

KARL N. FLAGG
MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS
COMMISSIONER



Regular meeting 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 6:00 p.m.

ELWIN C. "WOODY" BOYNTON, JR.
CITY MANAGER

BETSY JORDAN DRIGGERS
CITY CLERK

RUBY M. WILLIAMS
FINANCE DIRECTOR

GARY S. GETCHELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

MICHAEL LAMBERT
CHIEF FIRE DEPT.

DONALD E. HOLMES
CITY ATTORNEY

MINUTES CITY OF PALATKA January 24, 2008

The following is a record of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 24th day of January, 2008.

PRESENT: Mayor Karl N. Flagg
Commissioner Mary Lawson Brown
Commissioner Allegra Kitchens
Commissioner James Norwood, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Elwin C. Boynton, Jr.; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; Assistant City Clerk Karen Venables, Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Cemetery/Parks Director Jeff Norton, WTP Supervisor Melvin Register, Fire Marshall Mark Lynady, Deputy Fire Chief Randy Porter, Planning Director Jim Lee, Asst. Planner Debbie Banks,

INVOCATION - Father John Jacobs, Pastor, All Saints Anglican Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - As a group

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 11/27/07 called meeting - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

SERVICE RECOGNITION – Fire Captain Jim Sims, 22 years; retiring January 30, 2008 - Fire Chief Mike Lambert and members of the Palatka Fire Dept. recognized Jim Sims for his 22 years of dedicated and outstanding service with the City of Palatka Fire Department. Fire Chief Lambert presented Captain Sims with a fire helmet and engraved fire extinguisher and thanked him for his years of service, and noted Captain Sims is planning on staying on as a reserve member. Mayor Flagg presented Captain Sims with a plaque recognizing him for his 22 years of dedicated service as a professional firefighter.

Putnam County Commissioner Herman Somers was also present to recognize Captain Sims for his years of service and as a friend and mentor, and presented him with his "Gator Tie."

PROCLAMATION - March of Dimes Fund Raising Days – January 24 through April 19, 2008 - Mayor Flagg read and presented to representatives from the March of Dimes a Proclamation proclaiming January 24 through April 19, 2008 as March of Dimes Fundraising Days.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – January, 2008 – Commissioner Kitchens assisted Mayor Flagg in presenting certificates for academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance to the following students, representing their respective schools:

Nicholas Vandergeest	Beasley Middle School
Saphire Robinson	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Hayley Smith	Childrens' Reading Center Charter School
Trisha Winfrey	E.H. Miller School
Frederick Smith	James A. Long Elementary School
Danielle Motes	Jenkins Middle School
Chandler Ratliff	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Laticia Baldeon	Mellon Elementary School
Jonathan Colay	Moseley Elementary School
Joyce Santana	Palatka High School
Ben Blevins	Peniel Baptist Academy
London Jett	River Breeze Elementary School

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS - (Speakers limited to three minutes – no action taken on items)

Mrs. Rosemary Anderson, President, Arts Council of Greater Palatka, was present to give the semi-annual report on the Art Council activities during the second half of 2007. The Gallery's shows focus on local talent. Tiffany Sage and family member exhibits started in July, followed by an exhibit with a domestic violence abuse and prevention theme, sponsored by the Lee Conlee House. They hosted the Annual Olivia Lay Arts Show & Sale and the All County Student Art Show and Competition. Thanks to a sponsorship from Seminole Electric Coop, there were some 460 entries received and they were able to hold an awards breakfast for students and their parents. They work with the School Board to place professional artists into Putnam schools so students can learn about the various arts through performances and companion workshops. The Council is particularly proud that they were able to add the Nutcracker Ballet to their cultural scene through support from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the Putnam School Board and funding from the Arts Council. Dance Alive, a nationally known dance company, gave two performances. They hope to be able to offer Nutcracker again this next Holiday Season. Live at the Larimer, a coffee house-like event held on the 4th Friday of the month, is a venue for area musicians to perform. Local bands like Platt Drew and Blast of Grass, the Driftwoods and the Traveling Troubadours have performed. They support working with other non-profit groups and work with the City to prepare Larimer Building Historical grants. They provided use of the Larimer for River Reflections in December and retained the performers for the evening concert, provided space in the Larimer for dressing and/or prop rooms for River City Players to use for their fall production, and worked with Palatka Main Street and the Azalea Festival to chair the fine arts show. Questions concerning the Larimer theatre space and Arts Council's right of use are yet to be resolved. The Council is currently planning an event called "Everything Chocolate" for the evening of Friday, March 7th. This will feature after-dinner desserts and other

indulgences. She hopes the Commission will come and indulge with them. Mayor Flagg noted Ms. Anderson could anticipate meeting with the City Manager to address any questions.

Christy Sanford, 312 Dodge St., stated she is a member of the Southside Historic Neighborhood Association and they wanted to honor two City employees. Ms. Sanford recognized City Manager Woody Boynton and Asst. Planner Debbie Banks with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of outstanding service to their neighborhood for 2007 and also a \$25.00 gift certificate for Egan's Eatery. Ms. Sanford noted Ms. Banks has performed code enforcement in a humane and effective manner, and Mr. Boynton did a wonderful job on the sidewalks and responded to a list of problems that related to his former position as Public Works Director.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Appoint Canvassing Boards:
 1. For March 11 Special Election: Supervisor of Elections Susan McCool, City Clerk Betsy Driggers, Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, Commissioner James Norwood
 2. For April 8 Special Election: Supervisor of Elections Susan McCool, City Clerk Betsy J. Driggers, Mayor Karl N. Flagg, and Commissioner Allegra Kitchens
- b. Waive 2nd Meeting Requirement and Appoint Leigh Rion to the Palatka Planning Board for a three-year term to expire January 31, 2011 (sole applicant)
- c. Appoint 2008 Golf Course Advisory Board (six members – club designees) – 1 yr. terms to expire 1/09
 1. Greg Jungenburg, PMGA President
 2. Kevin Durscher, PMGA Club Designee
 3. Genevieve Alvers, PWGA President
 4. Joy Langston, PWGA Club Designee
 5. David Trump, PSGA President
 6. Ward Bair, PSGA Club Designee
- d. Award Bid for Fire Marshal's vehicle - one (1) 2008 Chevrolet Silverado short crew cab 1500 4X4 P/U truck to St. Johns Chevrolet in the amount of \$25,970, per results of RFQ – State Contract Pricing (budgeted item - \$25,000 Capital Outlay; \$970 Operating) per results of RFP

Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION – Lower Ocklawaha Alternative Water Plan – Jim Gross, SJRWMD. Water Plant Superintendent Melvin Register stated he first became aware of the SJRWMD Water Supply Plan shortly after he became the Water Plant Superintendent in 2005. Since that time he has followed the progress of the alternative water supply plan being developed by the District. The Plan calls for withdrawal of water from the St. Johns and Ocklawaha Rivers to meet the demands for areas further south. Currently there is no water supply shortage in Palatka or Putnam County, but the proximity to these resources and their influence on the community requires they pay special attention to what is going on in South Florida. During the past year the City has participated in the District's preliminary planning for the lower Ocklawaha River Project, because that is the one closest to Palatka, and the most feasible for their participation, should they be chosen

to do so. The initial planning for the scope of the project has been completed, so he asked Mr. Jim Gross, a representative from SJRWMD, to address the Commission on the project.

Mr. Jim Gross, P.G., Senior Project Manager, Division of Water Supply and Resource Management, SJRWMD, said he is here to address the need for alternative water supplies and what is driving that need, particularly in the communities adjacent to Putnam County, and source options, locations, who is involved and costs. The need for alternative water supplies is due to the growing demand for water in the St. Johns River Management District. He provided a district-wide graph showing projected changes in water use from 2000 to 2025. Limits to groundwater pumping are saltwater intrusion, altered wetland hydrology, decreased flow to springs and decreased lake levels. District scientists try to determine the affect of taking all the future water supply from ground water, which they've depicted on maps. He provided a map showing projected water level changes in the Florida Aquifer, showing "Priority Water Resource Caution Areas." Mr. Gross noted in the 2005 Water Supply Plan, about 30% of the district was designated as a Priority Water Resource Caution Area; however, Putnam County is not in that Area. This Plan will be updated in 2010. They've looked at brackish ground water as an alternative; however, this has limited locations and yields. They still think the St. Johns River holds promise as a source; they estimate they can draw around 155 mg/d without it having an impact. They are also looking at the Lower Ocklawaha River, which could be a potential source of 107 mg/d, and looks like it could be a less costly or more cost effective source for many communities. Seawater is being given a lot of attention right now.

Mr. Gross said alternative water supply project locations are being looked at across the district. There are 47 utilities in 9 counties that are facing deficits over the next 20 years. There are 6 source locations; Flagler seawater, Lower Ocklawaha, Deland, Yankee Lake, SR 46, and Taylor Creek Reservoir; 4 on the St. Johns River, 1 on the Lower Ocklawaha River and 1 involving seawater desalination. They represent a total deficit of 285 mg/d total demand in 2030. Mr. Gross provided a graph showing river project demands by location and said total capital costs range from \$600 to \$850 million per project. Typical life cycle costs rage from \$2.50 to as much as \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons due to treatment need and distance. A Lower Ocklawaha River Water Supply Project for the City of Palatka, at 5.4 million gallons per day, with total Capital cost share would cost around \$62 million, which would translate to about \$3.52 per 1,000 gallons.

Commissioner Norwood inquired as to the effect this would have on the ecosystem. Mr. Gross stated that is probably the single most intense topic under discussion; they have looked at a number of environmental ramifications, such as changes in water levels, changes in flows and changes in the salinity in the river, particularly down-stream. You cannot say there is no impact, because there is clearly an impact, but it is minor even when compared to the daily fluctuation in salinity that occurs through tide fluctuation, and pales in comparison to seasonal fluctuation that occurs as a result of heat run-off in the summertime, which flushes the salinity out, verses in the dry season and late spring when there is almost no run-off, when the water is very salty. There are aspects of the project that should be explored a little further, and there are things that are happening that are outside the domain of the Water Management District.

Commissioner Kitchens inquired as to Palatka buying or sell water from someone. Mr. Gross stated it is the Capital Cost Contribution that Palatka would have to pay to the project. Commissioner Kitchens asked if it involved the City hooking into their system instead of operating its own system. Mr. Gross stated it is a collective system where everybody shares in the cost of construction and ownership, operations and maintenance. There are many possibilities on how it could be owned and operated. Mr. Boynton stated this would apply if the City water supply failed and we had to look for water elsewhere. Commissioner Norwood stated if the City had to pay for it, they would most certainly pass those costs on to the users.

Commissioner Brown inquired as to how that impacts the City now, being that a new water plant is under construction. Mr. Boynton stated he had asked Mr. Gross to give the Commission an update on where the process was, what has been done to date, and projected costs. He has asked Mr. Register to come back to the next meeting with information directly relating to the City of Palatka, with information on how the City should proceed from here on out. Tonight's presentation was to inform the Commission on the data, how far they have come, and what's going on. Discussions are going on throughout Northeast and Central Florida, and each municipality and district has to make their own decisions. They will discuss how this relates to the City of Palatka in upcoming meetings.

Mayor Flagg thanked Mr. Gross for sharing the information, and said the City has to be concerned with its neighbors to the north as well as to the south; looking at the District as a whole, there is quite a bit of area. Commissioner Brown commented that water is becoming a big issue all over the Country, due to growth. It is necessary to have an alternative.

5. RESOLUTION #8-25 urging the Florida Legislature to support the Florida League of Cities Legislative Agenda during the 2008 Legislative Session – Adopt. The Assistant Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, URGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES' ISSUES DURING THE 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Resolution 8-25 as read. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. Per Mayor Flagg's request, the Assistant Clerk read the major issues into the record (filed). Mayor Flagg stated there is a broad spectrum of issues involved, and they need to make sure that the Governor, the House and the Senate are all sensitive to those needs.

Commissioner Kitchens noted the resolution states it advocates broadening municipal home rule and other authority to issue tax-increment financed bonds and other forms of indebtedness without approval by referendum, and she does not think they should issue bonds without having the citizens approve them by referendum. She questioned item that prohibits the Florida Department of Transportation from eliminating, deferring, or delaying capacity improvement projects contained in the 5-year Work Plan when it negatively impacts the comprehensive plan of the local government. If something negatively impacts the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Commission needs to pay attention to it. Mayor Flagg said it is saying it is prohibiting them from delaying when there is a negative impact. Regarding municipal home rule, the local municipal body needs to consult with their constituents rather than give Tallahassee the authority to tell

cities what they can or can't do. They do want the referendum to be local. Commissioner Brown noted the League has several policy committees that address these issues, especially those concerning mandates, and these priorities are voted on by the legislative body of the League of Cities. They want the Legislature to know that cities speak with one voice and need to be heard.

There being no further discussion a roll call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Norwood, Kitchens and Mayor Flagg, yes. Nays, none. Resolution No. 8-25 was declared adopted.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Jeff Norton, Parks/Cemetery Supervisor invited everyone to the Oak Hill West Cemetery addition dedication ceremony to be held Tuesday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. at Oak Hill West Cemetery.

Fire Chief Mike Lambert announced the Palatka Fire Dept. won the County BLS Competition and would be competing in the State Competition at Fire Rescue East in Jacksonville tomorrow. If they place in that competition, they will go to the National Competition.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Brown stated she attended the Airport Committee meeting and was happy to hear the report she brought back regarding the possibility of bringing International trade to the City. They agreed that it would be better for the City to move forward. The Florida League of Cities forwarded information to Mr. Boynton regarding funding sources for cities who have airports, barge ports and rails; she asked that Mr. Boynton to follow up on this and report back to the Commission. There is a good possibility that they can bring international trade to the Airport, and she would also like the City to look into putting a warehouse there that could be leased or sold to someone, and would like to work towards finding a way to establish a business incubator or other source to help people that come from another country.

Commissioner Kitchens concurred with Commissioner Brown, and stated she voted early today and urged everyone to do likewise, as both the Presidential Primary and Amendment One tax amendment are important issues.

Commissioner Norwood stated the City has done a good job of putting in many miles of sidewalks. He is concerned with individuals parking on sidewalks. The City does not have the resources to keep replacing the same sidewalks. He asked that this behavior be addressed. They may need to issue some citations, or put a system in place. If they have a system, it needs to be actively enforced. They need to be more proactive. When they see aesthetic issues that need to be addressed, they should do so. A visitor's first impression is the most lasting one. They need to address potholes and the like, and not just because a Commissioner happens to report it. City employees need to take pride in the City as well. Commissioner Kitchens stated the Code already says you are not to park on sidewalks. Mayor Flagg stated the Police Chief and Codes Enforcement Officer can evaluate this and let the Commission know what they can do to help the citizens comply with the Code. Commissioner Norwood stated it is frustrating for a driver to

encounter a car parked in the Street, either with no one around to move it, or if it is occupied, the driver refuses to move it. The City needs to get this under control as well.

Commissioner Brown said she'd like to see the Employee of the Month program continue with more regularity.

Mayor Flagg noted February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month, and asked if the Commission would be more receptive to citizens nominating and providing information on nominees for the Commission to select from, instead of limiting these honors only to people they know. He asked the Clerks to create a press release asking for nominations for both events. The Commission concurred to hold awards for Black History Month February 28 and awards for Women's History Month March 13. There was consensus to also ask people to provide photos and biographies on their ancestors who came to Palatka and stayed. Mayor Flagg noted each Commissioner would still select one person from the nominees.

8. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at on a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Kitchens.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. FS 286.105