

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 February 12, 2009

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 12th day of February, 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; Finance Director Ruby Williams; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Planning Director Jim Lee; Airport Manager John Youell; Golf Pro Spanky Aaron; Jeff Norton, Parks & Cemeteries Director; Debbie Banks, Assistant Planning Director; Ed Chandler, Streets & Sanitation Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER: - 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Flagg

INVOCATION – Commissioner Allegra Kitchens

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – As a group

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 1/22/09 – Commissioner Myers moved to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. **PUBLIC RECOGNITION:**

PROCLAMATION – Clean Sweep Month – Greater Palatka Clean-up – February, 2009 – Mayor Flagg read and presented a proclamation declaring the Month of February, 2009 as Clean Sweep Month - Greater Palatka Clean Up and presented it to Ramica Watkins, Executive Director, Keep Putnam Beautiful.

PROCLAMATION – Black History Month – February, 2009 – Mayor Flagg read a proclamation recognizing February, 2009 as Black History Month and presented it to Vice Mayor Brown, who asked that the proclamation hang in a prominent place at Palatka High School for the remainder of the month.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Service Above Self – Jim Schiffbauer, Golf Maintenance – Golf Pro Spanky Aaron and Greens Maintenance Superintendent Ray Brown joined Mayor Flagg in recognizing Jim Schiffbauer, golf maintenance, for Service Above Self. Mr. Aaron said Mr. Schiffbauer started out as a golfer, and then became a volunteer. He volunteered so much and

did such a good job, they hired him an employee. He recently retired due to health reasons. He was adept at fundraising, and began the "Shifty Shoot-out" golf tournament series, which is the most popular tournament series at the Course. Mr. Brown said Mr. Schiffbauer was one of his most dedicated employees and he is thankful to know Mr. Schiffbauer, as he is a wonderful person and a good friend.

Mr. Schiffbauer was joined by his brother, George, and members of the Golf Advisory Board and other golfers. Mayor Flagg said they are honored to have employees like Jim who go above and beyond the call of duty. Mayor Flagg read and presented Mr. Schiffbauer with a plaque recognizing him for his exemplary performance, productivity and dedicated service above self.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kenny Downs, 2020 Ashebrook Lane, congratulated the Commission and City Management for completing the turn lane improvements at the intersection of St. Johns Avenue & Moody Road. The turn lane is a tremendous addition, and he is certain he speaks for the thousand of drivers who use that intersection every day. He also thanked them for the way the City and County have worked hand-in-hand in solving local problems together.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Award bid to Halifax in the amount of 1,380,877.00** for Airport Runway 17-35 Pavement Rehabilitation per recommendation from Airport Engineers, based upon results of RFP & approval/funding from FAA;
- b. **Authorize execution of Passero Associates Work Order #09-19R in the amount of \$135,000.00** to provide resident engineering, inspection and administration of Airport Runway 17-35 Pavement Rehabilitation Project, based upon approval and funding from FAA;
- c. **Authorize submission and acceptance of FAA FY2009 Funding Request of up to \$1,880,877.00** to fund design, inspection and construction of Runway 17-35 Rehabilitation per Airport Engineers
- d. **Authorize execution of Seizure & Forfeiture Agreement** with R. J. Larizza, 7th Judicial Circuit Court State Attorney
- e. **Grant Preliminary approval of schedule of 2009 Class A Festivals, Palatka Main Street/Downtown Palatka Block Parties, Arts Council Summer Concert Series, and City-Sponsored Events** per listing
- f. **Issue Class A Special Event Permit for 2009 Florida Azalea Festival*****
 1. **Class A Permit for Riverfront/Festival Area** March 7 & 8, 2009; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 2. **Grant Noise Ordinance Exception during festival hours** March 6, 2009; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(no boat races or amplified sound on
Sunday, 3/8/09 prior to 12:30 p.m.) March 7, 2009; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
March 8, 2009; 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 3. **Close St. Johns Avenue from Memorial Parkway to 7th Street** during festival hours to parking and vehicular traffic.
 4. **Grant Control of all vendors and activities** falling between Main Street & Oak Street (north/south) and between the St. Johns River and 19th Street (east/west) to Festival organizers.
 5. **Grant Permission to use City Hall parking lot** for Handicapped Parking on Saturday and Sunday
 6. **Festival Permit fee** – per staff recommendation; \$1,530.00 for police security fees (85 hours @ \$18.00/hr.); \$300 for Festival Permit Fee (\$150/day for two days); \$375.00 for green roll-outs (25 @ \$15/ea). Applicant pays actual landfill tipping fees. Applicant agrees to coordinate with and pay Downtown Palatka for the actual FP&L charges for use of their electrical boxes. Total permit fee: \$2,205.00
- g. **Eliminate the daily Code Enforcement Lien/Fine on 700 N. 16th Street** (Jenkins/Cheekkapparayil) in the amount of \$12,600, leaving assessment of Cost of Prosecution of \$194.42 if a lien order is not required, or \$245.06 if not paid within 30 days and a lien order is required – per Code Enforcement Board's recommendation
- h. **Eliminate the daily Code Enforcement Lien/Fine on 215 S. 4th Street** (Cox) in the amount of \$925.00, leaving assessment of Cost of Prosecution of \$210.64, per Code Enforcement Board recommendation

Commissioner Norwood moved to pass all items on Consent as submitted. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

4. **ORDINANCE** amending Downtown Business (DB) and Downtown Riverfront (DR) zoning districts to restrict a conditional use for single family dwellings without an accompanying commercial use for parcels abutting St. Johns Avenue – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING SECTION 940-161(e)(13), DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT DISTRICT (DR), AND SECTION 94-162 (e)(13), DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT (DB), TO EXCLUDE A DWELLING, ONE-FAMILY OR SINGLE-FAMILY, WITHOUT AN ACCOMPANYING COMMERCIAL USE AS A CONDITIONAL USE FOR PARCELS ABUTTING ST. JOHNS AVENUE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Myers, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading.

5. **ORDINANCE** creating the City of Palatka Traffic Light Safety Act – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 82 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, BY CREATING A NEW ARTICLE IV ENTITLED “THE CITY OF PALATKA TRAFFIC LIGHT SAFETY ACT” AND NEW SECTIONS 82-87 THROUGH 82-102; PROVIDING FOR INTENT AND DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING AN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE CITY; AUTHORIZING AN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PERMIT AND IMPLEMENT THE USE OF UNMANNED CAMERAS/MONITORING DEVICES FOR RED LIGHT INFRACTIONS; PROVIDING ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, INCLUDING NOTICE, APPEAL HEARINGS, PENALTIES, IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES AND COLLECTION; PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Kitchens moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. Chief Getchell said it was his intent to deliver a comprehensive package for their review, and will answer any questions. Commissioner Brown said her concern was that the person who committed the infraction would not necessarily be the person who received the fine. Chief Getchell referred them to page six of his ordinance, beginning on Line 240, Sec. 82-97, entitled “Vehicle Owner affidavit of non-responsibility,” which the owner of the auto can complete stating he was not under the care, custody and control of the vehicle, meaning the owner didn’t give this person permission to drive their automobile. Many ordinances contain this provision. Commissioner Brown said she met with other elected officials in other towns, and they said it had been beneficial to have these cameras at their intersections. They all felt it was important that the people who ran the light were the ones to pay the ticket. The City of Tallahassee has a very upscale system where they can even change the timing of the light to adjust for the flow of traffic. Chief Getchell said this does not relieve an owner of responsibility, it means their vehicle was not under his/her care, custody and control. If that affidavit is received, they waive the fine and the case is closed. The contract for services still needs to be negotiated, so they are not asking for approval on that tonight. Those rates still need to be negotiated. Mayor Flagg asked if the DOT has a plan to install a camera on certain intersections, and asked how the FDOT cameras differ from these. Chief Getchell said the DOT cameras are strictly for traffic flow in emergency situations to allow control of traffic lights. The need for this system became apparent when evacuating citizens from outlying areas for hurricanes. This enables them to control traffic lights from a remote location to promote the flow

of traffic in extreme situations. They don't take still photographs with seconds and minutes noted. They don't have the ability to do this. They can install these cameras on City right-of-way wherever the City and vendor feel it is prudent without seeking any else's permission. The FDOT has decided they don't want to give anyone the right to put these cameras on their right of way, but the vendor and City can negotiate with private land owners to lease their property to set up these cameras, should the intersection be controlled by the State or County and not the City. This is similar to companies that set up billboards on others' property. They can't physically locate the cameras on state properties. The State's camera is designed for a completely different function. They are stationary and are designed only to monitor traffic. Commissioner Brown said Tallahassee recommended they go ahead with this now, as the State is considering doing this and keeping the revenue for themselves. Chief Getchell said a bill was proposed to do just that in the 2008 legislative session. It would have created a law to share revenue proceeds, and would limit where the cameras would be. If a city already has this system, they are grandfathered in, but if there is no ordinance or program in place, the State can set up a system and take 100% of the proceeds. At this time, running a red light is a \$206 fine, but the City only gets a small percentage of that. This money is being used to balance the State's budget. They hear this bill will be introduced again, with changes to the shared percentages giving more to the State, or locking Cities' out of any revenues at all. They don't know what will be introduced this year, but know what they introduced last year. It never made it out of Committee. Regardless of whether or not they put cameras in place, they at least need an ordinance in place. If the State deems they need both an ordinance and contract, they will have at least one of those components in place. Many cities and counties have approved their local legislation and have put out an RFP or negotiated with a vendor for services and have identified intersections for these cameras.

Mayor Flagg said he appreciates being able to adopt an ordinance now and deal with a contract later. Obviously, the primary investment comes from the vendor, and it would have to be financially feasible. He wonders how much leverage the City would have in deciding if this is too much or too little. Chief Getchell said they can make this whatever they want it to be. This is a large capital outlay project; it costs around \$75,000 per intersection. The vendor has developed a flexible plan for cities and counties that are interested in doing this. There is room to negotiate the rates and levels of service. The higher the investment on the City's part, the higher the City's rate of return. He strongly urges the commission to let the investor absorb the cost of capital outlay and negotiate a fair and reasonable percentage. They are not locked into any percentage tonight. They will negotiate this contract after this ordinance has been adopted. There are differences in the contracts he has seen for other cities; however, the vendor would obviously have a 'bottom line' figure.

Mayor Flagg said he doesn't want Palatka to have a reputation of balancing its budget on traffic fines. Commissioner Norwood said currently when someone runs a red light, if he/she is spotted by a police officer, that officer can write a ticket. There are many children driving their parent's vehicles. If his child runs a red light and receives a fine, he will be expected to pay the fine. He does not like that provision. Whoever commits the crime, they should pay for the offence. This is not a major issue, but he feels this is unfair. He asked how they will collect the fees, and how they will collect delinquent fees. He said it seems to be left to the discretion of the City Manager. Chief Getchell said those are policy decisions. Code violations vs. civil criminal infractions are handled quite differently. If your child has a junk car on your property, if code enforcement issues a complaint, they issue the violation to the property owner, not the owner of the car. This is a code violation. He has spoken to the City Attorney about this, as well as other cities' attorneys; apparently, there is no way around this as it is a code violation. Commissioner Norwood said running a red light is a moving violation. A junk car is not a moving violation. The law was written to address moving violations. Tickets are written for

moving violations. If an individual ran a red light or stop sign, the way state law is today, the individual would actually receive the ticket. This ordinance changes that. He likes the proposal, as it will help with public safety, but he does not want to cause an undue burden on someone that did not commit the crime.

Chief Getchell said the City can enforce certain traffic infractions. Until 1970 the City wrote tickets under its own ordinance and had city traffic court. Many cities are looking at traffic ordinances where the City would receive 100% of the fine collection, whereas they only receive around \$6.00 per fine now. Many cities and counties are getting away from writing uniform traffic citations, and issuing citations as code violations so the City can collect the fine. If he goes out and runs a red light, not only would he have to pay \$206, those points will also go against the license and affect his car insurance rated. Under this code violation, that would not be the case. Commissioner Norwood asked how the City would collect delinquent accounts. Mr. Boynton said the City is in the process of putting together a unified collection policy for any billing from the City. Commissioner Norwood said he doesn't want to see these fines tied to individuals' property. Chief Getchell said some cities have done that, and they left that provision in this ordinance. It is broad and vague, and should be left up to the discretion of the City. They would not recommend this be done. They will recommend it become a collection issue. They can hire an independent company to do the billing and collection. All the City would do is revue the tapes. Then it comes down to a negotiation between the City and vendor. Most cities and counties contract with the vendor to do both billing and collection. The City is not in the collection business; he recommends they don't get into the collection business. His recommendation is to send delinquent fines to collection. Payment does not appear to be a significant problem; very few of these fines go to collection. Commissioner Norwood said the ordinance seems to be very vague and leaves the collection mechanism up to the discretion of the City Manager. He has a problem with that, as after this ordinance is passed, they can't come back later and change the way collection is done once the City Manager has put a procedure in place. Mayor Flagg said they can deal with this in the contract. They will not enter into a hasty contract. They will enter into the best contract they can find after the ordinance is adopted. This should not be looked upon as a quota issue; this is about traffic safety. This gives the City Manager the authority to negotiate a contract. Commissioner Kitchens said Commissioner Norwood is referring to collection of fines, which states the City Manger "may", not "shall" establish a means of collection. This gives him some room. He oversees collection of other monies and has stated they are putting together a uniform collection procedure. If law enforcement writes the ticket, it will go to points against the license and insurance. and the City won't realize any money. They just need to pass this ordinance and let the City Manager send out an RFP and negotiate a contract. Commissioner Norwood noted this includes hiring a hearing officer, and asked if they are budgeted for that. Commissioner Kitchens said they could pay for the hearing officer with revenues from the fines, according to the presentation they heard in December. Chief Getchell said this is covered in his cover letter. The startup or initial cost should be recovered through the collection of fines within a very short period, say a month. Most cities say there is no cost to this system.

Commissioner Myers said this is a safety issue; once the word is out on this, they will see fewer red-light runners. Last night he was heading home, and stopped for a red light. A truck on the right ran the red light; if there had been a car turning left, there would have been an accident. As far as identifying who was operating the car, there is an affidavit process to address this. He knows who is driving his car. When they get into negotiations on the contract, this can be resolved.

Mr. Holmes said if you know who is driving your car, you couldn't file the affidavit, unless the person that was driving was driving without your permission. If you allow your friend or child to

drive the car, you get the infraction. Changing that would not be workable, as everyone would be filing an affidavit. You don't have to name the person who was driving; that will be an entirely different concept. Commissioner Kitchens said if she receives a fine when her nephew borrows her car, she will get the money from her nephew, and he won't run another red light for losing that money. They want their loved ones to be aware of traffic laws and obey them. Mr. Holmes said you couldn't collect money from a 16-year old. You can't convert that fine into a judgment, as he is not an adult. At this time, it goes against the driver license, and they don't worry about collecting it as a civil fine. With this system, it is a civil fine. If they try to say this is something you can make only attributable to the person driving the vehicle, it will become unenforceable. Fining the registered owner of the vehicle is the only efficient way to do this. You can only file the affidavit when the person driving the car didn't have your permission to drive it. If you let someone drive your car and they are involved in a traffic accident, you will get sued. He might get a \$50 ticket, but you get a \$100,000 judgment. You will be accountable for those damages.

Chief Getchell said they've seen the research. To date, there are 30 more cities putting this in place to add to the 50-plus counties and cities with this already in place. Parents are going to get tickets for what their children do. They will get it anyway. This is similar to the system for cars running turnpike tollbooths; the camera takes a photo of the car tag, and the owner of the car gets the ticket for running tollbooths. There are many other cities doing this.

Mr. Holmes suggested the following wording changes: on page 3, line 96, instead of saying the City's code enforcement process, change it to read "a city enforcement process." The City would be using an independent officer, not its code enforcement board. There are some typos or omitted language on page 6, line 209; as it reads, this is not feasible. There are 21 days to file the appeal, so the hearing officer can't hear the case before they file the appeal. He suggested after the 9th word, insert "section that are filed" within 21 days of the date of the notice of infraction. Commissioner Kitchens moved to amend the ordinance per the City attorney's recommendation. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Myers, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared amended.

Daniel Ziem Sr., 401 Olive Street, said any way you look at it, whether the person driving the vehicle does or does not have permission, it is the owner of the vehicle who will receive the fine. Mr. Holmes said if the vehicle is stolen and used without permission, the owner could file an affidavit saying no one had permission to use the vehicle, and the fine will be dismissed. Mr. Ziem asked what would happen to funeral processions going through red lights. Mayor Flagg said the PD can review tapes, and if it is funeral procession they can see that. Commissioner Kitchens said emergency vehicles are addressed in the ordinance. Mr. Ziem said, as to controlling lights, where he is from they had equipment in the vehicle that enabled them to change the light to green when approaching an intersection. This was a remote control device. He recommends they looking into this.

There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken on the main motion, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Myers, Norwood and Mayor Flagg, yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading.

- * 6. **DISCUSSION** – nomination of elected official to NEFLC Board of Directors – Commissioner Kitchens moved to write a letter to Anne Jackson, Executive Director of NEFLC, nominating Commissioner Vernon Myers to its board of directors. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed. Commissioner Brown said she sits on the League of Cities' Executive Board of Directors, and gets to sit in on these meetings from time to time.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Impact Fee Reports – Methodology and Information regarding impact fee suspension program reporting – Planning Director Jim Lee said in December the Commission approved an ordinance suspending impact fees for two years effective January 1, 2009. During the writing of this ordinance, the commission requested reports be provided during the suspension period. Two reports were included in the ordinance, one to be provided by 1/31/09 and 1/31/10. The intent is to look at permitting activity and state of the economy in the year past, and at 18 months look at it again. At that time they would make a recommendation to either continue suspension or reinstate the fees. Within the ordinance there were five criteria to be considered. They are looking for direction as to the content of the report. He proposes staff bring back a power point presentation dealing with the five criteria listed in the ordinance. The first is number and type of new commercial and residential building permits issues, as well as providing information from the County, depending upon what they do, so they can compare number and types of fees. The second is the amount of fees lost due to the suspension of collection. They are tracking this by permits issued. The third is pending development projects; they propose to give that information according to annexations and types of annexations, and approved rezoning changes and whether they are tied to actual development. The fourth is an overview of the national, state and local economy. They will look at unemployment rates across the spectrum, housing starts across the spectrum, and housing sales, as well as growth rates of the overall economy. The fifth is the impact on the City's budget, i.e. lost revenue for capital items and comp plan issues pertaining to levels of service for parks and roads. He is asking for direction and additional items to monitor.

Mayor Flagg commended Mr. Lee and his department for their oversight, foresight and vision in leading the Commission through this process. They looked at what they can afford to do, and not what they can't afford to do. Commissioner Brown said she thinks this is an excellent way to go. The legislature is also looking at impact fees. Mr. Lee has been talking with Staff at the Florida League of Cities, who is also looking at this issue. Mr. Lee said he has seen bills being introduced that are looking at taking away cities and counties' ability to collect impact fees. There are other bills being introduced involving impact fees. Commissioner Kitchens said under Item 5 he should be sure to include impact on police and fire services.

Daniel Ziem, 401 Olive Street, asked how this will be affected if they have commercial property coming into the City, if there would be a fee on them if there was an impact fee. Mr. Lee said the City only collects sewer, water and school impact fees at this time, as the Commission suspended all other fees. If someone were to come into the City now, the only impact fees they would be charged is sewer and water, and if they create a demand on schools, a school impact fee would apply. If the City had the other impact fees in place, they would be charged those fees. The City has no control over school impact fees; they were put in place by the School Board and are collected under a County ordinance. If the building already exists, they do not pay impact fees; this is only for new construction, unless they pick up city water and sewer, or expand their building. For instance, a garage addition does not trigger an impact fee; the fees are associated with people living in the house.

Airport Project Update – John Youell, Airport Manager, gave an update on construction projects. Two of the four current construction projects are complete – they are the self-service fuel station, tarmac sealant and resurfacing. Paving of the tarmac in front of the new terminal is complete, as well as the parking lot and lighting. The construction of 10 T-hangars and one large commercial hangar is 85% complete and they anticipate it being finished in a month. The new terminal building construction is on time and likely will be completed early, and is on budget. They expect this to be completed late June or July. Passero Associates is doing a

good job of overseeing construction and representing Palatka, which was a real challenge. A portion of the roof is on the new terminal and the interior is coming along.

City Clerk Betsy Driggers said nominations for public recognition in honor of Black History Month are due. In the past each members of the Commission has chosen someone to honor. This year she suggests calling for nominations from the public, also, so that they will have a larger pool to draw from. They can either chose their own person to honor, or chose one from the pool of nominations. There was commission concurrence to advertise for nominations.

City Manager Boynton said at the last LOGIC meeting the property appraiser advised the consumer price index was lower than expected. The City has lost \$15,466; while this is not a significant loss, it is a loss just the same. Over all, revenues are down 3 – 5 percent, but each department head has been very diligent in holding expenditures down. Personnel expenditures are on schedule and operating costs are down 3 – 5%. The Better Place Fund is most affected; they may lose around \$100,000 this year, which is significant -- around 11 – 12 percent. Some CIP projects won't be completed, but he has made the necessary revisions, and he will send out a memo advising what those cut backs are. The economic stimulus package is becoming a reality, and he has delivered a "wish list" to all federal and state representatives. They sent a refined letter to FDOT; he will attend a meeting in Jacksonville tomorrow to negotiate with them. Next week another letter will go out to FDEP concerning their needs. They have a couple of months to refine theses requests. On February 20 the Federal Appropriations paperwork is due in Washington DC and they have put together a list of items for that. If the Commission would like some input, please get that to him or Ms. Driggers, as they will be meeting on this Monday.

City Manager Boynton reminded them that Mayor Flagg is heading up this year's March of Dimes drive. Curves of Interlachen and Miller Intermediate have already raised over \$5,000. Any initiatives for fundraising need to go through the Clerk's office.

8. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Brown said she has scheduled a Riverboat Project presentation on the Commission's February 26 agenda. The Pride of Palatka group has done everything FDOT has asked them to do. They have a business plan in place now, prepared by volunteers and staff. In the last few days she has spoken to each community and county commission, and everyone is excited about the progress. This project impacts the entire county. She would like to invite the person overseeing this project so he can see how important this project is. At this time, the grant is sitting there, awaiting release. They have three boats that have been refurbished and will be able to purchase a paddleboat. There is enough money left to do infrastructure work on the docks. This fits in with what they want to do with the downtown. Many volunteers have volunteered their time and money on this. Every time they cross one hurdle, another is given to them; it is always one more hurdle. She asked the City Manager to invite the FDOT representative to come to this meeting and see what has been done.

Commissioner Kitchens said the beautiful wood table is missing from the Commission Meeting room and she'd like to see it come back for the next Commission meeting, if the Commission concurs. Mr. Boynton said the table was removed for a clean-up and space issue; they made provisions for everything that was on that space. Its removal makes it much tidier. Per Commissioner Norwood's question, Mr. Boynton said the exit in the back is an emergency and handicapped-accessible exit and requires a 36" leeway. Mayor Flagg suggested placing the table in the lobby of Building & Zoning, as there is room for it there.

Mayor Flagg said Bob Mayes, PDN Associate Editor, is relocating and departing Putnam County. He has made important contributions in the seven years he has been with the Palatka

Daily News. He will leave a large void when he leaves. Mayor Flagg congratulated him on his upcoming move. Mr. Mayes said he is going to Sevierville TN, and has accepted an editing position with the local newspaper. He has daughters and family in Nashville and will be closer to them.

Mayor Flagg congratulated the Mr. Boynton for leading the City through tough economic times. He hopes those controls he has in place cover city take-home vehicles.

9. **ADJOURN** – there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. upon 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