

**TERRILL L. HILL**  
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

**MARY LAWSON BROWN**  
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

**RUFUS J. BOROM**  
COMMISSIONER

**JUSTIN R. CAMPBELL**  
COMMISSIONER

**JAMES NORWOOD, JR.**  
COMMISSIONER



# CITY of Palatka FLORIDA

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

**TERRY K. SUGGS**  
CITY MANAGER

**BETSY JORDAN DRIGGERS**  
CITY CLERK

**MATTHEW D. REYNOLDS**  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

**JASON L. SHAW, SR.**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

**MICHAEL LAMBERT**  
CHIEF FIRE DEPT

**DONALD E. HOLMES**  
CITY ATTORNEY

## MINUTES CITY OF PALATKA July 14, 2016

Proceedings of a Regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor	Terrill L. Hill
Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
Commissioner	Rufus Borom
Commissioner	Justin Campbell
Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Terry Suggs; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matt Reynolds; Police Chief Jason Shaw; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Planning Director Thad Crowe; Public Works Manager Jonathan Griffith

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

**INVOCATION** - The Reverend Vernon Harkey, DD, Interim Pastor; First Baptist Church of Palatka

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Jake Johnson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 6/23/16 – Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

### 1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

**RECOGNITION** - Nathaniel Miller, Jr. – Alternate Delegate, American Legion's Boys State Convention – Mayor Hill introduced Mr. Miller and representatives of the American Legion as well as Phyllis Criswell, Superintendent of Schools for Putnam County. Stan Owens, American Legion Post #45 said Nathaniel represented Putnam County at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual American Legion Boys State Convention. Mr. Miller was one of four finalists and one of the top two finalists, which were narrowed down by Ms. Criswell and area schools principals. Mr. Miller spoke of the Convention, noting it was an outstanding experience. He thanked all who were responsible for providing him the opportunity to attend. Mayor Hill recognized his family, who was in attendance, and congratulated him on his leadership skills and positive representation of the community.

**RECOGNITION** – Rodeheaver Boys Ranch 2016 County-Wide Clean-Up participants – Mayor Hill recognized representatives of Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #337, Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, who participated in the Clean it up – Green it up countywide clean up in May. He presented a certificate of recognition for community service to Dr. Ken Johnson and representative residents of the Ranch. Don Holmes, City Attorney and Board Member, spoke about the Ranch, a private, non-profit facility located in Putnam County that provides schooling, home life atmosphere to about 45 boys and young men. Dr. Johnson said 44 kids participated in

the cleanup. They have had sixteen Ranch residents who made Eagle Scout over the past 20 years. Mr. Homes said the Ranch is supported by fundraisers and contributions. Dr. Johnson spoke of the Ranch's educational and extracurricular activities, as well as the horse and work programs. Residents Jacob Johnson, Michael Reser and Bobby Wilson were introduced.

Mayor Hill recognized members of ROCK youth group present in the audience.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS -**

Askew Vickers, 207 N. 18<sup>TH</sup> Street, Palatka, commended the Commission and new Chief of Police. He compared the golf course and airport to cadavers on life support, saying they are dead. He spoke of the impact fee for new construction and Fire Assessment program.

Xenarria Ware, 506 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, thanked the Commission for their work and for working with the youth in the community to provide opportunities through internship and other programs.

Ray Skarvowski, 105 W. St. Johns Terrace, East Palatka, said children are their greatest resource. He took his grandsons to the airport and they were quite impressed. One of them is blind and was allowed to touch things. He believes they can educate children on aeronautics. He suggested putting more public pools at the golf course.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Adopt Resolution No. 2016-12-44** authorizing the execution of Amendment #2 to the Contract for Purchase and Sale with Riverfront Development Group, LLC for Redevelopment Areas 1 and 2
- b. **Grant permission to exceed allowable noise levels for Special Events Permit No. 16-05** Founder's Day, July 23, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - To God Be the Glory Holiness Church, Applicant; Faye Word, Agent.
- c. **Introduce Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict**, into the record, filed by Commissioner Justin Campbell on a vote taken 6/23/16 on Agenda Item #9
- d. **Introduce Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict**, into the record, filed by Commissioner James Norwood, Jr. on a vote taken 6/23/16 on Agenda Item #9

Commissioner Norwood moved to pass all items on the Consent Agenda as proposed. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

4. **RESOLUTION** establishing a Sister City Agreement with Jersey City, NJ – Adopt – The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING AND ESTABLISHING A SISTER-CITY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY in its entirety. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said several weeks ago Central Academy Class of 1954 held a class reunion. Henry Norford, a member of that Class, is a commissioner on the Rent Leveling Committee in Jersey City, NJ. His love for Palatka is still in place. He forever wants his hometown to be connected to his new hometown. He convinced Jersey City to pass a resolution to enter into a Sister City agreement with Palatka. He read that resolution into the record (filed) and distributed copies to the Commission. He noted the Mayor also sent over a pin signed by the Mayor, which will be kept in the City archives. There being no further discussion, a voice vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Borom, Campbell, Norwood and Mayor Hill, yes; Nays, none. The Resolution was declared adopted. Mayor Hill asked that special thanks be conveyed to Commissioner Norford for establishing this relationship. Copies will be sent to Jersey City Mayor and Commissioner Norford. Commissioner Brown noted Palatka currently has a sister city relationship with Palatka, Russia, a city in Siberia.

5. **RESOLUTION** confirming and accepting the ranking of Proposals received for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements RFP 2016-007 and authorizing contract negotiations – Adopt. The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RANKING OF PROPOSALS FOR THIRD PARTY SLUDGE PROCESSING/TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS/SERVICES AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Borom seconded the motion.

Jonathan Griffith, Public Works Director, said they put this out for RFP several months ago. The City received 3 responses. The proposals were ranked by Staff and unanimously recommended the NuTerra proposal to be ranked as the #1 submission. They want to go ahead and get the process going on the loan application & permits and will be enlisting an engineer currently under continuing services contract for that. The City will own the facility.

As to odor issues, Les Kemp, NuTerra Representative, said the system practically eliminates the odor. They will discuss bringing in biomass at a later date. Part of the original proposal was building a biomass facility but at this time they are only building the part of the system that addresses system deficiencies at the Plant. There being no public comment or further discussion, a voice vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Borom, Campbell, Norwood and Mayor Hill, yes; Nays, none. The Resolution was declared adopted.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

6. **ORDINANCE** amending Chapter 2, Div. 6 of the Code of Ordinances to add a Defined Contribution Component to the Firefighters' Retirement Plan per FS 175.351(6) – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ENTITLED FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT PLAN, TO ADD A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION COMPONENT PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF F.S. 175.351(6); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. There being no public comment or discussion, a voice vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Borom, Campbell, Norwood and Mayor Hill, yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared passed on first reading.
7. **ORDINANCE** amending Chapter 2, Div. 7 of the Code of Ordinances to add a Defined Contribution Component to the Police Officers' Retirement Plan per FS 185.351(6) – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 7 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ENTITLED POLICE OFFICERS' RETIREMENT PLAN, TO ADD A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION COMPONENT PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF F.S. 185.35(6); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Borom seconded the motion. There being no public comment or discussion, a voice vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Borom, Campbell, Norwood and Mayor Hill, yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared passed on first reading.
8. **CITY MANAGER & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
  - a. **Fire Assessment update** – City Manager Terry Suggs said they met with the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector to discuss the uniform method of collections. They have addressed all concerns and will be moving this forward. Mayor Hill was instrumental in getting them through this process. The meeting went well.

Mr. Suggs said five or six interns will be starting work on Monday, working in various departments. They will be sent to areas of need. They have been here all day today being interviewed and going through initiation. In two weeks they will bring another group in.

**9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Campbell thanked the Commission for allowing him to put the internship program in place, which helps to address the need to provide direction to the younger generation. He thanked ROCK for being instrumental in everything they do to create opportunities for youth. On Monday he will host Adventures with Commissioner Campbell at the River Center. He will be there from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow families to explore resources we have here.

Commissioner Brown thanked Staff for working hard on this first budget workshop. She is glad to know the City is in better shape financially. She thanked everyone for working together. She thanked Mayor Hill for the new Sister Cities arrangement.

Commissioner Borom said he is proud to serve the community. They can't find better resources than human resources. They can invest in technology but you have to have people to operate it. He thanked Staff and ROCK for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

Commissioner Norwood said on Saturday they will be cleaning up Rolling Hills and the College Arms area. He thanked Mayor Hill for his leadership in Palatka Pride. Mayor Hill noted Palatka Pride was started by Commissioner Brown. They will meet at the park at the corner of Husson and Edgemoor in front of College Arms. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., clean up begins at 8:30.

Noting the homicide this past weekend, Mayor Hill called for a moment of silence for Rory Davis, who lost his life. They are mindful that the PPD, through the help of young people, worked diligently to make an arrest in that case. He encourages citizens to allow the PPD to continue with its follow up investigation and be conscious that a family and the Community is grieving. They stand with all Florida cities against violence in the community, and need citizens to stand with them. This is a perilous time in America and many things are separating them from true neighborly love. He has had extensive conversations with Chief Shaw regarding the significant effort the PPD has made to connect with the community and thanked the PPD for keeping the community safe. Everyone in the community matters. They will not stand for injustices.

Mayor Hill said his colleague, who has worked all around the world teaching defensive tactics to law enforcement, has agreed to work pro bono with Chief Shaw and his staff to move this community forward. They find themselves having to teach children to avoid life threatening situations. They must continue to educate the community that Law Enforcement is not the enemy. They protect and serve. They have to eliminate institutional intolerance.

Mayor Hill said the budget workshop was positive. Palatka is in a much better position today than in years past. They are increasing reserves, creating jobs and moving the community forward. They have lowered the millage rate and are placing the fire assessment on tax bills. Palatka no longer has the 11<sup>th</sup> highest millage rate in the State. They have saved money, increased jobs, increased efficiency and invested in youth. They are working towards a livable wage for employees. They are meeting their challenges head-on. The best is yet to come. He thanked the City Manager, Finance Director and all department heads for their good work and buy-in.

- 10. ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Hill

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