendation (filed). The map shows the proposed garden walkway from 2nd street to the gazebo. He proposes they locate any and all plaques along the side of the walkway in with the shrubbery and plants. Commissioner Norwood moved to accept Mr. Bush's proposal for locating current riverfront honorarium plaques at the Riverfront Park Walkway, and to include a plaque recognizing former Mayor Frank M. Hancock, Sr. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Mayor Flagg said many people have made contributions, and they need the County Archivist to determine those who have made contributions and keep them on file. He has a letter from Mrs. Jeannette Stanley asking them not to forget the late Honorable Dave

W. Broadway, who served on the Commission for 20 years and more than 40 years as a volunteer fireman. She would like him to be considered when they begin naming other things. They need to create something to honor those who have longevity on the Commission in the form of a Memorial Wall when a new City Hall is built.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Vice Mayor Brown:

- Said a grant for riverboat funds has gone through the legislature and will come through in September. The Riverboat Committee has decided to obtain two boats -- one for large groups and one smaller boat for small groups and ferrying. They will likely have the funds available. An agreement between the City and Pride of Palatka is forthcoming, and she would like permission to purchase the smaller boat. Mr. Donnie Douglas and his partner are in the process of looking for a smaller boat. Mr. Roy Lemke also has a small boat, and they are looking at that this weekend. She'd like to bring both these issues back to the next meeting or the first meeting in May. The City will be able to obtain insurance through the Florida League of Cities. This will all be in the forthcoming agreement.
- Said she attended the International Academy, and they asked her to speak on an International Trade topic. She spoke on tourism and 'The Boat,' and people are very excited about coming to Palatka to take advantage of The Boat. Mr. Mario Taylor was here today and he is very receptive to helping through FDEP.
- Said she and Commissioner Norwood took Mario Taylor, the new NE Florida District Director of FDEP, on a tour of Palatka, and a lady at the train station was very concerned about not being able to find out when a delayed train was coming in. Mr. Bush and Jeff Norton said they have contacted Amtrak about obtaining a kiosk for the Depot, which will have a telephone that will connect passengers with that type of information. Commissioner Norwood said the Yellow Cab representative was not forthcoming with any information, saying he doesn't know anything about Amtrak, and that is not the type of representation they want to put forth at the Depot. This facility is a 'gateway' to the City, and they can't have that type of first impression. Per the question, Mr. Bush said when they asked about all the entities getting together and hiring a full-time ticket agent, Amtrak came back and said their employees' Union wouldn't allow tickets to be sold by other than Amtrak personnel. People can still purchase tickets around town at various travel agencies. Amtrak agreed to install a kiosk for direct communication, and the City has given them the OK on a specific location. Mayor Flagg said if anyone renting one of our facilities turns away any citizen, that is a problem. This is a private employer, but they are in a public facility, and they need to have good customer service. They need a visit from Mr. Bush. Commissioner Brown said the original plan was for all entities to get together to hire one person to represent everyone. If people aren't treated well, they won't come back. Mr. Bush said that did not come to fruition, as he noted earlier. He also was told that cab company personnel are apparently washing taxicabs in the parking lot, which can't happen. He will speak with Mr. Wellborn on these issues. Commissioner Norwood said they also need to do something about the outside aesthetics.
- Asked if they can get new magnetic signs; hers are very old. Mayor Flagg asked her to get with the Clerk to requisition new signs.
- Said the City of Palatka is in the Quality Cities' magazine. They did a feature article on her 20-plus years on the Commission, which she very much appreciates.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said he would like to schedule the renaming of the Village building for Willard Cooper together with a reception. Mr. Bush said Mr. Norton is obtaining a sign that will hang over the eave of the front door and when that is in hand they will schedule it. A tentative date was set for May 6 at 5:00 p.m.
- Said Mario Taylor was here and was extremely impressed with the City. He will be getting with Staff on addressing some of the things they spoke about. He said Mr. Taylor was well-entertained, and thanked the Golf Course for their hospitality.

Mayor Flagg:

- Said a press release went out about the City-wide Spring Cleaning. Earth day is April 24 and marks the end of the amnesty. They need to really clean up the City. Mayor Flagg read the press release (filed). Wrecker services are involved with free towing, and code enforcement amnesty will be granted if they get the problems taken care of. The Sanitation Department is waiving fees for large pickups. Everyone can take advantage of this program.
- Asked everyone to remember Commission Sanders in prayer.

UPDATE - Return of 228th Transportation Company - Police Chief Getchell said at 7:00 p.m. they were in Starke. They are traveling in two Greyhound busses. They will come down Hwy 100 to Hwy 17 to the river, turn back up St. Johns Avenue and proceed slowly to the National Guard office on Stilwell Avenue.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner Brown at 7:14 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR