Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka held on the 10th day of March, 2005.

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, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton, Main Street Manager Cathy Butler, Codes Enf. Officer Jeanne Chandler

INVOCATION - The Reverend Scott Hughey, Pastor; First Baptist Church of E. Palatka

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Wayne McLain

Call to Order - Mayor Flagg

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 2/24/05 - Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION – PROCLAMATION - Women's History Month - Mayor Flagg read a proclamation endorsing March as Women's History Month and dedicated it to all women present at the meeting.

PROCLAMATION - Brain Awareness Week - Mayor Flagg read a proclamation designating the week of March 15 - 21, 2005 as Brain Awareness Week in the city of Palatka, and presented it to Palatka Pilot Club members present in the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Lynda Crabill, San Mateo, Putnam County Historical Society, said the Society is endeavoring to write a book on the history of Putnam County, with an emphasis on historical families, and are soliciting citizens to write about their family histories. They need pictures & stories. There are history books about places in Putnam County, but this book will also be inclusive of the people. Commissioner Brown said the elderly can talk into tape recorders. Ms. Crabill said they will type the stories from the tapes. They are asking for copies of photos, as they can't guarantee the return of original photos. She passed out a flyer containing contact information.

Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, Palatka, thanked the City and Staff on behalf of the Azalea Festival Committee for their participation and support. The weather was great and the crowds came. He is grateful for the committee members and everyone who helped make the Festival such a success. The date has been set for next year's festival, which they have begun work on.

Mr. Deputy said last year a group of downtown merchants cooked a spaghetti dinner for the rowing regatta crew teams, and they plan to do it again this year. He would like the commission to come have dinner with and greet the kids, as they did last year.

Mayor Flagg said the City is indebted to him and his committee for the outstanding job they did in coordinating the Azalea Festival.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Declare listed Water & Sewer Distribution Property as surplus for disposition as recommended.
b. Declare listed Police Department property as surplus for disposition as recommended.
c. Declare listed Sanitation Department property as surplus for disposition as recommended.
d. Declare listed WWTP property as surplus for disposition as recommended.

e. Declare listed Fire Department property as surplus for disposition as recommended.
f. Reduce Code Enforcement Lien on 322 N. 6th Street to $1,000 per recommendation from Code Enforcement Board.
g. Award bid for Water & Sewer pick-up truck to Palatka Ford for $14,100 per results of RFQ
h. Award Bid for Westview Cemetery Gazebo Restoration to David Church Construction for an amount not to exceed $20,000.

Commissioner Sanders moved to pass all items on the consent agenda as recommended. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

ADOPT RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN - Mr. Bush directed the Commission's attention to his memorandum in the agenda packet (filed), noting it explains what the master plan is. It is a set of general goals the City will list and send out with an RFP to developers around the country in hopes of enticing developers to submit proposals for developing the 100 and High-rise (200) blocks. The intent of the plan is to attract proposals; the proposals will be varied and different. One developer may want to build condos, another may want a marina, another may want something else altogether. The City is not specifying what will be built; just what could be built. The City has gone over this plan and taken public input, but has never formally adopted it. He is now asking for adoption of the EDSA Riverfront Master Plan.

Len Freeman, 422 River Street, speaking for Downtown Palatka, Inc., said last year they had extensive public discussion relating to the EDSA plan in front of them tonight. There was much public dissatisfaction with that plan. The Commission authorized taking a team approach to organizing six working teams to make recommendations and provide a more holistic approach to putting together a master plan. The team provided written recommendations and action items, which were included in a comprehensive report that was provided to the Commission. About 100 citizens dedicated considerable time to the effort. The results were a comprehensive analysis of what it would take to revitalize Downtown Palatka. The final report was presented to the Commission in August 2004. The Commission did not take specific action, but directed Mr. Bush to meet with Chip Laibl to work out the language on two of the items, and to date, more than six months later, this has not been done. The endorsement of the 5-year comprehensive plan was a giant step in the right direction. The follow-through is stalled. The EDSA Plan falls short of meeting any goals established by the "hometown team" and is contrary to some of them. To endorse or adopt any part of the EDSA study is to derail a grass-roots effort by citizens to shape their own destiny. They recommend the City Commission put the EDSA study on the shelf and only refer to it only in conjunction to a citizen-driven development of a five-year comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of Downtown Palatka. Mr. Bush said three times he set meetings up with Mr. Laibl and three times he did not come. Mr. Freeman said the commission directed Mr. Bush to meet with Mr. Laibl and not the other way around.

Sam Deputy, 722 Carr Street, said he was raised in Palatka, and many years ago a train went down Main Street to the river, houses and warehouses lined the river, and there was no view of the river. Slowly the buildings have been purchased and torn down and the train does not run there anymore, so now there is a view of the river. The City's riverfront park is the only way most of them have access to riverfront property. He does not go to the river to look at boats; he goes to look at the water. That view belongs to the City. He cannot imagine having a marina and boats there. He cannot imagine that citizens are clamoring for a marina. The commissioners are elected officials who should hold this view in trust for the citizens. Palatka has the best open parkland from Jacksonville to Sanford on the river. To lose that is totally unrealistic in his view.

As to the EDSA Plan, there is no marketing plan there. The man who presented the Plan said people will get off their boats and spend money, but that would not fly in his marketing classes. That is not sufficient planning. He can see the River from six blocks away; he'd like to be able to do that when he is old, also. They don't have to give away the assets or quality of life in Putnam County.

Bert Scoggins, Resident, said they already know how much she likes the river and the view. She bought her house so she could see it. She hopes they tell a developer that they need a convention hall downtown. It can look like the Bronson House from the front and have a stage, fireplaces, overstuffed chairs, etc. This could be built on the 100 block with offices all around and a Ticketmaster office. Restaurants can locate there, too. Many events there would make money, and it would draw events and shows from out of town.

Allegra Kitchens, 1027 S. 12th Street, passed out some photos to the Commission that depicts the St. Augustine marina, coming in from Hwy 207 and along U.S. 1. It shows people parking their vehicles on the grass, and what the actual marina looks like. It is wall-to-wall boats. She'd like them not to adopt this plan, or table it for nine months, and if they do adopt it, please expressly exclude the marina, interactive fountain and amphitheater at the dock. She has attended the workshops. A large number of residents of Palatka & Putnam County are overwhelmingly against the marina. With a privately owned marina, it would be gated off. It would take public property away from the public. EDSA said a marina cannot carry itself; it has to have upland development, which is commercial development that goes along with & supports the marina, like shops, restaurants, etc along with Parkway. When asked about redevelopment of downtown Palatka, they said they were not told to look at anything but the feasibility of the development of a marina. People in Palatka won't shop in new places, and if they do, they won't come to old downtown Palatka to shop. They said the boathouse marina was too far away for a Marina. The memorials don't need to be moved. As to the interactive fountain, it is a huge concrete fountain and will take away from the grassy area. The city needs to consider the liability to the City; the first time someone falls down in the interactive fountain, they will sue the City. Jacksonville Mayor Delaney said the only advantage Palatka has over Jacksonville is the unobstructed view of the river. Development of the waterfront will hurt festivals. Blue Crab needs its space. She'd like the Commission to table the issue until December, if they don't dismiss it altogether.

Sidney and Evelyn Motes, 309 River Street, said they are not against the riverfront plan; they think it is good. They are definitely against the marina.

Mr. Bush said he served on the Ways and Means Committee and they met a number of times. They came up with a good list of suggestions. He asked Cathy Butler to talk about those suggestions.

Cathy Butler, Main Street Manager, said that Committee came up with future incentive programs for Downtown, which they are still aggressively working on. That report was forwarded to the group that put together the final recommendation.

Mayor Flagg asked where that report was, and if it was contained in the final report. Mr. Bush said what the Commission saw was not the report they turned in to the organizers.

Jeff Norton, Parks Supt., said he served on the Design committee, and did not see his committee's final report. To his knowledge, no final report was generated by his committee. He does not know where the report the Commission saw came from.

Mr. Bush asked Mr. Freeman if this was the group's report, or if it was Mr. Freeman's report. Mr. Freeman said they all met one last time to go over all the reports one last time, and Mr. Bush was in attendance. All reports were put into a draft document exactly the way they came from the teams. They must have been generated at a meeting Mr. Bush did not attend. He compiled the reports into a final draft, and they discussed all these items at the meeting. They all had comments, including Commissioner Sanders' comments. When they brought the final recommendation to the Commission, there were two specific recommendations that came from it. One was to set up an oversight committee to oversee the TIF fund expenditures, and the other was to create a five-year comprehensive plan team made up of the same elements as the original team. The Mayor directed Mr. Bush to meet with Mr. Laibl to get the language finalized to bring back to the Commission for adoption, and that has not been done. For the City to look at adopting this report is ludicrous. The EDSA report is already antiquated, at 1-1/2 years old. The stakeholders put a lot of effort into developing a plan for Downtown Palatka, and not just a plan only encompassing the city's two blocks. This received tacit approval from the

City Commission six months ago. It is not prudent to adopt this plan tonight. It does not create an image for an RFP that Downtown Palatka agrees with.

Mr. Bush said the report did not contain any concrete things to back up the suggestions. The report the Ways and Means committee gave did not relate to what was actually presented to the Commission. Mr. Norton has stated that his committee did not turn in a final report. Mr. Freeman said that is not true. Mr. Bush said he did attend the meeting where the final recommendation was made. He can show Mr. Freeman his committee's final report so he can compare it to the report the Commission received. Mr. Freeman said that does not relate to the matter at hand. These teams worked very hard on these recommendations. They need to stick with this Planning process. He would like to see the City take the more holistic approach and not consider adopting this plan tonight.

Mr. Bush said they are getting close to going out for an RFP. They would like to enclose a professional master plan with it. He asked if the Commission wants him to enclose the EDSA Master Plan with it, or do they have to wait nine months for this other Plan?

Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, said he was involved in that committee process, and doesn't have the report in front of him and can't speak to what was or was not in it, but in the process, they left nothing out and doesn't like having his integrity called into question. He is in favor of revitalizing downtown buildings. He is not in favor of revitalizing only one section of Palatka; he is in favor of revitalizing the entire city. His family owns buildings in five city blocks all over Palatka, plus several houses, but was not notified to attend stakeholder meetings. He learned through the newspaper of the meeting at Price Martin the next day. At that time the public thought was against what EDSA was presenting.

Mr. Deputy said the TIF funds, which are paying for the 100 block, are garnered from his taxes, but he has no say in how they are spent. They are to be used for the revitalization of the entire area the TIF fund encompasses, but he has not seen a plan for anything but the riverfront. They are only being spent on the riverfront area. The EDSA people said two blocks is too far for the boat people to walk to get to his business. He'd like to know what this will do for the blocks west of 400 block of St. Johns Avenue, and specifically the 600 block of St. Johns Avenue. They are being too shortsighted, and are not encompassing the entire city. They have not informed the entire city of the process. They need to see and hear more. They are confused and skeptical. They want to be involved, and not excluded.

Commissioner Norwood said it is time to move forward. They purchased the 100 Block so they could develop it. To continue to not have a plan to develop the 100 block is not acceptable. The citizens of Palatka deserve to know in what direction they are taking the 100 block. He's heard references made to developing downtown. What he has in front of him is the Palatka Riverfront Master Plan. This does not apply to 11th street or anything else. He asked what scope or directive was given to EDSA to develop this plan?

Mr. Bush said the original scope of work was to plan to revitalize downtown; EDSA felt that these two blocks were what the city owned and what we needed to focus on. These two blocks are to be the catalyst for bringing property values up and traffic back downtown, which will revitalize downtown. It is hoped it will act as a catalyst and affect all of the downtown area. Once there is a market there for viable businesses, people will purchase the vacant buildings and bring in a business. They took the two most critical areas, and decided if they don't do something here, they will never get anything else going.

Commissioner Brown said she believed they were looking specifically at the 'riverfront' area, which went from First to Fourth Street. She asked if they are looking at ways for funding.

Mr. Bush said with development in those two blocks, more money goes into the TIF fund, and that will develop more blocks down the street. The most critical thing for redevelopment is the development of the area closest to the river. They are developing what the City owns.

Commissioner Azula said there is not a person here that doesn't want something to happen downtown. He doesn't want to block the view. Everyone he has talked to is opposed to blocking the view with a marina. It will affect the view. No one is opposed to having a viable hotel. They just don't want to block the view of the river. He can't see putting a big shed on the waterfront. The people who voted them into office have said they don't want this.

He said this is not new; they have been talking about this for 40 years. If you go to waterfront towns, all you see are boats and buildings. It is not attractive. If they are going to be an ecological tourist town, they are not doing the right thing by putting in a marina.

Mr. Bush said in this case, the marina can be taken off the table. They can adopt the Master Plan without the Marina component. If you start pulling things off the table, it would make a difference in the type of development that occurs. If someone wants to build condos, the question on the table becomes do they want upscale condos or run-of-the-mill condos. You have to have a hook. If this is approved tonight, that doesn't mean all the proposals will have a marina. They are looking at all options. If they ask a developer to take the marina off the table, the developer can either take his proposal and go home or stay and work with the City to develop it. The RFP is not the final plan; the public will have a say in reviewing the proposals in determining what is best for the City.

Mr. Sanders said they have been discussing this for many years; they put it off and put it off, and it is discouraging. They need to go ahead and approve this Plan. They may not want a marina, but they need to get something started. This will enable them to get money to do more things. Every time they try to do something in Palatka, there is always a lot of opposition. He was president of the merchant's association for two years and they couldn't agree on anything. If they were to take an inventory of buildings left to use for retail, they would find very few. Most of them are professional offices. One day all the retail stores are going to be gone. He does not want to keep putting this off. He is not saying they have to build a marina. He doesn't want to see the waterfront destroyed. He wants to move forward.

Robert Griffin, 510 Mulholland Park, asked how the Commission can pass this proposal when they won't even know if they can take down the Frank George Apartments for three more months? He believes there are some plans in the background that are not apparent. The commission needs to reconsider these stupid actions.

Mr. Bush said they will know what is happening on the apartments 100 days from February 1, and they want to be ready to go when they get the word.

Mr. Bush asked Mr. Freeman if he would be willing to sit down with a variety of proposals from different developers on the 100 and 200 blocks, some with or without a marina, and sort through them to determine what is best for downtown? Mr. Freeman said he is not a planner, and has a personal vision for the waterfront, business regeneration, and wall-to-wall Palatka. Professional planners need to be involved in making these decisions. He agrees that they should not stall coming up with a comprehensive plan any longer; he just does not believe the EDSA plan is a holistic comprehensive plan. It does not have a strong consensus. The merchants association has come to a consensus that they want the stakeholders and citizens of this town involved in a comprehensive planning process. It stalled last summer, due to one reason or another. Six months have passed since the commission gave tacit approval to go forward with more planning. They aren't trying to reinvent anything; this process has been used all across the country. They believe they need a plan that encompasses the entire city -- a sensible, economical, feasible method to revitalize the riverfront and downtown. The EDSA plan and what it proposes derails what the stakeholders want to do. There are many pieces and parts that make sense, and some that don't. This is not just about not approving the EDSA plan because it says there might be a marina; its about approving a plan they can all get on board with. They need to kick-start their planning process. They like their riverfront park; it attracts people to the kind of lifestyle they want to have. The EDSA report is a tool to use in the planning process, but they need a comprehensive plan for the whole city. He wants it done their way, not EDSA's way. They don't want to end up looking like St. Johns County or downtown Jacksonville. He'd love too see all the RFP's.

Mr. Bush asked if he agrees that a major development will have a positive effect on Downtown Palatka. Mr. Freeman said he does not. He believes enhancement of the green space will. People visit Palatka to enjoy what they all get to enjoy every day. A few of them will move here, and they will come with money. The community needs to be in control of growth.

Mr. Bush said outsiders are not going to tell them what to do. What the downtown merchants plan proposes compliments what the City is trying to do. The two don't conflict with each other, they go hand in hand. As development begins and TIF coffers swell, they will look at how to spend it and what to spend it on.

Commissioner Brown said she is ready to vote for something. They do studies on the studies and never do anything. She has been here all her life. She knows what was on the riverfront. Change is hard to take. It is hard to let things go. By going forward with change, they will attract more people to come in. They need to get more compromise to get things downtown. More than likely, when the City tore down the old buildings on the 100 block and built the High-rise, they met with just as much opposition. She has been invited to visit the redevelopment project at St. Petersburg, which has worked well, and she'd like to make that trip with others. She asked if they just can pass this without the marina component and try to work out something more acceptable? They don't want to keep going back and forth and do nothing.

Mr. Griffin said the city owns a number of properties and has three grant writers. They are accessing grants, which will go to properties the City owns. When Mrs. Butler comes to downtown meetings, she always says there is nothing for the merchants. He worked with the redevelopment of San Bernardino County. Mrs. Butler doesn't put her efforts into the Main Street program. The goal of Main Street is to involve the entire city in revitalizing downtown, which isn't being done. They aren't talking about revitalizing the entire city, but only downtown. Mr. Freeman's plan is working. These people aren't experts. This commission has neglected the downtown area. When the commission voted to purchase the downtown block that destroyed downtown. No businesses have come in there. The buildings have to sit there because the city controls them. This leadership has been more destructive than progressive. There are only pennies available for restoration. It will take millions of dollars to restore the old buildings, not pennies. For the Commission's to put its plans ahead of Mr. Freeman's leadership is totally unbelievable.

Mayor Flagg said they will not attack personalities and each other. It is his role to facilitate public meetings and they will always respect each other's opinions and comments. They have asked groups to come together to mesh together a final draft plan to present to the community. Apparently that has not happened. He asked the Commission for a motion to table this item and set a workshop to come up with a plan and move this issue forward. He didn't give verbal input in the meetings, because that is time for them to listen rather than talk. They have to be able to hear what is being said. When individuals bring their perspectives, they have to take all that into consideration. The Planning Board, City Commission, stakeholders, downtown merchants, and all Palatkans across all economic classes need to hold a meeting to work this out.

Commissioner Brown moved to table adoption of the Riverfront Master Plan until after a public workshop on the subject has been held, such date to be announced within the next thirty (30) days, and such meeting to be held within 60 days, so that they can obtain cooperative feedback prior to taking the issue up again. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion. Mayor Flagg requested a roll-call vote, the results of which follow: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. The motion passed unopposed.

PALATKA YACHT CLUB - Location of Floating Clubhouse - Erica Heine, San Mateo, and Commodore Wayne McLain, Palatka Yacht Club, - Mrs. Heine said a boating club should have a home on the water. They don't have a lot of money to purchase a parcel of land. They purchased an old barge and renovated it into a beautiful clubhouse. They believe a location south of the city dock on the riverfront park would be ideal. They would have their own walkway to get on and off. Their club is an asset to the City. They want to be part of the city and those organizations that utilize the riverfront. They will

need connections to sewer, water and electricity, which they will pay for. The city will have no expenses. She'd like the City to find a place for their clubhouse.

Wayne McLain, 285 W. River Road, Commodore, said they are asking for a gangplank to come down from the floating clubhouse to City property. They have meetings once a month and will allow organizations like the Coast Guard and Wolfson's Bass Tournament to use it. The city can use it for meetings if they'd like. It will accommodate seating for up to 80 people inside. It would draw other boating clubs for rendezvous. When the clubhouse is not in use the gangplank would come up, and the sides are high enough that no one would be able to get on it. It would be secured fore and aft by pilings. It is an attractive vessel. Their members have put over $121,000 into this. It is air conditioned, and they plan to install a kitchen. The vessel is registered.

They hold a $1 million liability insurance policy on this vessel and are willing to name the City as an additional insured. Gene O'Connor was commodore in 1976 and last year, and lives on the river. He would not put his name on anything that would bring disfavor upon the City. Their members are well known in the community and they are bound to do what they say they will do, or the City can evict them.

Suzanne Jacobs, 329 River Street asked how long the boat is. Mr. McLain said the boat is 85 feet long with a 25-foot gangway.

Constantine Foltis, 136 Cedar Creek Road, said the hull floats in two feet of water with a 25-foot gangway, which would be lifted electronically when not in use. Mrs. Jacobs said they have been talking about keeping an unobstructed view of the river tonight, and many people come to this area for an unobstructed view. This will certainly obstruct the homeowners' view in that area. She asked the Commission to consider the homeowners along the area before agreeing to this request.

Evelyn Motes, 312 River Street, said she objects very much to this being parked by the dock. They have improved the looks of the boat, but she does not want it in her front yard. She doesn't believe any of them would want it in theirs. She objects to the view; she does not want to look out from her porch and see it. She and her husband were born in Palatka and love the water, and she remembers what downtown was like; it was a place you could visit with each other. The river is now a 'visiting place,' and not downtown.

Allegra Kitchens, 1027 S. 12th Street, asked the Commission to table this and to give them an opportunity to take a look at where it will sit in relation to Mrs. Motes' property. Commissioner Brown asked if the boat can be parked there for them to see how it looks

Mr. McLain said the boat is non-powered and will cost a lot to tow it there and then have to return it to its present mooring place. He understands the neighbors' concerns.

Ms. Kitchens suggested they can draw the boat onto an aerial photograph you get an idea of where it would be in relation to Mrs. Motes' property. Mr. Foltis said the map in the agenda is drawn to scale, but does not show the Motes' property. They believe that since this is the center of boating activities in Palatka, it is the ideal spot for this clubhouse. Per the question, Mr. Freeman said his boats are 63 feet long. He can bring one of his boats and park it there on the day of the next meeting. Mr. Foltis can do an elevation drawing showing the relation of the boat to the surrounding area and post it at the riverfront kiosk. Mr. McLain said anyone who wants a tour can take one. Mayor Flagg said he believes this can be tabled until the next meeting. He asked the Planner to post a public notice of what is being considered and when this will take place. The members of the Commission can meet individually to tour the boat. Commissioner Brown suggested they call a meeting and bring the press to tour the boat. Commissioner Azula said the boat is very impressive. Mayor Flagg suggested a video tour by WJGV prior to the next meeting.

Commissioner Norwood said he is concerned that, since the master plan is not in place, he would hate to permit this, and then have to ask them to move it if the master plan does not favor it. He would rather wait until the plan is complete, and then set a permanent place for the boat. Piece-mealing is not the thing to do.

Commissioner Norwood suggested tabling this until after the master plan is in place. Mayor Flagg asked how much it would cost to move the boat there temporarily. Mr. McLain said they have set aside $5,000 in their budget to move the boat and install pilings. He appreciates Commissioner Norwood's concerns about the master plan, but they are paying to rent a meeting place now. They can talk about putting it there on a temporary basis.

Mr. Bush said in order to eliminate proliferation of floating clubhouses, he suggests the Commission set aside only the area south of the boat ramp for this type of mooring.

Commissioner Sanders said they can move the boat anytime they need to; they don't need to delay this decision. Mr. McLain said they don't need to get approval tonight; he is in favor of delaying until the community has an opportunity to look at it.

Commissioner Sanders moved to allow the Palatka Yacht Club to move the boat on site, per the plan as set out by the yacht club. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Brown moved to table the request until March 24, 2005. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Alarm Review Board - Mayor Flagg noted Shandra Riffey is the sole applicant for the residential member slot and John Roberts is the sole applicant for the commercial member slot. Ms. Driggers noted Mrs. Riffey is in Tallahassee attending a luncheon with the Governor's wife, and Mr. Roberts told her earlier that he may not be able to make the meeting due to his work schedule, but both send their regrets. Commissioner Brown moved to waive the second meeting requirements and appoint Shandra Riffey as the resident member and John Roberts as the commercial member of the PPD Alarm Review Board. Commissioner Azula seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

PUBLIC HEARING - 4011 Crill Avenue - Planning Board recommendation to Amend the Land Use Map and Rezone from City C-2 to City C-2 (Intensive Commercial) - Autrey and Faye Dawsey, applicants/owners. Mayor Flagg opened the Public Hearing.

ORDINANCE No. 05-22 - Land Use Amendment - the Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH RESPECT TO ONE PARCEL OF LAND (LESS THAN 10 ACRES IN SIZE) AS DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Azula, Brown, Norwood, Sanders and Mayor Flagg, Yes; Nays, none. Ordinance No. 05-22 was declared adopted.

ORDINANCE No. 05-23 - Rezoning 4011 Crill Avenue - 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 11, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption. 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. Ordinance No. 05-23 was declared adopted.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS - There were none.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - Commissioner Brown

- Thanked Betsy Driggers, Cathy Butler, Cookie Hardiman and Chandra Simmons for all their work during the Azalea Festival Mayor's Reception. It was well organized and they kept the reception running smoothly. The City has a wonderful staff who goes beyond the call of duty to make the City look good. Mr.

Bush should put a thank-you in their files. When it's time for salary adjustments, they need to show their appreciation for making them look so good. Ms. Driggers does a great job organizing the NEFLC meeting, also.

- Said she received a call from a gentleman who was thinking about locating a business here, who said he was told by the Chamber there was no place available for his particular business. Requests such as this need to come to the City Commission. It is their job to try to bring in jobs and revenue. They have lost numerous opportunities for growth and revenue because this type of request was turned down by the Chamber, and they never even got a chance to address them. She'd like the Chamber to refer such requests to the commission before turning them away.

Commissioner Azula:

- Apologized for not attending the Mayor's Reception. He is still recovering from his operation, and is not able to keep up with the rest of them. He was there in spirit.

Commissioner Sanders:

- Said, as to Commissioner Brown's comments, other commissioners may have received the same call; he received a call from a realtor who wanted to expand at the Winn Dixie plaza and add more stores. There is a piece of property next to that plaza that is already in the limits and zoned properly. Mr. Bush said anything like that should be referred to the Chamber. Commissioner Brown said the Chamber should be told to refer callers to the City before telling them things can't be done.
- Said he has been on the Commission for some years; some growth has been good and some not. Things were done by prior commissions with and without good vision. If they delay too long on issues, opportunities will slip through their hands. Mayor Flagg is quite progressive and sees that things need to be done. He works for the good of all city residents, not just a few.

Commissioner Norwood:

- Said he has spoken with Mr. Bush about raising public awareness of dumpsites around the City. He knows of two 'dump sites' in the City. "Dumping" is when you take trash from your house or yard and place it on property other than yours. This is illegal. There are serious problems with dumping by individuals taking their trash to locations where no one lives so it won't be in front of their house, and they won't have to pay to remove it. They need to be proactive about dumpers through Police and Codes Enforcement.
- Gave kudos for the work Mrs. Driggers and Mrs. Butler did on the Mayor's Reception. The FloArts students were a very nice touch; he's had a lot of good feedback on that.
- Said he has received calls from vendors about getting space during the Blue Crab Festival, who are looking to book space. They are being turned away. He'd like to know the criteria for getting space from Blue Crab; perhaps they can have representatives here for the next meeting to answer questions. He was told by some individuals that they keep inquiring about getting vendor space, but are always told the festival is booked up.

Marcia Lane, Blue Crab Festival, unofficially responding, said any vendor can come to Blue Crab and fill out a form and pay the fee. They do limit the number of vendors doing the same thing; they don't want too many people selling soft drinks, etc, because it 'saturates' the market and then no one does well. They try not do duplicate food, crafters, etc. There is a phone number in the book, or they can call Marshall Fulgham for information. They have had vendors register after the festival opens its door. Commissioner Norwood asked if the festival is full on one vendor, could they put in an application for the next festival; Ms. Lane said that can. They can register at any time leading up to the festival. They do limit the number of certain types of vendors. Vendors have to agree to the festival rules. As long as they have a good record, Blue Crab would love to have them.

Mayor Flagg

- Said he echoes the comments about Ms. Driggers, her staff, and Cookie Hardiman from the PD, on the Mayor's Reception, which was a very fine and well-attended event. They need to write a Letter to the Editor thanking the list of folks that participated, and follow that up with a personal thank-you note with their expression of gratitude. They encountered a lob of stumbling blocks and hurdled right over them and managed to pull it off.

Commissioner Azula:

- Said there are a number of unattractive signs along Hwy 19; they look bad. Some are homemade and very unprofessional-looking Mr. Bush said if they are on the right-of-way the City can pick them up and will store them behind the City Hall Annex. Folks can come pick them up and re-locate them on private property. Commissioner Azula asked if the police patrols can pick up the illegal signs, as they are always out patrolling.

Mayor Flagg

- Asked the Clerk to get with the Supervisor of Elections on dates that election signs can go up.

Commissioner Brown:

- Asked if the City could recognize FloArts Students with certificates and pins at a future meeting so they will have a personal reference. They did a great job and put a lot of effort into it.

Mayor Flagg

- Asked if they can 'piggy back' off the "Teacher of the Year" recognitions and ask the recipients to come to a commission meeting for recognition.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown.

CITY CLERK	MAYOR