

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 22nd day of July, 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 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, Main Street Manager Cathy Butler

INVOCATION - The Reverend Ted Stackpole, Pastor; First Assembly of God

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - George Crawford

Approval of Minutes - 6/10/04; 6/24/04 called meeting; 6/14/04 budget hearing
Commissioner Azula moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION - Distinguished Service Award - Don Peterman, Putnam Habitat for Humanity, was presented with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his six years of service as President of Putnam Habitat For Humanity. Mayor Flagg said he has provided places for people to live while forging international community partnerships that are invaluable to the community. He has enhanced the quality of life for all citizens.

Distinguished Service Award - Mayor Flagg presented a certificate in recognition of Suzanne Pickens' service for three years on the Historic Preservation Board, in absentia. Her certificate will be mailed to her.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, invited the City Commission to the Downtown Palatka, Inc.'s political forum on August 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Price Martin Center. More than half the candidates have already confirmed their attendance. Mr. Deputy thanked the Commission and Cathy Butler for the fine fireworks display and festivities on July 4.

Len Freeman, 422 River Street, Downtown Palatka, Inc., presented a progress report on the eight Downtown Redevelopment Study Team Project. They are at 120 days now, and are compiling the final reports generated by each team. These teams showed great dedication and put in countless hours, and there has been a great deal of discussion about downtown and a solution to its problems. They have planned a meeting at Palatka Elks Club on July 29 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and plan the final recommendation. He thanked the commission for the opportunity to go through this process, and noted it has been a good learning experience.

Commissioner Brown said she visited Gulfport, a small community that has done some downtown redevelopment including a marina, and she told the Mayor she'd like to take a contingent of Palatka people to see what they've done and how they did it. The Mayor of Gulfport has agreed to host the visit; she hopes Downtown Palatka, Inc. will provide folks to go visit Gulfport along with some Commission members. Mr. Freeman said one of the recommendations is to visits at least six identified communities that have recently had successful redevelopments. Mayor Flagg asked them to have the report ready for the August 26, 2004 6:00 p.m. meeting, and asked them to make the usual requests to get on the agenda.

William E. Hughley, 520 San Mateo Rd., San Mateo, said he received a letter from Codes Enforcement concerning a code violation on some property he owns on the N. side of Palatka at 1211 Bronson Street. He just sold that property for \$500, which is less than 1/2 of what he paid for it, and contends this sale was a forced sale by codes enforcement.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - Mayor Flagg said there has been a staff request to table agenda items 6 and 7, which are appeals of Historic Board actions, and 10, which is a first reading of an ordinance closing streets at the request of Rochester Imports. Anyone here for those items should be informed that these items will likely be continued until August 26. Commissioner Brown moved to table Agenda Items 6, 7 and 10 until time certain of August 26, 2004. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. Mayor Flagg asked for a roll-call vote.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The motion passed unopposed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Award bid for Kay Larkin Airport Runway Pavement Renewal and Runway Lighting to BGCO, Inc. in amount of \$652,425 contingent upon FAA and FDOT approval, per recommendation from Passero Associates, Engineer;
- b. Award bid for Kay Larkin Airport Fuel Farm Upgrade to Fuel Tech, Inc. in the amount of \$139,584, contingent upon FDOT concurrence;
- c. Approve law enforcement trust fund expenditure for \$695 for PPD National Night Out;
- d. Approve law enforcement trust fund expenditure of \$2,144.75 to Putnam County States Attorney's office for work on forfeit cases;
- e. approve \$1.00 increase in Golf Cart Rental Fees eff. August 1, 2004, and \$2.00 increase in Greens Fees effective October 1, 2004;
- f. Reappoint Betty Willis to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term ending July, 2009;
- g. Approve Change Order #1 to Hancock Cleaning & Painting Contract for \$3,896 for 100 block cleaning and painting.

Commissioner Sanders moved to pass the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

TRIM CALENDAR - Set tentative millage rate for 2004-05 - Mr. Bush recommended setting the tentative millage rate at 8.0 mills, which represents a 5.1940% increase over the rolled-back millage rate. Commissioner Norwood moved to set the tentative millage rate at 8.0 mills. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

FDOT MEMORIAL BRIDGE BOARDWALK - Update on Status - Fred Wright, FDOT, said they have been working on site plans (filed), which he distributed, since they last updated the commission, and the project is currently on schedule. Representatives from BHR are on hand to update them on the design phase. He has presented plans to both the City and County for review, and has received comments from the City. Concerning the construction schedule, they are in the construction design phase and the production date, or finalization of plans, is scheduled for September, 2004. He will send plan to Tallahassee for a 'letting' in February 2005. It will be let for construction May of 2005 with construction beginning in November 2005.

Gene Hawerton, BHR, consultant, said they are currently in the permitting process and are 60% complete, and is currently under review by FDOT. They are looking for a release of 25' of property from the Holiday Inn. Preliminary site plans were distributed (filed). The boardwalk will be lit, including underneath the bridge. Construction will begin next fall and will take six months to complete.

Mr. Bush noted Mr. Jeff Norton's concerns about tying the south side into the Riverfront. Mr. Hawerton noted the sidewalk design change and said it has been made, but does not show up on these drawings. Per the question, he said there should be no inconvenience to motor traffic. They plan to complete the project before the Blue Crab Festival. There should be no inconvenience to the public during construction. There is no effect on the Amphitheater. They will need a temporary construction easement on the Old Jail site for equipment storage and vehicles; per the questions, they will put up a temporary fence around this site. They will sod the entrance/exits, but there are no plans for plants. There is no room for landscaping, but if the City wants to do that at a later date, they can. They

do need to meet with the new owner of the Holiday Inn to get him to sign some documents. Mr. Wright said they will be coming back to the Commission prior to completion of the plans, and will hold a construction open house prior to beginning of construction in 2005.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - Request for Acceptance of Final Plat - Westover Annex Unit/Phase 2 - Adam Mengel noted there is a recommendation from the Planning Board and staff report. This is for a two-lot addition to Westover Annex Phase I. The Planning Board has recommended approval and acceptance of the plat. They each have a copy of the plat (filed). Commissioner Azula moved to approve and accept the final replatting of two lots for Habitat for Humanity's Westover Annex Unit II. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Mayor Flagg asked for a Roll Call vote. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none.

DOWNTOWN PALAKTA - Request for CDBG Grant for Parking - Chip Laibl, President, Downtown Palatka, said they want to officially log their request for priority on a CDBG grant for purchase of a parking lot. He understands that the Madison Street ditch is also on the priority list, and asked if the money would be sufficient to do both projects in one grant. Mr. Bush said they currently have an open grant for the reuse project at the golf course, and they cannot apply for another grant until that is closed. He noted that the Madison Street project is also on the list. \$750,000 will not do both; they will be lucky to cover the ditch with that. Mr. Laibl said they have 1,200 government employees working in downtown, which is almost exactly the number of parking spaces available downtown. Parking is high on their priority list. Mr. Bush said the reuse project is scheduled for completion in February 2005. If they are successful, the money won't be available until the following fall. Mayor Flagg said they need to bring Prosperity Bank, City, County & Chamber representatives to the table to discuss this project. Per the question, Mr. Laibl said the Bank is not certain of how much of their parking lot they want to sell, or what the price will be, but it could be up to 1/2 of the parking lot.

ORDINANCE - amending the General Employees' Pension Plan to remove the military service exclusion - 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 GENERAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (4) FOUR SECTION 2-165, CREDIT FOR INTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE; AND BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (3) FROM SECTION 2-166(b), CREDIT FOR NONINTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE, EXCLUSIONS; 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 Brown moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. 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 adopted.

ORDINANCE - Firefighters' Pension Plan - removing the military service exclusion - 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 FIREFIGHTERS PENSION PLAN BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (4) FROM SECTION 2-235, CREDIT FOR INTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE, MILITARY SERVICE; AND BY DELETING PARAGRAPH (d) FROM SECTION 2-236, NONINTERVENING MILITARY SERVICE, CREDITED SERVICE, THAT COULD BE USED TO OBTAIN A BENEFIT FROM ANOTHER RETIREMENT PLAN; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance on 2nd reading as read. 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 adopted.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

PUTNAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD - Two Positions - See Staff Report (filed). Applicants for the position of appointment to the Library Board were interviewed. Don Aycock, Janet Cavouti, Sam Deputy, Susan Ivey, Alex Sharp and Annie M. Spell were present for interviews. Jeanne Douglass was not able to attend the meeting as she had a prior commitment. Mayor Flagg noted these appointments will be made at the August 26 meeting.

TREE COMMITTEE - Two Positions - See Staff Report (filed). Applicants for the position of appointment to the Tree Committee were interviewed. Maureen Lyon and Ruby Singleton were both present for interviews. Mayor Flagg noted these appointments will be made at the August 26 meeting.

Commissioner Norwood raised the issue of giving priority to City residents when considering board appointments and asked when that policy was put in place, noting that one of the incumbent members of the Library Board did not live inside the City Limits. Ms. Driggers answered the Commission set that policy about a year ago when they adopted an overall Board Appointment policy. As to the question of setting precedent, Ms. Driggers noted that when Mrs. Spells was first appointed to this particular board, that policy did not exist. She is now coming up for reappointment. Florida Statute dictates that certain boards must be made up of city residents, but this is not one of them. The Commission's own policy states that they will give preference to applicants who live or own property within the City Limits. Per the question, Mrs. Driggers said she informed the new applicants who did not live inside the city limits of the Commission's policy, but they opted to leave their applications in for consideration, which is their right. Mayor Flagg asked that the Commission review the policy and add that language to the application if the commission chooses to follow that policy. If it is a matter of giving priority to city residents, they need to decide how much priority to assign to that preference. They need to know which boards they need to hold to that rule. Ms. Driggers stated that residency requirements are always note in the advertisement. Sometimes it is statutorily required that they be city residents; if so, that is stated in the advertisement. If that is a requirement, the Commission can't consider their applications. If it is not required, but desired, that they live inside the City Limits, the advertisement states that city residents will be given preference. Mayor Flagg asked for a list of Boards and their residency requirements to be distributed to the Commission in memo form, and asked that a list of those requirements be posted in the lobby.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

City Clerk Betsy Driggers stated that all the arrangements have been made for attendance at the Annual Florida League of Cities' Conference in Hollywood; hotel reservations are made and everyone has been registered. If anyone needs to cancel, please let her know by August 6 so they can get a full refund.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Vice Mayor Brown:

- Said she attended an awards banquet for the Florida League of Cities' "Cities of Excellence" Awards. Some cities had two applicants; Palatka did not submit any applications. They have great employees that have gone way beyond the call of duty and need to be honored for their contributions to this city. She would like to see applications submitted next year; they need to begin this process soon.
- Said she was honored at the Cities of Excellence Awards Banquet for her 20 years of service on the City Commission, and received a very nice plaque. Commissioner Alonzo Middleton was recognized for his 50 years of service on the Pomona Park City Commission. With the Commission's blessing she would like to put together a committee to apply for awards on behalf of City staff.

- Said there are many long-term employees who have given good service to the City and they need some type of recognition from the Commission. The City has had luncheons for employees to recognize their safety records. She would like the Commission to look at doing 'years of service' recognition. Commissioner Brown moved to put together an Employee Recognition program for years of service. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

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