

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 May 27, 2010

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010

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 Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matthew Reynolds; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Fire Battalion Chief Randy Porter; Building & Zoning Administrator Debbie Banks

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

**INVOCATION** – Brother Nicol Fecteau, Chaplain; Putnam County Jail

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Honorable Tim Parker

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 5/13/10 – Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. **PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS:**

**PHS TOP GRADUATES, Class of 2010** – Brooke Parker and Megan McCallum – Mayor Flagg presented Certificates of Recognition and City Pens to PHS Top Graduates Brooke Parker and Megan McCallum. Miss Parker graduates with a weighted GPA of 4.76, and Miss McCallum graduates with a weighted GPA of 4.74.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FIRE SAFETY AWARD PRESENTATION** – Battalion Chief Randy Porter, Recipient – William Roberts, President and Sidney Spink, Secretary, were present on behalf of the St. Augustine Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution to present the award. Mr. Roberts said this is an annual award. They are a national patriotic educational society organized in 1898, composed of lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of American Independence. They honor outstanding individuals who perform beyond the call of duty in the firefighting profession. They contacted Chief Lambert to inquire if he had an outstanding candidate to nominate for this award, and he nominated Battalion Chief Randy Porter. Mr. Roberts read Chief Lambert's letter of nomination into the record (filed). It was noted that Chief Porter will be retiring in November. He was presented with the Fire Commendation Medal and a Certificate of Recognition.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS -** (Speakers limited to three minutes – no action taken on items)

Sam Deputy, 917 Carr Street, Palatka, on behalf of the Putnam County Historical Board, gave the City an update on the Board's activities. They are developing television commercials for tourism.

Mr. Deputy thanked Debbie Banks for working so diligently on the issue of the advertising benches. They would like the wrought iron benches downtown left downtown unchanged. They don't want these advertising benches placed in the downtown corridor.

Mr. Deputy said David Church, Church Construction, has put lights up on the side of his building so that the mural on 7<sup>th</sup> Street can be viewed at night. It illuminates the art on the wall.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. **Authorize execution of final Change Order #2 on G & H Underground Constr. Contract increasing the contract amount by \$106,352.00**, for a final contract amount of \$925,771.72 for the Dunham Street Water Main CDBG Project
- b. **Grant permission to exceed allowable noise levels established by Chapter 30**, Palatka Code of Ordinances, to John Lyon, owner, Steamboat Willies, on Friday, May 28 and Saturday, May 29 until 1:00 a.m. the following days, and on Sunday, May 30 until midnight.
- c. **Appoint Citizens Advisory Task Force for CDBG 2009** Community Development Block Grant Application Cycle per staff recommendation: Larry Beaton, Richard Perallon, Marjorie Tooley Shanks, Ken Venables, James Williams, and Commissioner Allegra Kitchens, Liaison

Commissioner Myers moved to pass all items on consent as presented. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS – Community Development Block Grant:**

**Community Development Block Grant Application Preparation 2009 Cycle – 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing** – Fred Fox, Fred Fox Associates, materials (filed). Mr. Fox said the City is finishing up the CDBG grant for the Dunham Street Water Lines and will close this out next week. The next application cycle begins in July. There are four different categories the City can now apply for a new grant under, and those percentages have changed. The neighborhood revitalization category is 40% of available funds. Commercial revitalization category has been reduced from 10% to 5% of available funds, and will go back up to 10% in the fall cycle. The Economic development category is now 20%, reduced from 30%. Housing is being increased from 20% of the "pot" to 35% of the pot for this cycle. It will go down to 30% next cycle. He asked the commission for input on any project they would like to see addressed for the 2009 cycle.

Mayor Flagg opened the floor for public comment.

Roxanne Weeks, no address given, said according to an article in the Palatka Daily News, Mr. Boynton said he was going to request the City apply for grant funds for streetscaping and parking for the 100 block development, and asked if that is in lieu of making improvements to Price Martin Center, Larimer Arts Center and renovations to City Hall. Mr. Boynton said that is correct, as the City can only apply for one grant at a time. Ms. Weeks said on January 14 the Commission made a motion to enter into a contract with Robert Taylor for architectural services for several thousand dollars on the Price Martin Center project. She asked if that work would be used. Mr. Boynton said it would be used in the future, possibly next year. Ms.

Weeks inquired as to the scope of the \$250,000 federal grant for Riverfront Park improvements, saying she understood it to be a water development grant. Mr. Boynton said that grant is for any riverfront park-related improvements. Per her question regarding the match, Mr. Boynton said the City has a \$160,000 parking commitment on this project. The City's parking commitment together with the landscaping commitment could amount to around \$300,000. They feel the landscaping from the 400 block east to the river should be consistent. With this, at least 1/3 of the riverfront project would be accomplished. This is purely conceptual. If the budget allows, on the landscaping they will take St. Johns Avenue as the cutoff, and everything north of St. Johns Avenue to the River and back to City Café will be landscaped. He is not prepared to present final numbers on this. This \$250,000 grant will not go to pay Mr. Redd.

Ms. Weeks asked as to the original intent of the \$250,000 grant. Mr. Boynton said it was always for streetscaping and parking. They will be looking at other grants for other improvements. They can apply for a grant to upgrade the Price Martin Center in the future. The riverfront project is a three-to-five year project. Ms. Weeks noted the \$250,000 grant plus the \$750,000 CDBG comes to \$1 million, and those numbers don't add up. Mr. Boynton said that \$1 million will be eaten up very quickly. The parking is \$160,000 minimum. These figures are only conceptual. Ms. Weeks asked if he thought landscaping was more important than the improvements to the community centers. Mr. Boynton said he does; the city needs to provide its match for this project. Ms. Weeks asked if the City has any funds for this project. Mr. Boynton said he could not go after any money without a master plan. They now have a master plan in place, so they can pursue money for this project.

Mr. Deputy asked if the landscaping for the first four blocks will match the current landscaping in the remainder of the downtown corridor. Mr. Boynton said there will be a unified plan to take it through St. Johns Avenue. The money allocated through the Federal Government will allow them to take the landscaping through the 400 Block. Mr. Deputy said he's sure this will be a great benefit to downtown but wants to be sure they are working on a total plan. Mr. Boynton said they are.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Flagg closed the public hearing.

**CDBG Fair Housing Workshop** – Mr. Fox distributed an agenda and package that includes the fair housing ordinance initially adopted in 1983, amended in 1985, and states that the City will not allow people in the real estate profession to discriminate against anyone because of age, race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, place of birth, the fact they are handicapped, familial status or national origin. The package includes a copy of the ordinance, information on state and federal fair housing regulations and where/how one can contact someone in order to make a complaint. If someone feels they have been discriminated against they can file a complaint with the City, or at the State or Federal level. If someone feels a landlord or property owner has refused to rent, sell or otherwise made housing unavailable, or set different terms and conditions to someone in a discriminated class, or falsely denied housing was available for inspection, sale or rent when it was, or denied anyone access to a service, this individual can file a complaint. The ordinance spells out who will investigate the complaint.

Mr. Fox said they do this twice during the application cycle because CDBG funds are HUD funds. They will do this again before applications are due for those in the real estate profession. They will also advertise this process in the newspaper during this cycle.

Mr. Fox said they will discuss grant options at the next commission meeting and will hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, and will then hold the CATF meeting immediately following that meeting. The applications are due July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 so all public hearings have to be held in June.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Boynton said budgets have been received by dept. heads. Matt is inputting everything into the computer next week so everything is on target. He sees nothing out of the ordinary at this point.

He met with Bobby Weed today at the golf course. They are nearing the end of the 90 day evaluation period. They will meet to discuss their findings next week. He will report on their findings in the future. The course looks good and income is up.

He will be bringing the Commission a slight change to the noise ordinance. He wants to be sure that there is a timing change in the ordinance to provide a deadline for bringing requests to the Commission more than a few days prior to the event.

6. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kitchens said she is happy to see there will be a change in the noise ordinance and commended Mr. Lyon for requesting a variance on the noise ordinance. This weekend it won't make much difference, but she's heard there is at least one establishment in town that plans on violating the ordinance in any event. There is a band planned for the opposite end of St. Johns Avenue and the people planning this feel they were given permission to do this by someone other than the City Commission. Permission comes only through the Commission.

Commissioner Myers said they took 23 WWII veterans to Washington DC from Putnam County. They were well represented by City Staff and Commission at the send off. It was a very emotional trip. One of their veterans participated in the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Commissioner Myers said a concerned citizen has spoken to him about the City closing the City Dock during festivals and special events, and he takes issue with this. Memorial Day Weekend is a popular boating day. This man believes he is a taxpaying citizen, and closing the dock for special events precludes citizens from using the dock. He suggested the City Manager investigate this and tweak the policy.

Commissioner Norwood said a year or two ago he discussed this with the City Manager to consider a second boat ramp in a different location, on the north side, that doesn't interfere with the festivals. He'd like this looked into.

Commissioner Norwood thanked Mr. Boynton and his staff for the work that's been done on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and other locations where the Dunham Street water line was installed. They've done a terrific job of cleaning that up.

Mayor Flagg noted the passing of hometown hero Jarvis Williams. He will proclaim a day of mourning next week. Service is set for Saturday, June 5 at Beasley Middle School auditorium.

7. **ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Norwood, seconded by Commission Myers.