

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 6th day of May, 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 Holmes, City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers, Finance Director Ruby Williams, Planning Director Adam Mengel, Police Chief Gary Getchell, Assistant Fire Chief James White, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton, Main Street Manager Cathy Butler

INVOCATION - The Reverend Bill Williams, Pastor; Francis Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Group

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 4/22/04 - Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the minutes as written. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Sanders said he would like to revisit the subject of whether or not Pride of Palatka, Inc. has actually contracted for the services of a marine surveyor or intend to contract those services, and who the surveyor is, at a point later in the meeting.

PROCLAMATION - National Peace Officers' Memorial Week - Mayor Flagg read a proclamation designating May 9 - 15, 2004 as National Peace Officers' Memorial Week, and May 12 as National Police Officers' Memorial Day. He presented it to Police Chief Getchell and Lt. James Griffith. Commissioner Brown noted she brought back information on a National Security Conference, which she has distributed to the appropriate departments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:

***a. Issue Festival Permit for 2004 Blue Crab Festival Kick-off Party** (see staff recommendations & application attached)

- 1. Issue Special Event Permit #04-40** – May 28, 2004 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- 2. Approve Alcohol Ordinance Variance** – 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Staff Recommendation same as 2003 Festival – Beer & Entertainment Tents, Hospitality Tent and buffer zones.
- 3. Approve Noise Ordinance Variance** - 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 4. Set Fees – \$532.00** – Class A License Fee (\$100.00/day) and police security fees (\$18.00/hour)

***b. Issue Festival Permit for 2004 Blue Crab Festival** (see staff recommendation & application attached) with the following stipulations:

- 1. Issue Special Event Permit #04-41** May 29, 30 & 31, 2004

2. **Approve Noise Ordinance Variance** May 29, 2004 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight
May 30, 2004 12:30 p.m.. – 12:00 midnight
May 31, 2004 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 3. **Approve Alcohol Ordinance Variance** – Staff recommendation same as for 2003 – times to coincide with noise ordinance waiver. Sales/Consumption area to include Beer & Entertainment Tents, Hospitality Tent and buffer zones. Applicant to provide signage clearly warning people not to take alcoholic beverages outside of approved area, and will enforce. *No Alcohol sales on Sunday before 12:30 p.m.*
 4. **Designate City Hall & Annex parking lot** for handicapped parking
 5. **Issue Festival Control of all vendors and activities** falling between Main Street & Oak Street (north/south) and between the St. Johns River and 19th Street (east/west)
 6. **Close boat ramp to public** All day Saturday, Sunday & Monday. Applicant agrees to provide advance signage and notification to general public of pending closing for tournament.
 7. **Set Fees – \$4,725.00** – Class A Festival Fees (2 days @ \$150.00/day; 1 @ \$100/day); police Security Fees (18.00/hr.), Green roll-out bins (85 @ \$15.00), Deodorizer (2 gal. @ \$15.00), festival to pay Putnam County Tipping Fees. Waive \$500 refundable damage deposit.
- *c. **Approve Police Impact Fee Expenditure in the amount of \$1,767.00** for the purchase of a computer for use in the Police Department’s False Alarm Reduction Program.

Commissioner Azula moved to pass the Consent Agenda as written. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 04-11 - Planning Board Recommendation to Annex 2705 Husson Avenue - Melissa S. Jones McCoy and Larry F. McCoy, owners - Mayor Flagg opened the Public Hearing. The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance as written. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. There being no public comment, Mayor Flagg closed the Public Hearing. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 04-12 - Planning Board Recommendation to Annex 500 N. SR 19 - Lowe's Home Improvements, Inc. - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA CONTIGUOUS TO

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance as written. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion.

George McClure, 170 Malik Street, St. Augustine, said he is here representing Lowe's Home Improvements. This annexation is being sought pursuant to the pre-annexation agreement they entered into with the City of Palatka some time ago. They are here tonight to conclude that process. There being no further public comment, Mayor Flagg closed the public hearing. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 04-13 - Planning Board Recommendation to Annex 417 N. SR 19 - The Home Depot, Inc. The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Mayor Flagg opened the floor for discussion; there being none, he closed the public hearing. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance as written. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Mayor Flagg closed the public hearing. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING - Ordinance No. 04-14 - Planning Board Recommendation to Annex 419 & 420 Mission Road - Mary Louise Thomas, Owner - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ANNEXING INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, CERTAIN ADJACENT TERRITORY IN SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST, PUBLIC RECORDS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance as written. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Mayor Flagg closed the public hearing. 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 Brown noted that Mrs. Thomas has been trying to come into the City Limits for the past four years. She asked Mr. Mengel to call her tomorrow and notify her that she is officially a city resident.

ORDINANCE - Amending Municipal Code, Section 62-9, Political Signs - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED BY REVISING SECTION 62-9, POLITICAL SIGNS, TO ALLOW ERECTION OF SIGNS NOT EARLIER THAN 50 DAYS PRIOR

TO PRIMARY ELECTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance as written on 2nd reading for adoption. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Sanders, and Mayor Flagg, yes; Commissioners Azula and Norwood, no. The ordinance was declared adopted.

PRICE-MARTIN CENTER RENTAL POLICY - Elnora Cotton James, 1305 Prospect Street, asked the Commission to look at revising the rental policy for special events such as weddings and receptions, as they require extra decorating and clean-up time. The four-hour rental contract is considered a 1/2 day event, and for the amount of money many people put into their events, this is not enough time to decorate. The time is very tight. People have to pay more for the whole day and that presents a hardship. There are not that many places to go to hold social events, and this Center is in a good location and is easy to find, so people like to use it. Commissioner Brown asked if they can make an exception for weddings and receptions. Some things don't require decoration, but some things do. This is a neighborhood center and should be accessible to all, including the price. The grant designated this building as a neighborhood center, and it needs to be used, and not underused. It should be affordable for all.

Mr. Bush said if they do need extra time, they can purchase it by the hour for \$25.00 per hour. Mrs. Cotton said she is aware of that. She is doing a reception for a couple that are spending a lot of money on their wedding, and this is a special day for them. Allowing extra time for decoration and clean up shouldn't be a problem if there is no another event scheduled on that day. Commissioner Brown said it is hard to hold a function, decorate and clean up in four hours. Commissioner Norwood said you need to know whether or not something else is going to be scheduled before you can decide whether or not a four-hour event can be given extra time at no charge. Commissioner Azula said these fees are lower than anywhere else in the City, and are very reasonable. They looked at this several months ago and set fair and reasonable fees then. If there is nothing happening before it, they can be flexible for 30 or 45 minutes. It costs money to open and occupy the building. Commissioner Sanders concurred and said they visited this some months ago. The person who is getting married is making a choice; they can have it there or somewhere else. The City spends a lot of money keeping Price-Martin Center open and in good order. He believes the current fee structure is very fair. Commissioner Norwood said he concurs with both Commissioners Brown and Azula. They need to decide how they can extend the time when the event is booked. There is no way to look into the future to determine if two events would be held there or not. They need to determine at whose discretion this will be done. They have to be fair for everyone. It is worth looking into, but he does not know who they can leave this up to who will make these decisions that someone will not cry foul. Mayor Flagg said Mrs. James is asking for consideration on this in finding a "happy medium." The Commission is not in favor of dealing with fees because they have already spent a lot of time on this. He asked Mr. Bush and the Clerk to meet with Mrs. James to try to work this out, and come back with a recommendation. She is asking for a way to adjust the hours when it can be done. They don't need to revisit fees at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS - there were none.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Brown Said Tuesday's town meeting was a burn-out. They all have day jobs with the exception of Commissioner Sanders, who is retired, and can make better use of their time spent in meetings. She would like to see some of these meetings consolidated or even done away with. Some of them go to a lot of meetings, and from her point of view, she only has a certain amount of time to spend on these matters. They talked about Capital Improvements at this meeting, which began at 5:00 p.m.; they got out of there around 9:00 p.m. She thought they were going to be looking at regional planning matters, which involves determining what infrastructure is available and what is needed for future growth, and looking at squaring up the boundaries of the City. She'd like the Commission to revisit the schedule to determine if they can condense the rest of the budget meetings tonight, or call Tuesday's meeting a budget hearing so they won't have to sit through it again. They are burning people out with meetings. Mr. Bush said he can sit down with Commissioner Brown to get recommended changes and bring that back to the Commission at the May 20 meeting. Commissioner Azula concurred with Commissioner Brown; they schedule two meetings each month and that's all it should take, whether they get out at 8:00 p.m. or Midnight. Commissioner Brown said she does not want to do the City Manager's job; he has done a good job of balancing the budget and has kept them out of trouble up until now and she sees no reason to micromanage him. She wants to put her time towards something that is best for all of them; they all need to spend time with their families. She used to enjoy coming to meetings, and they got a lot accomplished, but now she feels that they are spinning their wheels. Palatka has a Commission-Manager form of government and they need to stick to it.

Commissioner Azula said they have discussed this before, and asked if they are going to be putting anything in the budget for renovation or demolition of the buildings on 2nd Street. They need to give this their attention ASAP. They are an eyesore and not up to Code. They can't wait until something happens with the HighRise. He'd like a report or time-line on the plans. Mr. Bush said they are looking at trying to combine the 100 Block with the High-rise to offer to a developer. The crux of the issue is whether to raze the buildings or let a developer decide what to do with them. They haven't even entertained the idea of tearing them down at this point. They can look at keeping them superficially maintained until they get to that point. Mayor Flagg asked Commissioner Azula if it is his intention to agenda this discussion for a time certain; Commissioner Azula said it is. Mayor Flagg asked the Clerk to schedule this matter for discussion at the May 20th meeting, and asked Commissioner Azula to get with her on filing the necessary paperwork to get this item on the May 20th meeting.

Said the meeting Tuesday night did not go as planned; he was disappointed that the public didn't attend. It is not unusual for department heads to sit through budget meetings. They have a responsibility to listen to them and hear what they have to say. They are intelligent and have good ideas. There were plans put forth last Tuesday night that were very good. He thinks budget meetings are very important. They shouldn't put all the

responsibility on the City Manager. Mayor Flagg said that the public wasn't given ample notice of the meeting. The notice came out in the newspaper the morning of the meeting, and most people have set their schedules for the day by then. Commissioner Azula said they have two meetings on the budget; everything they do involves public participation. He keeps in touch with the supervisors as to their needs and aspirations on his own at least once each month. Mayor Flagg said he would attend whatever meetings are set. They all set the schedule of meetings and agreed upon them in a public meeting. Commissioner Norwood said as long as they have a three-year and five-year plan that he and the public can see, he is fine, but he has never seen a 1, 3, 5, or 10-year plan, so he is not satisfied. He is not talking about a comprehensive plan, but a directional plan where everyone will know what direction they are headed with the boundaries. If they need a meeting to come up with a directional plan, so be it. They need to know where the commercial development will go and where the upscale housing will be. The citizens deserve to know. Some people need to live in upscale housing or condos, and they need to know it is coming, and that we are doing the planning to bring it in. We are constantly inviting industry and commerce to come here, but are not doing anything to plan for their needs. Mr. Bush said those plans are in place and have been repeatedly put before the Commission. They have a five-year plan that goes out with the budget. They take each department and show future expansion, especially with infrastructure and utilities. Commissioner Norwood asked if there is a future growth plan in place and if they have looked at how growth will impact city services, and the type of housing they want to encourage. Highly paid individuals don't live in the City. Mr. Bush said the growth areas are outside the City Limits, and what came out of the meeting the other night is that they intend to sit down with the County to discuss future commercial and housing growth and annexations. It has to be a joint effort. Commissioner Sanders said he was under the impression that this was a budget meeting. He did not know it was a planning meeting. Commissioner Brown said they have been doing these five-year plans for some time now, and they are updated regularly. She believed they were there for planning input. There was apparently some confusion over the objective of the meeting. She does not like to miss meetings. They have Future Land Use and housing plans all laid out. If they are going to have meetings, they need to be specifically focused. The other night they should have been looking at boundaries and sources of economic development. Mr. Bush is scrambling to get runways extended at the airport, and all he needs is a few letters from businesses saying when we build it, they will come here. He can't do everything on his own.

Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, said he read about the budget meeting in the newspaper that morning, and would have liked to attend, but his day was already set. He was already committed to his Prostitution Focus Group meeting. The City needs to take the next step forward and beat the bushes to get the public to these meetings. Mr. Bush and Mrs. Driggers do a great job, and he has great respect for what they get accomplished. The public needs to be informed sooner of these meetings. He has found it advantageous to get out and work with directly with the merchants, and personally sees to it that they get information. As a city, they need to find a way to inform the average citizen in their home how they can become involved and informed, as not everyone subscribes to the newspaper. The Clerk noted that all the radio stations were also announcing the meeting.

Mayor Flagg said Tuesday's meeting was a Town Hall meeting to inform the citizens. People can't pick up the phone and call all five of them, and they can't meet in groups of two or more with citizens outside the Sunshine. This is not a discussion to place blame. Everyone has a valid point. Obviously there was some confusion over the content of the meeting, and even though it took on the flavor of a budget workshop, some good things came out of it. Mr. Bush noted that he informed all department heads that they were there to respond to questions and public input, so when the public didn't show up, many of them were caught unawares and were unprepared, and had to wing it.

Commissioner Brown:

- Passed out postcards depicting the Bronson-Mulholland House and Museum, saying these are sold at the Bronson-Mulholland House and Museum. This is exactly what she has been talking to them about doing to attract people to come here. These postcards are perfect for history buffs and will draw more people into Palatka. She wants to move ahead with the photo contest to choose scenes for the City postcards she has proposed.
- Said on Monday the Heritage River Program is holding a workshop here with a historical speaker. The group of more than 50 participants will be here at City Hall on Monday around 4:00 p.m. She invited them to stop by and help to greet these visitors, who will all be from out-of-town. After the workshop they are having a barbeque dinner on the Bronson-Mulholland House lawn.
- Said she had given them all a report on ballot initiatives they need to be monitoring. There are more than 100 citizen initiatives on the ballot this year. They need to be very careful as citizens and try to avoid the 'pregnant pig' type issues getting on the ballots. She also brought back information on land-use issues.
- Said Mr. Bush had asked her about "Noah's Ark". She was contacted today by a boat builder/dealer in St. Augustine, who told her the boat had been floated down the river and came up the Ocklawaha under its own steam. They were taking it out for marine certification, but have determined can't be certified for water use due to its state of disrepair. The owner is considering giving it away, and he asked if the City was interested in taking ownership of it to use it as a museum or the like. It will probably have to be dry-docked for that type of use. Or they could just put it in the boathouse.

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said he wanted to clarify the naval architect/marine supervisor item from the 4/22 meeting, and said he specifically wants to know if the committee has actually contacted a marine surveyor or not to do this survey. Allegra Kitchens, Pride of Palatka, clarified that they have talked about the need to contact a marine surveyor in depth, but have not done it as yet. They know they have to have this done and fully intend to, and members of their committee are familiar with the ins and outs of having this done. Commissioner Sanders said this is important. Ms. Kitchens said whatever boat they purchase has to be coast guard certified or you can't operate it at all. All the boats they have looked at are Coast Guard Certified

and have an up-to-date marine survey. While they may look at a boat without an up-to-date marine survey, they know they will have to get one, and wouldn't consider looking at a boat that isn't Coast Guard Certified.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR