

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 P. HOLMES
CITY ATTORNEY

MINUTES CITY OF PALATKA March 26, 2009

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 26th day of March, 2009.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary Lawson Brown

Also Present: City Manager Elwin C. Boynton, Jr.; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Ruby M. Williams; Police Cmmdr. Reno Fells; Fire Battalion Chief Randy Porter; Planning Director Jim Lee; WTP Supt. Melvin Register

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

INVOCATION – The Reverend Sophia Smith, Co-Pastor, Church of God of Prophecy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Vernon Myers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3-12-09 – Commissioner Kitchens moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION

PROCLAMATION – Child Abuse Prevention Month – April 2009 – Sandra Hartley, Executive Director, Communities in Schools, was present to receive a proclamation, read and presented by Mayor Flagg, endorsing April 2009 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, a national designation.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – KeOndra Wright and Paige Piscitello – Finance Director Ruby Williams said Ms. Wright and Ms. Piscitello both stepped in to work the water utilities desk while the regular employee was out on an 8-week leave of absence. They both did so without complaint and did an excellent job, learning the job and performing it with smiles on their faces. They were helpful and courteous to customers and citizens. They were presented with certificates of recognition together with city lapel pins, and each received a check for \$25.00.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION - National 2008 Gem Car “Dealer of the Year” – Breck Sloan, general manager and president of Beck Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-GEM Auto Dealership, accepted a plaque on behalf of Carl Beck, owner and the Dealership in recognition for this dealership’s being named Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) Car 2008 Dealer of the Year. Mayor Flagg read a press

release from GEM Corporation, noting this was the highest accolade for excellence in sales, service and support for GEM vehicles, and that the Beck Dealership was recognized as the top achiever out of nearly 150 dealerships across the nation.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH RECOGNITION – Women of Distinction Presentation to Recipients:

- Commissioner Kitchens chose to recognize Karen Hughes, retiring principal, Palatka High School
- Commissioner Myers chose to recognize Ethelene Odom, community volunteer
- Commissioner Norwood chose to recognize Major Paula Carter, Putnam Co. Sheriff's Office
- Mayor Flagg chose to recognize Kim Parrish, Victim's Advocate

PUTNAM CO. TEACHER OF THE YEAR – Ted Haengel, Mellon Elementary School – Mayor Flagg presented Mr. Haengel with a plaque declaring a day of celebration to recognize his being chosen as Putnam County Teacher of the Year 2009.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – March, 2009 – Mayor Flagg & Commissioner Myers presented certificates to the following students recognizing them for academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at their respective Schools:

Annabel Shettel	Beasley Middle School
John Langley	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Sterling Gross	Children's Reading Center Charter School
Charles Kemp	E.H. Miller School
Devin Hightower	James A. Long Elementary School
Kemara Kirkland	Jenkins Middle School
Talijah Calhoun	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Jay Griffis	Mellon Elementary School
Kabresha Session	Moseley Elementary School
Lauren Roberts	Palatka High School
Marki Manning	Peniel Baptist Academy
Bethany Smith	River Breeze Elementary School

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – The Reverend Sophia Smith, Director, Palatka Christian Service Center, said last year they provided assistance to some 4,000 citizens from the greater Palatka community. They are located at the Heart of Service Center. They are celebrating the fact that they are a Community of Faith with a festival of Faith during Easter weekend, April 10, 11 & 12. They are planning tours of the historical downtown churches, mural tours, and 15,000-egg Easter Egg hunt at Putnam Triangle Park. Saturday night there will be a concert featuring Reggie Hamm, an award-winning songwriter, at Beasley Auditorium. He is donating 50% of his media sales at this Concert to the Center. There will be events at the Riverfront Park throughout the weekend, including the Good Friday Service, which will be held on Friday at 6:30 p.m., and the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, which will begin at 6:45 a.m., following by prayer tent and a community picnic beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Festival will end with a downtown parade at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Smith distributed posters, asking all to spread the word across the community. They are celebrating their Risen Savior on Easter.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - a. **Award bid to Flint Construction in the amount of \$197,000.00** for Tilghman House Renovations, per results of RFP and recommendation from Project Architect
 - b. **Authorize execution of Change Order #7 to WPC Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$127,851.14** for a total contract amount of \$6,229,921.36, for RC Willis Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, per recommendation of WTP Superintendent and City Manager

- c. **Authorize renewal of Florida Dept. of Corrections Contract No. WS397** for Inmate Work Squad – August 24, 2009 through August 23, 2010 - \$56,467.00/yr (Streets – 1st paid squad)
- d. **Authorize execution of FDOT Maintenance Agreement/Contract** for Construction & Maintenance of right of way improvements at Palatka Municipal Airport, per City Manager’s recommendation
- e. **Authorize PPD to submit the following grant applications:**
 - 1. **Federal COPS Hiring Recovery Program** to fund one (1) position (no match required)
 - 2. **Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant in amount of \$88,636.00** (no match required)

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

4. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

City Manger Boynton thanked Christy Sanford for her work on the Larimer Arts Center Historic Grants in Aid application, noting this application was ranked #3 by the State and will likely receive funding.

The Clerk noted she received notification late Tuesday that Palatka had been nominated for inclusion on Relocate America’s 12th Annual “Top 100 Cities to Live” List, and a survey package needed to be submitted by 5:00 p.m. today in order to be considered. She noted Dana Jones of the Chamber of Commerce spearheaded the effort to get the application completed and, through a collaborative effort, the application was completed and submitted today prior to the deadline. She will apprise them of the results when received.

5. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Myers said last week the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra held a concert in Palatka, which was a gala event. He also noted that last week the River City Players presented Thornton Wilder’s play, “Our Town.” Both events were top-notch and speak well of the availability of fine arts events in Palatka and Putnam County.

Mayor Flagg noted the Larimer Arts Center will hold their annual benefit event tomorrow night at the Center. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Saturday at 10:00 a.m. to highlight recent renovations to the Center. The public is invited to attend.

Mayor Flagg noted among coming events is the Fire Department’s annual benefit golf tournament on March 28 at the Palatka Golf Club, and the March of Dimes Walk for Babies charity event on April 4, of which he is co-chairman.

Mayor Flagg said there is much concern locally about untenable situations located in certain neighborhoods, and citizens are making it known they are concerned about quality of life issues. He noted the Commission is not sitting back waiting on things to happen, but is taking a proactive approach to discovering what can legally be done to address these situations. They are very concerned about all citizens’ safety. The City Manager is working with the appropriate departments on solutions to these issues, and will bring a report back to the commission regarding the enhancement of quality of life issues in those neighborhoods that need attention.

- 6. **ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Myers.

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