

KARL N. FLAGG  
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN  
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS  
COMMISSIONER

VERNON MYERS  
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.  
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 5, 2009

Proceedings of an inaugural meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009

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

Also Present: City Manager Elwin C. Boynton, Jr.; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Assistant City Clerk Karen M. Venables; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Planning Director Jim Lee; Assistant Planning Director Debbie Banks; WWTP Superintendent Platt Drew; Parks & Cemeteries Supt. Jeff Norton; Airport Manager John Youell; Chief Building Official Joff Filion

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Karl Flagg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the following Call, dated December 29, 2008:

TO MESSRS: MARY LAWSON BROWN, ALLEGRA KITCHENS, VERNON MYERS AND JAMES NORWOOD:

You are hereby notified that a special called meeting of the City Commission is called to be held at the regular meeting place of the City Commission at City Hall, 201 N. 2nd Street, in the City of Palatka, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2009.

The purpose of the meeting is to swear in the incoming members of the Palatka City Commission.

/s/ Karl N. Flagg, Mayor

The following Commissioners acknowledged receipt of a copy of the foregoing notice of a special meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

/s/ Mary Lawson Brown  
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Vernon Myers  
COMMISSIONER

/s/ James Norwood, Jr.  
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Allegra Kitchens  
COMMISSIONER

**INVOCATION** - The Reverend Frederick Demps, Pastor, Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

**NATIONAL ANTHEM** – Sung by Christine Norwood

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Johnny Maurice Brown, Jr.; Theodore Brown, Jr.; Jessica Brown and Joshua Dennard

**INTRODUCTIONS** – Mayor Flagg welcomed the audience and stated they are gathered here to see Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown and Commissioner James Norwood, Jr. sworn in for their seventh and third terms, respectively, and made introductions of City Staff and honored guests. He noted the presence of Former County Commissioner Linda Myers, County Commission Chairperson Nancy Harris, Former Mayor and Clerk of Court Tim Smith, PHA Director John Nelson, and Rev. Frederick Demps.

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY** – The Honorable Edward E. Hedstrom, Circuit Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, Presiding - Judge Hedstrom said it is always an honor to share this moment with the elected officials of the City. This is special to him, as at one time these were his bosses when he served as City Attorney prior to being appointed Circuit Court Judge.

Commissioner James Norwood, Jr. - 4-Year Term - Judge Hedstrom administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner James Norwood, who was joined by his wife, Christine, daughters Chrislena and Mary, and sisters Maretta Mobley and Sarah Williams. Mayor Flagg presented him with a Certificate of Election, issued by Susan C. McCool, Supervisor of Elections.

Commissioner/Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown - 4-Year Term - Judge Hedstrom administered the Oath of Office to Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, who was joined by sons Theodore and Maurice, Daughter Tena, Grandsons TJ, JB and Josh, and Granddaughter Jessica. Mayor Flagg presented her with Certificate of Election, issued by Susan C. McCool, Supervisor of Elections.

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE** - Musical Selections Featuring the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Choir – The Choir sang America the Beautiful and God Bless America.

**REMARKS** - Mayor Flagg introduced his wife, Terri, and Daughters Karla and Kandyce.

Commissioner Norwood gave honor to God, his Pastor, Rev. Demps, Judge Hedstrom, and all distinguished guests and staff members. He thanked God for the opportunity to continue to serve the citizens of Palatka, and thanked the citizens for the confidence they have placed in him, and said he desires to serve in no other city but Palatka, the city he was born and raised in. He thanked his wife, Christine, for all of her support, and his daughters Chrislena and Mary, for all they have done and the sacrifices they have made, so that he can serve. He thanked his mother, who nurtured and encouraged him, enabling him to fill the role he has been elected to. He thanked his sisters for supporting and encouraging him in all he has undertaken. He thanked his remaining family members, friends and supporters for their work on his reelection campaign. He thanked City Manager Boynton and his staff for their work and for making them all look good. He dedicated his service to the citizens of Palatka and his fellow members of the City Commission. He said it is an honor to serve as one of the leaders who will lead this City into the future, and noted they have continued to accomplish much, with much left to accomplish. He noted several accomplishments they have made together throughout his eight-year tenure, and noted projects currently underway. He said they are positioned to do great things in the coming years and will meet and overcome challenges as they come, and noted future projects to come. He asked citizens to get involved in crime deterrence and report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. He thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for putting this program together.

Vice Mayor Brown said all in attendance are her friends. In 1983 a lady named Arvella Cummings knocked on her door and asked her to consider running for City Commissioner, based upon comments she made at a City Commission meeting. Mrs. Cummings said she had “name recognition,” which came from her Grandparents’ successes and business acumen. She thanked her family for supporting her, giving her ideas, and keeping her focused and grounded. When she travels, her son keeps her business going, and the other son and daughter travel with her throughout Florida and the Country. Her daughter has facilitated many connections for her. They do things within and outside of this City; many of them serve on statewide and national committees to work on behalf of the greater good. The Commission makes a difference for this community at home and nationwide. She recognized the people who worked on her first campaign, who stood for recognition. She said Mrs. Cummings has been a driving force behind the political scenes in local, state and federal elections all her life, and encouraged, guided and facilitated many successful campaigns for numerous local, state, federal African American political candidates. She noted the presence of Mrs. Cummings son, Craig, who stood for recognition. She thanked the citizens for allowing her to serve and said she is grateful that she has run for office unopposed in each election since being elected. She said the Commission acts as a team, and they all work together for progress. They network with congresspersons and governors, who visit Palatka to meet with them. She noted members of Staff present, and said as problems come up, they help them research solutions. They do their homework. The members of this Commission love this town; four of their five members were born here. City Manager Boynton works with them and has vision. As this town goes, so goes the County; they are grateful there are people they can go to for joint projects. She has been working on her Riverboat project since 1984. For that, there is a \$1.4 million grant that FDOT is ready to turn loose. There are many people working with her to see this project to fruition. She asked if anyone has any ideas, please call her so she can discuss them. The wonder and progress starts with each of them.

Mayor Flagg said it has been his honor and privilege to serve with the members of this Commission, and thanked the audience members for all they do to make Palatka great.

Commissioner Norwood thanked Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Patterson for attending, noting they drove here from Jacksonville. He thanked his family and the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Choir for their support and performances.

**ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Kitchens. Reverend Demps gave the Benediction and refreshments were served.