

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 November 10, 2016

Proceedings of a Regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 10th day of November, 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; Police Chief Jason Shaw; Fire Marshal JR Grimes; Public Works Director Jonathan Griffith, Airport Manager John Youell

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hill called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Reverend Ted Stackpole, Pastor; First Assembly of God

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 10/27/16 – Commissioner Campbell moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION - National Hospice & Palliative Care Month – Crystal Knighten, Haven Hospice was present to receive the Proclamation, which was read and issued by Mayor Hill. Ms. Knighten said they have the privilege of taking care of Putnam County individuals at the end of their lives. They are proud to be a part of the community and bring this service. On November 18th they are asking everyone to wear purple for National Hospice Month. They will be taking photos of those wearing purple for publication on their Facebook page.

RECOGNITION – Water Works Environmental Education Center Volunteer Recognition – Shann Purinton, WWEEC, joined Mayor Hill to recognize individual and corporation Water Works Environmental Education Center volunteers and sponsors. Ms. Purinton said the Palatka Water Works was built and opened in 1886, closed in 1986, and is now an environmental education center. They have fun there and have built a lot of things. Volunteers have expended thousands of hours to this endeavor. Many of the recipients are here tonight. She said thanks are in order for City employees Mandi Tucker, Jonathan Griffith and Germaine Douglas as they are always ready to help when called upon. Certificates of appreciation were presented by Mayor Hill as Ms. Purinton provided comments on each volunteer.

VETERAN RECOGNITIONS: City of Palatka Employee Veterans of Armed Forces as well as all veterans present in the audience were recognized and thanked for their sacrifice and service in protecting our borders and putting their lives at risk to protect ours.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – November, 2016 – Commissioner Campbell joined Mayor Hill in presenting certificates to the following students in recognition of academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at their respective schools:

Om Patel	Browning-Pearce Elementary
Caitlyn Mulberry	C. L. Overturf, Jr. 6 th Grade Center
Kendall Wilkinson	Children's Reading Center Charter School
Aaron Exum	E. H. Miller School
Tarus Session	James A. Long Elementary School
Lee'Ondra Mulberry	Jenkins Middle School
Ja'marion Morris	Kelley Smith Elementary School (October Honoree)
Azzareya Jackson	Mellon Elementary School
Miguel Flores	Moseley Elementary School
N'Starsha L. Young	Palatka High School
Zachariah Bush	Peniel Baptist Academy
Hayden Duncan	Putnam Academy of Arts & Sciences
Emily Anderson	Putnam EDGE High School

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Askew Vickers, 207 N. 8th Street, said the Commission was invited to see President Obama last week. His God-Daughter invited him to the event. He shook his hand. He commended Chief Shaw and the Police Department for a job well done. He appreciates the PD for what they do.

Mayor Hill noted this has been a very powerful week in the City of Palatka.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Adopt Resolution No. 2016-12-86** authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to execute and attest a Joint Participation Agreement with FDOT for the purchase of a Mobile Avgas Re-Fueler for Palatka Municipal Airport in the amount of \$15,000 (100% FDOT Funded)
- b. **Authorize to exceed allowable noise levels and close certain streets** to vehicular traffic for Special Events Permit No. 16-29 - Christmas Parade, 11/25/26 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. - Downtown Palatka, Inc; Sam Deputy, Applicant.
- c. **Authorize closure of certain streets** to vehicular traffic for Special Events Permit No. 16-46 - Trot for Hope two-mile run, 11/24/16 from 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Race Smith, Inc; Billy Hasselman, Applicant
- d. **Approve request items for Special Event Permit No. 16-49 –** Porchfest Palatka Music Festival - 12/10/16 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm - South Historic Neighborhood Association, Applicant
 1. Grant permission to exceed allowable noise levels for amplified music on porches throughout the duration of event.
 2. Grant permission to sell alcoholic beverages and allow for their consumption throughout the South Historic District throughout the duration of the event.
 3. Grant permission to close certain streets as noted on the site plan.

Commissioner Brown moved to pass Items 3(a) through 3(c) on the Consent Agenda as recommended, and pull Item 3(d) for discussion. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

3(d). Approve request items for Special Event Permit No. 16-49 – Porchfest Palatka Music Festival - 12/10/16 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm - South Historic Neighborhood Association, Applicant

1. Grant permission to exceed allowable noise levels for amplified music on porches throughout the duration of event.
2. Grant permission to sell alcoholic beverages and allow for their consumption throughout the South Historic District throughout the duration of the event.
3. Grant permission to close certain streets as noted on the site plan.

Commissioner Campbell said the sale of alcoholic beverages should be addressed. Per discussion during today's CRA meeting it should be designated to a specific area. Mr. Holmes said it appeared that they are looking to sell or distribute alcoholic beverages at a city-owned facility. The ordinance, Section 10-6 states it is unlawful to consume beverages on any city-owned property except for certain exempted properties. Hammock Hall is not exempted, but it states the City can grant special exemptions for events. Commissioner Campbell noted the original request is to allow consumption within a designated area. The original intent is to walk around with the beverage in the entire Porch Fest area.

Vito Russo, President, South Historic Neighborhood Association, said the alcohol consumption is part of the culture of music festivals. They will make sure there are no glass bottles and will limit the area of consumption. If they can't have beer sales, people will bring it in anyway. Mayor Hill said the application states they expect 500 people, but he has stated they expect 2,000 people. He has questions on the security aspect as the Ops plan is based upon 500 attendees. Police Chief Shaw said they recommended a total of 1 volunteer and 4 officers scheduled, based upon an aspect of 1 officer to 100 people. They wouldn't be able to control the consumption with 2,000 people walking through the area. He recommends they serve alcohol in one central area and have the alcohol remain in that area. Mayor Hill suggested a beer tent in the vacant lot adjacent to Hammock Hall. Mr. Holmes said this could be akin to a city park. If they have 2,000 people, they won't just drink 1 beer each in 4 hours. Chief Shaw said they would need to increase the number of police officers. He suggested holding an additional meeting with Mr. Russo to discuss the details. Commissioner Campbell said the CRA approved funds for four police officers; any additional funds should be absorbed by the organizers.

Mr. Holmes asked if they are going to "cap" attendance and guarantee there won't be more than 2,000, for planning purposes. Mr. Russo said he cannot. Discussion ensued regarding public safety and welfare. Commissioner Borom said armbands would give them an idea of how many people are in attendance. Mr. Russo said he agrees with this for counting purposes, but he doesn't believe he can cap attendance.

Allegra Kitchens, 1027 S. 12th Street, said as to amplified noise, last year she was not affected by the event. She is affected by amplified sound from marching bands and reggae; it gives her migraine headaches. She will have to go to a hotel or find someplace else to go. She doesn't care about the drinking, but the amplified sound should be regulated. It should not be heard across the RR tracks at Palatka Heights. She and her neighbors don't want to be disturbed in their homes.

Mr. Russo said they have 18 porches that are in close proximity, so they will be keeping the sound down so they won't overlap. They also have signed consent forms from all 18 residents stating that alcohol consumption on their porch won't be an issue. They will keep people off the grounds and on the sidewalks and streets. They have not contacted each homeowner regarding the event noise; Mr. Crowe told him that is required 2 weeks prior to the event. No one in the association is opposed to the event.

Mr. Suggs expressed concern that the scope and magnitude of the event has changed. Special Events coordinated an event 500 people would attend, not 2,000. Discussion ensued regarding the PD's ability to cover the event. Regarding a comparison to Blue Crab, Chief Shaw said that is covered by two law enforcement agencies as well as volunteers. They would have to reconfigure the Ops Plan. Mr. Suggs suggested moving the date from 12/10 further into the future. They have to be able to control the event. They have liability and complaints to consider. Discussion ensued on revisiting the application and fee schedule. Mr. Holmes said planning is the concern and the fees are based on a number of factors. Discussion ensued regarding planning and notification. Consensus was reached that another special events meeting is warranted. Mr. Russo said he is willing to cap the event at 500 participants. Commissioner Norwood said this needs to be tabled until the proper planning is done. It was noted that the event is December 10th. The Commission will have to call a special meeting to address this item. Commissioner Norwood moved to table consideration of Consent Agenda Item 3(d) regarding the special events permit for SHNA Porchfest. Commissioner Borom seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Mayor Hill said the Commission is in favor of the event, which needs more planning. He asked Mr. Russo to schedule a meeting with the City Manager, Fire Marshal and Police Chief as well as Special Events before asking the Clerk to schedule a special meeting to consider the request to grant the special events permit.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

4. **ORDINANCE** amending Palatka Municipal Code, Section 10-4, Hours when alcohol sale prohibited; half-hour closing period – 2nd Reading, Adopt - The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CODE, CHAPTER 10 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE, REVISING HOURS OF OPERATIONS RESTRICTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Campbell moved to pass the ordinance on second reading as read. Commissioner Borom seconded the motion. There being no public comment offered and no discussion, a voice vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Borom, Brown, Campbell and Mayor Hill, Yes; Commissioner Norwood, No. The ordinance was declared passed and adopted by a vote of four in favor, opposed by Commissioner Norwood.
5. **SET DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE** – The Clerk noted the December meeting falls on December 8th, during the FLC Legislative Conference. Staff recommends moving the meeting date to Monday, Dec. 12th to follow the CRA meeting, or to the following Thursday, Dec. 15th. Commissioner Borom moved to set the date for the regular December meeting to December 12th at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Norwood asked and there was consensus to allow Commissioner Elect Williams to attend the Legislative Conference.
6. **CITY MANAGER & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 - a. **ELECTION RESULTS** – Nov. 8th General Election, City Commission Groups 1 and 3 – The Clerk provided her report, noting the City had two races on the Nov. 8th General Election Ballot, Commissioner Group 1 and Commissioner Group 3. The apparent winner of Commissioner Group 1 race is Tammie M. Williams, who will replace Commissioner James Norwood, her opponent and incumbent. The apparent winner of Commissioner Group 3 is Mary Lawson Brown, who garnered more votes than her opponent, Daniel Petrucci. She will have final vote tally after 11/18/16, when the final vote is certified to the State of Florida Division of Elections. Provisional Ballots and Overseas Ballots have not yet been tallied. Commissioner Brown said she appreciates being able to work with Commissioner Norwood all these many years.

b. APPROVAL OF DEFERRAL REQUESTS – 2016 Fire Assessment Fee - Mr. Suggs said they have brought these applicants to the Commission for approval, which meet criteria forward for approval. There were 23 applications for hardships. Of those, nine met the criteria to be granted the deferral. The Commission has been provided with the parcel number and amount of deferral. Commissioner Norwood moved to grant the deferrals as listed. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

c. EMPLOYEE COMMENDATION – Mr. Suggs said he received a handwritten letters letter from Mr. Eddie Collins on S. 15th Street commending Betsy Driggers and Jonathan Griffith for their help in getting his street right-of-way cleared of debris. The writer said he has lived there for 23 years and the block is the best it has ever looked. They strive for excellence every day. Kudos to staff for a job well done.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION of Real Property to City of Palatka – (Item moved to Reports from Public Recognition by consensus) - Mr. Holmes said he was contacted by a local attorney who represents a trust that wants to donate property to the City. This property is adjacent to the SE corner of the Golf Course off Lundy Road. It was subject to an application for zoning change for condominiums several years ago. He asked for direction from the commission to pursue. There would be no strings attached to the use; the donor is looking to receive a tax deduction from the State. The City would need to express that they took no exception or objection to the certified appraised value. Mayor Hill said if the Commission has no objection they can give Mr. Homes direction to move forward. The appraisal will come back to the Commission for approval. This is property already approved for development. There was consensus to direct Mr. Holmes to move ahead with the acceptance.

FORECLOSURE PROPERTY UP FOR AUCTION - Mr. Suggs said he seeks guidance from the Commission on a piece of property at 1902 Gillis Street, a 1-acre lot up for foreclosure and auction. There is \$5,000 owed in back taxes on the property. They would need to spend around \$12,000 to raze the dilapidated structure on it. There is a judgment in favor of the City on the property, which goes up for sale on December 8th. The City can bid it up to \$40,000 to buy the property if the City wants it. If someone else shows up he can let it go for what is bid. The City has already incurred costs on the property. There are fines and fees. The City can probably recover actual cost if they get \$5 000 to \$6,000 out of it. Anyone can bid on the property. Mayor Hill said they can take the property and use it for an affordable housing project or sell it later

Commissioner Brown moved to add the item to the Agenda for action as an Emergency Item. Commissioner Borom seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Mr. Holmes said it is assessed for \$46,000 on the tax rolls, but that is an inflated assessment, as the structure on site needs to be demolished. Discussion ensued regarding a range on price. Commissioner Norwood moved to cap the bid at \$20,000. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Holmes said they have \$10 – \$12 thousand in real costs. The motion was voted upon and failed by a margin of 2 in favor, opposed by Campbell, Borom and Hill. Commissioner Borom moved to give the City Manager discretion to bid on the property. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

Police Chief Shaw said Fall Festival was a tremendous success, the Department received lots of thanks from the citizens. Capt. Williams was in charge and did a great job. On Halloween Capt. Forsythe organized Trunk or Treat, which was a huge success. They expected several hundred for the event and got several thousand.

Accreditation was held Nov. 1 through Nov. 3. At the outgoing interview on Nov 3rd the PD received accolades on the amount of ground covered since the last assessment, in particular on department advancements and boost in moral. All officers get credit for this. Meghan Warman

and Capt. Newcomb are to be commended. The Police Department will be reaccredited, and will receive that certificate in February.

Mayor Hill said after listening to the comments of the assessors, they know they made the right choice on Police Chief Shaw. The fall festival events were great; many children were served. He has never seen so much cohesiveness. He thanked them for their work.

Debra Robinson, Human Resources, said she is on her first edit of the new policies and procedures manual that was last updated in March of 1986. There are 114 pages in that version.

Jonathan Griffith said the Pride of Palatka II took its maiden voyage last Saturday. It is ready for operation. They are looking for an agreement with Palatka Boat House Marina soon. They have an open position for a Sanitation Driver; they need someone with a Class B license.

Mr. Suggs expressed pride in Chief Shaw and his staff, and thanked Ms. Robinson for her progress.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Campbell said city morale is slowly changing as people at the helm are lending a hand. The PD Accreditation news is good. He did not get to take the maiden voyage on Pride of Palatka II but he did help dock it. He posted it on social media and got a lot of feedback on it.

Commissioner Borom expressed thanks for getting the boat in the water and congratulated Chief Shaw on the PD's accreditation. He changed the morale of staff. He noted the Fire Department worked hand in hand with PD in all the fall events. The City culture is changing. Staff has bought into the new culture.

Commissioner Brown said they have one water taxi and hopes the other boat will be here soon. They need to get the operator contract signed ASAP. Congress is in recess, the congress people who helped with the boat would like to attend a christening ceremony. People are anxious for operation start-up. The operator will operate it at their expense; it won't cost the City anything to operate it. She thanked the Commission for their perseverance on the boat.

Commissioner Norwood congratulated the PD on the reaccreditation, which is a huge undertaking. He asked the City Manager to have a plan in place to maintain the City's assets on the riverfront and the 100 block. There are weeds growing up around the buildings. He knows they got behind due to the hurricane.

Commissioner Norwood congratulated Mrs. Williams on her election night win and apologized for not calling her Tuesday night; saying he would have if he'd had her contact information. He prays that God will be with her. He expressed his thanks to the citizens of Palatka for the time they've allowed him to provide leadership to the City. He has enjoyed his season as a commissioner. He thanked the citizens for their support and encouragement and thanked Staff for working as diligently as they did with him and helping him to understand the consequence of his decisions. He thanked his family and friends for their support and allowing him to serve the city and its citizens for the past 17 years because of his commitments. He thanked this Commission for being a very different commission than the ones he has worked with. They have not backed down from the issues that have come before them. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Commissioner-Elect Tammie Williams was in the audience and was recognized by Mayor Hill, who congratulated her on her election. They look forward to working with her and to a smooth transition.

Mayor Hill thanked all City staff on the great job they did with storm clean up. Surrounding counties and communities still have debris all over. Public works coordination and staff were exceptional. They have done a wonderful job of getting the City back to normal.

Mayor Hill congratulated Chief Shaw on the Police Department's reaccreditation.

Mayor Hill said Nadia Garnett, a local citizen who is working in major campaigns across the country, provided Palatka with VIP access for elected officials to see President Obama's speech in Jacksonville. On Saturday he got the call that former President Bill Clinton was to visit Palatka. This was a great opportunity. A 25-year old first time voter had an opportunity to take a photo with the President. Many good things are going on in Palatka; when people come to visit they will find out why they are the Gem of the St. Johns.

Mayor Hill said they have just had a very polarizing election and elected a new president. He is proud of Palatka and Putnam County citizens, who responded with dignity as Americans should respond. They are One Nation Under God regardless of what your views are. They have to respect election results. He commends the citizens for being respectful of the process.

They look forward to Commissioner-Elect Williams coming on board in January. He commended Commissioner Norwood for being the person who can keep things in order for them. He is a scholar of order and procedure and what the rules should be. He is a quality man and they will miss him on the Commission. They commend him for his service; he has set the standard high.

8. **ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Campbell.

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