

VERNON MYERS
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS
COMMISSIONER

PHIL LEARY
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER



MICHAEL J. CZYMBOR
CITY MANAGER

BETSY JORDAN DRIGGERS
CITY CLERK

MATTHEW D. REYNOLDS
FINANCE DIRECTOR

GARY S. GETCHELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

MICHAEL LAMBERT
CHIEF FIRE DEPT.

DONALD E. HOLMES
CITY ATTORNEY

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

MINUTES
CITY OF PALATKA
November 20, 2014

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 20th day of November, 2014.

PRESENT:

Mayor	Vernon Myers
Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
Commissioner	Allegra Kitchens
Commissioner	Phil Leary
Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Michael J. Czymbor; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matt Reynolds; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Planning Director Thad Crowe, Grants/Projects Manager Jonathan Griffith and Main Street Manager Charles Rudd

Also Present: Mayor Elect Terrill Hill; Commissioners Elect Rufus Borom and Justin Campbell

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION – The Reverend Ted Stackpole

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Matt Reynolds

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10/09/2014 – Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS:

PROCLAMATIONS - National Hospice and Palliative Care Month – November, 2014, and Children's Grief Awareness Day – November 20, 2014 – Rodney Phillips, Hospice of Citrus and the Nature Coast, was present to receive both proclamations, which were read and presented by Mayor Myers. Mr. Phillips said it is their honor to serve the people of Palatka and Putnam County. They are recognizing Children's Grief Awareness Day at their facilities today. Doctors and nurses in Hospice care are devoted to their patients as well as patient families and loved ones.

NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH - Commissioner Leary noted this is also National Prostate Awareness Month. He urged all men to get tested for this disease, as one in six men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Jonathan Griffith, FRA Development Professional Certification - Mayor Myers said he completed an intensive five-course program. Certification provides a level of knowledge and professionalism in the field of redevelopment, and a level of competence for redevelopment administrators. This provides a direct benefit for the citizens of Palatka and Putnam County.

Commissioner Leary said Mr. Griffith also received accolades from the Golf Course Advisory Board for his work at the golf course, and his successes are evident on the Riverfront Redevelopment projects. Commissioners Kitchens, Norwood and Brown also commended Mr. Griffith for his work.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – November, 2014 – Commissioner Leary joined Mayor Myers in the presentation of certificates of achievement to the following students recognizing them for their academic excellence, citizenship, leadership and attendance at their respective schools:

Josie Bergan	Browning-Pearce Elementary
Julie Wilhite	C. L. Overturf, Jr. 6 th Grade Center
Haniel Pallepogu	Children's Reading Center Charter School
Teddy Lee Hale, III	E. H. Miller School
Fanci Williams	James A. Long Elementary School
Jaleel Johnson	Jenkins Middle School
Disha Patel	Kelley Smith Elementary School
John Wilkerson, III	Mellon Elementary School
Sarah Mayes	Moseley Elementary School
Abriyah & Aliyah Campbell	Palatka High School
Caleb Baker	Peniel Baptist Academy
Mackenzie King	Putnam Academy of Arts & Sciences
Jaycee Stackpole	Putnam EDGE High School

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rodger Niehaus, 103 Woodlawn Road, Satsuma, said he is a victim and survivor of an attempted murder and is left with medical issues. He stated he was run down with an airplane and knocked unconscious. He stated Chief Getchell allowed the man to go free. He has obtained a restraining order against this person. He stated Chief Getchell ordered the responding officer to cease any investigation into the matter and refused to look at the restraining order. He stated rescue was not called; he drove himself to the hospital with a fractured skull.

Roxanne Weeks, 501 S. 17th Street, said numerous complaints and important documents have been submitted to current and former members of the Commission and other City officials and employees alleging misuse of grant funds and criminal, unconstitutional and unethical behavior by members of the Palatka Police Department, and these have not been addressed. She expressed gratitude to the citizens for the outcome of the election. As to the retirement of the present Chief of Police, she asks that they look elsewhere other than the current Police personnel to name the Chief's replacement.

Winton Williams, 1667 SW 4th Street, Ocala, Fair Housing Advocate, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, a pro-bono law firm, said he wishes to introduce himself. Current fair housing law comes out of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which is part of the Civil Rights Act. He explained the fair housing law and noted the protected classes. He said he conducts seminars and does presentations on government's responsibility in receipt of government funds in order to ensure that citizens have access to those funds and fair housing.

Commissioner Leary said the City Commission has no control over the Palatka Housing Authority; real estate brokers have responsibility under the Fair Housing Act. Mr. Williams said if the Commission approves zoning changes for certain types of properties, such as a homeless shelter, this comes under HUD review. They also file suit against those who obstruct or don't follow federal law.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-138** authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute and attest a construction maintenance agreement with FDOT for construction and maintenance of the Urban Bike Path/Trail beginning east of North US 17/Reid Street to the west side of the Memorial Bridge
- b. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-139** accepting the Price Martin Community Facility USDA Grant Improvements as completed and providing certification of completion to USDA
- c. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-140** authorizing the execution of FEMA 1785-43-R Grant Agreement Modification to amend the project budget from \$284,372 to \$445,404 (\$334,121 Federal Share, \$111,373 City Share)
- d. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-141** authorizing execution of S. E. Cline Construction, Inc. Change Order in the amount of \$375,000 for construction of floating docks (Phase III Riverfront Improvements)
- e. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-142** awarding the bid for purchase of Police vehicles from Auto Nation in the amount of \$106,018 for administrative vehicles and to Beck Ford in the amount of \$274,392 for patrol vehicles, and authorizing purchase of said vehicles
- f. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-143** authorizing the execution of a Florida Department of Corrections Work Squad Contract for an additional DOC Work Squad
- g. **Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-144** supporting Joseph C. Diamond's nomination of the "Century Block" to the National Register of Historic Places (formerly known as the "100 Block")
- h. **Appoint Butch M. Puryear to the Code Enforcement Board as Alternate Member** for the remainder of a three-year term to expire September, 2015
- i. **Approve Request Items for Special Event Permit No. 14-56, Palatka Main Street "3rd Friday Downtown Street Party"** for monthly occurrences through September, 2015. Dates for 2014 are November 21 and December 19. Dates for 2015 are January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21 and September 18. Time from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Palatka Main Street, Inc./Charles Rudd, Main Street Manager, Applicant
 1. Grant permission to exceed allowable noise levels through duration of event;
 2. Grant permission to sell and consume alcoholic beverages throughout the event;
 3. Allow closure of the 200, 300 and 400 blocks of St. Johns Avenue for the event.
- j. **Approve Request Items for Special Event Permit No. 14-55, Azalea City Cruisers/Palatka Main Street "4th Saturday Downtown-Cruise-In"** for monthly occurrences through September, 2015. Dates for 2014 are November 22 and December 27. Dates for 2015 are January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22 and September 26. Time from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Palatka Main Street, Inc./Charles Rudd, Applicant.
 1. Grant permission to exceed allowable noise levels through duration of event;
 2. Grant permission to sell and consume alcoholic beverages throughout the event;
 3. Allow closure of the 200, 300 and 400 blocks of St. Johns Avenue for the event.

Commissioner Leary asked to pull Item 3(g) for discussion. Commissioner Brown noted when the City receives funds from FEMA they need to keep good records and all receipts and the League is currently representing several cities in disputes with FEMA concerning return of grant funds. Commissioner Norwood moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda except 3(g) as recommended. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Christy Sanford, 312 Dodge Street, asked how many cars are slated for purchase and how many total police vehicles that makes. Mr. Czymbor said the cars are on a five year replacement schedule. There are 11 vehicles total which are replacing other vehicles. To answer her question, he said they are all energy efficient cars. Ms. Sanford said this is unexamined.

- 3(g). Adopt Resolution No. 2014-10-144** supporting Joseph C. Diamond's nomination of the "Century Block" to the National Register of Historic Places (formerly known as the "100 Block") - Commissioner Leary said he doesn't want to tie future commissions' hands in their being able to demolish these buildings if Mr. Diamond does not come through on his development commitments. If they put this on the Register, it will be almost impossible to take these down.

Thad Crowe, Planning Director, said this is in two parts; one part is designation to the National Register, which has no "teeth" regarding preservation unless there are federal funds involved. This designation will allow Mr. Diamond the option of using 15% tax credits to make this project viable. The second part is the local historic designation, which provides local regulation, but they put that off. The local designation provides "teeth." Even if they adopt this resolution of support, Mr. Diamond can withdraw his application if he decides he doesn't want to pursue it. Commissioner Leary asked where they are on beginning construction.

Joseph "Corky" Diamond, 110 S. 2nd Street, Palatka, asked for a clarification of Leary's concerns. Mr. Leary said there has been no construction started on the buildings and he's concerned about any residual effect of this type of designation on those buildings. He trusts Mr. Crowe's judgment. Mr. Diamond said they have close to \$300,000 cash in the project to date. They are in the process of finalizing engineering on the design. They will begin physical work in the next four weeks. They've been working with Mr. Crowe on getting this designation as they believe it will increase interest in the project. There are benefits to this. They are committed to this project.

Commissioner Brown said some of the buildings they have downtown are older and need to be declared historic, which brings tourists to town. She'd like them to pull together a list of buildings and put some plaques up to commemorate their historic value. Commissioner Kitchens said, as to tying future commission's hands, Mr. Diamond has been given 50 years to complete his project. Mr. Diamond said he's been given two years.

Commissioner Leary moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. Commissioner Norwood asked, if Mr. Diamond gets the designation and receives federal funds, how difficult would it be to return the funds if the project is not completed. Mr. Crowe said the tax credits apply to Mr. Diamond's tax returns and the burden is on him to prove his case to the IRS. The tax credits don't affect the ability to tear down the buildings if it comes to that. Mr. Diamond said until they complete the project, they can't apply for the tax credits, so this provides incentive. Mr. Holmes clarified with Mr. Crowe that this is Mr. Diamond's application, and asked what the City's support has to do with his application. Mr. Crowe said this type of application requires City supports for the designation because of the City's Local Government designation. It is required that the City support it. If federal funds are involved, this does affect whether or not the building can be torn down. He can apply for federal funds whether the building is or isn't designated historic.

Mr. Griffith said a private enterprise can't get federal or state grant funds for a privately held property. You can tear down a building that is listed on the National Register, they just ask that you document it.

There being no further discussion and no comment, the vote was taken and the motion passed four in favor, opposed by Commissioner Norwood.

4. **RESOLUTION** amending the FY 2013-14 Budget through 9/30/2014 – Matt Reynolds, Finance Director, said these are the last budget amendments for the fiscal year 2013/14. These are budget clean-up items for projects that weren't fully completed by the end of the fiscal year. There is one amendment that it is important to note is a reclassification of the funds the General Fund has advanced to the golf course beginning in 2009. In 2008 the City took out a loan to cover all money transferred to the Golf Course through 2008. Starting in F/Y 2009 through 2013, the General Fund advanced the Golf Course fund approximately \$1,456,000 in 2009 and that was looked at as an advance. This was booked as a "receivable" for the General Fund, and a "liability" for the Golf Course Fund. During the audit last year, the auditors noted that the unrestricted net position of the four enterprise funds was a negative balance because of the large amount of liability in the Golf Course Fund. It was higher than the balance in the unrestricted funds in the General Fund. The auditors noted they were considering a finding of "Deteriorating Financial Condition" within the City citing this as a factor; that negative balance is just one factor they consider. In order to resolve that issue, they propose to reclassify that "advance" and turn it into a transfer to the Golf Course, which removes it as a liability from the Golf Course Fund, which will cause the unrestricted net position of the four enterprise funds to become positive again. In essence, the City is writing it off. At some point in the future, when the golf course becomes profitable, the golf course can begin paying funds back to the City. Mr. Czymbor said the real probability of the golf course paying back that "loan" is low. The Airport also owes money to the General Fund, but they believe the probability of the Airport's ability to eventually pay back the General Fund is higher so that classification is not being changed. This move will approve the City's financial position.

The Clerk read a Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FY 2013-2014 BUDGET. Commissioner Leary moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. There being no further discussion and no comment, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, None. The Resolution was declared adopted.

5. **RESOLUTION** awarding the bid for management and administration of the City of Palatka Abandoned, Foreclosed and Vacant Properties Program to Community Champions, per results of a Request for Proposals, and authorizing execution of a contract for services for a period of two years – Adopt – The Clerk read a Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AWARDING THE BID TO ADMINISTER THE CITY OF PALATKA'S REGISTRATION & MANAGEMENT OF VACANT/FORECLOSED/ABANDONED PROPERTIES PROGRAM TO COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS FOR SAID SERVICES. Commissioner Leary moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. Mr. Czymbor confirmed that the City will incur no expense on administration of this Program per Commissioner Brown's question. Commissioner Leary said this program will hold banks accountable for cleaning up these properties; it forces them to clean them up.

Chief Getchell said there is some indirect cost in oversight of the contract, but the City has no out of pocket expense. The City will split the \$200 registration fee with the Company. There being no further discussion and no public comment, a roll-call vote on the motion was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, None. The Resolution was declared adopted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. **ORDINANCE** amending Chapter 94 of the code of Ordinances to move home occupation standards from the Definitions section to the Supplementary Zoning Regulations section, and

prohibiting business signs for such uses – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 94, ZONING, TO RELOCATE HOME OCCUPATION STANDARDS FROM THE DEFINITIONS SECTION TO SUPPLEMENTARY ZONING REGULATIONS AND PROHIBITING BUSINESS SIGNS FOR SUCH USES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. Commissioner Brown said this excludes signs for home-based businesses, and she noted for many years all this town had was home-owned business. They are encouraging people to start home-based businesses. They need to be allowed to have a certain-sized sign. They need to help people become entrepreneurs.

Thad Crowe, Planning Director, said this change regarding signs came from the Planning Board. It doesn't limit or restrict home occupations that are currently allowed, but the Planning Board believes there was inconsistency in that the Code says there shall be no change in the outside appearance of the residence. They felt this includes business signs. They felt that if people knew the address of the business they could find it. The intent is to make the property look like and feel like a home. Commissioner Brown said sometimes addresses are hard to see and find. People should have the ability to put a small sign on their home. They need to look further at this. It can be an attractive sign in their window.

There being no further discussion and no public comment, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Commissioners Brown and Kitchens, No. The Ordinance was declared passed on first reading by a margin of three in favor, opposed by Commissioners Brown and Kitchens.

7. **ORDINANCE** amending Chapter 26, Elections, to amend precincts, electors, laws governing elections, qualifications of candidates and duties of Supervisor of Elections – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, TO AMEND SECTION 26-1, PRECINCTS; ADDING PROVISIONS RELATED TO ADOPTION OF STATE ELECTION LAWS; AMENDING SECTIONS 26-2 AND 26-3 RELATED TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS; AMENDING SECTION 26-5, QUALIFYING FOR OFFICES; AND AMENDING SECTION 26-11 PERTAINING TO DUTIES OF THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Kitchens moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

Terrill Hill, Mayor-Elect, 614 N. 6th Street, said he is extremely concerned about the timing of the ordinance as well as the manner in which it's being put into place. He's done some research on this. He believes they need to provide some compelling governmental interest as to why this needs to be passed, from a legal perspective.

Commissioner Brown said she thought there was already a residency requirement in place and asked if this should have been updated before now. Commissioner Leary said this tracks changes the Legislature made two years ago. This is an important change. The City is two years behind in making this change. Commissioner Kitchens agreed, saying several years ago the Code was apparently amended to remove the residency requirement. She was not aware of there no longer being a residency requirement to run for office in the City until this past June, when the Supervisor of Elections stated this at a Candidate's workshop. The timing of this is because they just found out about this. This is an appropriate amendment and important. This does not affect the outcome of the 2014 elections, but addressed future elections.

Mr. Holmes asked if the residency requirement or lack thereof is a Charter or a Code issue. Mr. Czymbor said the Charter doesn't speak to it, but the Code does. Mr. Holmes said he has also researched this. It appears that the court has upheld residency requirements of reasonable lengths. They haven't set a specific standard as to "reasonable," but the courts have said two years is not an appropriate requirement. There is a Supreme Court case from 1976 that found a one-year residency requirement to be acceptable and appropriate. That 1976 case has not been countermanded or superseded. The courts have allowed a one-year residency requirement to stand. Commissioner Brown said they had a six month requirement when she first ran for office.

There being no further discussion or public comments, Commissioner Kitchens called for the question. Mayor Myers called for the roll-call vote. A roll-call vote on the motion was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Kitchens, Leary and Mayor Myers, Yes; Commissioners Brown and Norwood, No. The Ordinance was declared passed on first reading on a margin of three in favor, opposed by Commissioners Brown and Norwood.

Commissioner Brown asked, when a person signs up to vote, if their residency is checked. Mayor Myers noted she can ask that question of the Supervisor of Elections.

8. **ORDINANCE** adopting an additional homestead ad valorem tax exemption for certain qualifying seniors, as authorized by FS 196.075 (The 2012 "Super Senior" Exemption) – 2nd Reading, Adopt The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 78, TAXATION, TO ADD PROVISIONS PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN QUALIFYING SENIOR CITIZENS; GRANTING AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTION TO AN OWNER WHO HAS MAINTAINED PERMANENT RESIDENCY ON THE PROPERTY FOR NOT LESS THAN 25 CONSECUTIVE YEARS, WHO HAS ATTAINED AGE 65, AND WHO HAS A LOW ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AS DEFINED BY GENERAL LAW; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. There being no discussion or public comment, a vote on the motion was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared adopted on 2nd Reading.
9. **ORDINANCE** amending Zoning Code Section 94-2, 94-143 and 94-156 defining original or historic use, allowing original and historic uses as conditional uses in historic districts, and providing conditional use criteria for original or historic uses – 2nd Reading, Adopt – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING ZONING CODE SECTION 94-2, 94-143, AND 94-156, DEFINING ORIGINAL OR HISTORIC USE, ALLOWING ORIGINAL AND HISTORIC USES AS CONDITIONAL USES IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS, AND PROVIDING CONDITIONAL USE CRITERIA FOR ORIGINAL OR HISTORIC USES, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. There being no discussion or public comment, a vote on the motion was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared adopted on 2nd Reading.
10. **ORDINANCE** amending Zoning Code Section 94-2-94-149 and 94-202 to define mobile medical units, allowing the use as either a permitted or conditional accessory use/structure in the C-2 (intensive commercial) zoning district – 2nd Reading, Adopt – The Clerk read a ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS; ALLOWING SUCH USES IN THE C-2 (INTENSIVE COMMERCIAL) ZONING DISTRICT BY RIGHT OR BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, AND

PROVIDING CRITERIA FOR CONDITIONAL USE REVIEW; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Kitchens moved to pass the ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. There being no discussion or public comment, a vote on the motion was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared adopted on 2nd Reading.

11. **CITY MANAGER & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

City Clerk's Report – November 4, 2014 General Election Results; Three (3) Races: Mayor/Commissioner, City Commissioner Group 2 and City Commissioner Group 4. The Clerk provided election results (filed) for three races as noted. Terrill Hill was declared winner for Mayor/Commissioner. Justin Campbell was declared winner for Commissioner Group 2. Rufus Borom was declared winner for Commissioner Group 4. The election results were certified yesterday and will be incorporated into the Minutes. The newly elected officials will be sworn in at a special meeting to be held for that purpose on Monday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Johns River State College Auditorium.

Mr. Czymbor said the City was presented with an award from the Florida Planning & Zoning Association in the Environmental Awards category for the Palatka Waterworks Environmental Center and thanked the volunteers at the Waterworks Center. He was also notified that the City is the recipient of two awards from the NE Florida Regional Council Awards which the City submitted applications for in two categories, one in the category of Economic Redevelopment, and one in Environmental Stewardship. The awards will be presented to the City in December at the NEFRC Elected Officials Awards Luncheon.

Mr. Czymbor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Gary Getchell, Police Chief, said he has notified the City of his intent to retire as of January 1. He thanked the City for the opportunity to serve the citizens. He stayed longer than he had intended to, but he felt that with the recession he should stay on. He also felt compelled to help with the transition of City Managers when Mr. Czymbor came in. He has thoroughly enjoyed being Palatka's Police Chief. This brings his 37-year career in law enforcement to an end. He has no reservations about his decision; he is supported by his family in his decisions. He thanked his Savior Jesus Christ, his wife who has supported his choices, and his children.

Commissioner Kitchens said police work is one of the most thankless and unappreciated jobs, because police officers only come in when there is a problem. She has had the pleasure of working with Chief Getchell since 2006 and knew him prior to that. She believes Chief Getchell to be an honest, decent and morally upright person. There are always two sides to every story. She has had only good experiences with him and he will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Brown said she's been a commissioner through five Chiefs; she thanked Chief Getchell for getting two drug dogs instead of one and for bringing back the Police Athletic League.

Commissioner Leary said Chief Getchell has responded to every issue he's ever brought to him. The most controversial position besides Police Chief is Planning and Zoning Director, a job he has held in the past.

Commissioner Norwood said Chief Getchell has done what he asked him to do and put the things in place he's requested. One was an educated police force, and he has done that. He asked that they have a police officer prepared to step into his role when he leaves, and he's done that. He noted his bringing in the Weed & Seed program and the PAL program, which got youth involved in productive activities and built character.

Mayor Myers said he is disappointed in Chief Getchell's decision, but respects it. He is the quintessential small town police chief. He is intelligent, honest and has a high degree of morality. He is leaving Palatka a better place.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kitchens wished everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Leary said the Golf Course Advisory Board met today; he has been the Commission liaison to the Committee for almost two years. The Committee wanted him to relay their appreciation for the work the Commission has done with the course and with Bobby Weed. The course is in the best shape it's ever been; membership and play is up. This is a community asset and an important part of the City's recreational opportunities.

13. ADJOURN – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. upon a motion 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