

VERNON MYERS
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS
COMMISSIONER

PHIL LEARY
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER



ELWIN C. "WOODY" BOYNTON, JR.
CITY MANAGER

BETSY JORDAN DRIGGERS
CITY CLERK

MATTHEW D. REYNOLDS
FINANCE DIRECTOR

GARY S. GETCHELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

MICHAEL LAMBERT
CHIEF FIRE DEPT.

DONALD E. HOLMES
CITY ATTORNEY

Regular meeting 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES PALATKA CITY COMMISSION January 3, 2011

Proceedings of a special inaugural meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 3rd day of January, 2011

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Elect Phil Leary

Also Present: City Manager Elwin C. Boynton, Jr.; City Attorney Don Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matt Reynolds; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Building & Zoning Administrator Debbie Banks; Airport Manager John Youell; Assistant Police Chief James Griffith; Police Commander Reno Fells; Assistant City Clerk Karen Venables

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Karl N. Flagg called the meeting to order and read the following call, dated December 7, 2010:

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

You are hereby notified that the place of the inaugural meeting of the Palatka City Commission, scheduled to be held on January 3, 2011 commencing at 7:30 p.m., is called to be held at the Larimer Art Center, 216 Reid Street, in the City of Palatka, Florida.

The purpose of the meeting is to administer the Oath of Office to the incoming members of the Palatka City Commission.

/s/ Karl N. Flagg
Karl N. Flagg, MAYOR

The following members of the Commission acknowledged receipt of a copy of the foregoing notice of a special meeting on the 7th day of December, 2010.

/s/ Mary Lawson Brown
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Vernon Myers
COMMISSIONER

/s/ James Norwood, Jr.
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Allegra Kitchens
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Phil Leary
COMMISSIONER-ELECT

INVOCATION - The Reverend Bob Scott, Pastor; First Presbyterian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - City Manager Woody Boynton

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Sung By Lorri Gill

INTRODUCTIONS - Mayor Karl N. Flagg asked the Clerk to make introductions of special guests and City Staff.

Mayor Flagg said it is important to bring government to the people, and those gathered here tonight are all family and loyal citizens. The City of Palatka is in a season of change and he is proud to be part of those happenings. He noted the presence of Former Mayor Tim Smith, who led the Commissions that paved the way for their present successes, and other constitutional officers in attendance.

Mayor Flagg introduced Circuit Court Judge Terry LaRue, who would be conducting the Installation Ceremony.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY - The Honorable Terry LaRue, Circuit Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, said they are here to celebrate a joyful event: the installation of new members of the commission. This is a proud time for their families. This is also a solemn event because they recognize officially what the members of the commission will be doing during their term of office. They hold the future of the City in their hands. They will shape the policy by which the City will be governed and known throughout the State. They assume a lot of personal responsibility for their decisions and in the community for their actions. There is a loss of personal privacy in this role, which is part of the sacrifice and responsibility of the office. The direction of the city is in their hands. They all trust that each member of the Commission will give wise and thoughtful consideration to the decisions they make.

Commissioner Allegra Kitchens - 4-Year Term - Judge LaRue administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Allegra Kitchens, who was joined by her cousin, Dana Jones, and presented her with a Certificate of Election, issued by Susan C. McCool, Supervisor of Elections. Following her installation, she took her seat at the dais.

Commissioner Phil Leary - 4-Year Term – Judge LaRue administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner-Elect Phil Leary, who was joined by his mother, Pauline Leary, and presented him with a Certificate of Election, issued by Susan C. McCool, Supervisor of Elections. Following his installation, he took his seat at the dais.

Mayor/Commissioner Vernon Myers, Jr. - 4-Year Term – Judge LaRue administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect/Commissioner Vernon Myers, who was joined by his wife, Linda Myers, and presented him with a Certificate of Election issued by Susan C. McCool, Supervisor of Elections. Following his installation, Mayor Myers took his seat at the dais, escorted by Mayor Flagg.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL - Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown presented Mayor Myers with an inscribed gavel.

PRESENTATION OF NAME PLATE - Commissioner James Norwood, Jr. presented Mayor Myers with his new name plate.

PRESENTATION OF BADGES - Mayor Flagg presented Palatka City Commission badges to Mayor Myers and Commissioner Leary.

REMARKS

Commissioner Leary said he's looking forward to working from a different side of the dais. He grew up and went to school in Palatka. His grandfather was a county commissioner and a school board member. He introduced members of his family and recognized Tim Parker, Property Appraiser, who is also a friend of his, and Former Mayor and Clerk of Courts Tim Smith. He said he looks forward to the work ahead.

Commissioner Kitchens said she is honored and humbled that the citizens of Palatka think enough of her work as a commissioner that she was re-elected unopposed. She will do her best to represent the citizens of Palatka.

Mayor Myers introduced members of his family. He said he is deeply honored and humbled to stand before them as their new Mayor, and noted tonight is about all those present and not about him. He said those in attendance are those who are among the most active in the community and who dream of a better Palatka.

Mayor Myers said, during the time he's been in office, the City has completed many infrastructure improvements and other projects resulting in an improved quality of life. Much of this was based on the prior work of past mayors, commissioners and City staff. He is proud to have served under the leadership of Mayor Flagg and his fellow commissioners. He recognized the service of Department supervisors and their staff, who see to it that the City functions properly every day. He salutes them and City Manager Woody Boynton for his leadership.

Mayor Myers enumerated recent past successes, including the building of a new airport terminal and hangars, underground utility upgrades, Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, all results of concerted intergovernmental efforts. The City's top priority, the redevelopment and revitalization of the riverfront and downtown, is of the highest importance with an envisioned end result of thriving downtown businesses, more jobs, and a redeveloped waterfront. Soon they will begin the lower St. Johns Avenue streetscaping project, break ground on the first phase of the redevelopment of the 100 blocks, and anticipate breaking ground on Phase II of that project in two years. A vital

component of this is the continuing contribution and involvement of downtown merchants. Intergovernmental cooperation in Putnam County amongst all government agencies thrives, and they must continue those good relations. Many challenges face the City in the future, such as a declining tax base, substandard housing, lack of jobs for youth and drugs & related crime. He thanked the citizens for giving him the opportunity to serve as Mayor. He will work with this new Commission to improve the quality of life for citizens and build a better community.

Mayor Myers thanked everyone present for their service and contributions -- present past and future. He thanked his family and especially his wife, Linda, for their support. He thanked the City Clerk for organizing this event; Denise Aiken, Executive Director, Arts Council of Putnam County for allowing the City to hold this event at the Larimer Arts Center; BJ Johns and Heather Stinson for donating and providing the decorations; Tish Leary and Ralph's House of Flowers for donating the greenery and a flower arrangement, and recognized Wallace Hough of Swamp Critter Taste Company, who catered tonight's event. He thanked outgoing Mayor Karl Flagg for his dedicated and exemplary service for the last 10 years, noting he's led the City with grace and dedication.

Mayor Flagg said he's a native son of Palatka who's loved Palatka all his life. He's grateful to God for allowing him to be here. He's in Palatka on purpose. He's grateful for having had the best team in the world in municipal government. He recognized City staff and administration. He's grateful they decided to be a team and worked together to achieve good things for the City. He said it has been 3,665 days since the transition of leadership from Former Mayor Tim Smith to himself, and today the Mayor's office transitions again to Mayor Myers. Even when there are differences of opinion, the ultimate goal is to put the City in a win/win situation, which means they will work hard together and keep the City as one. If they do what they should do, they will weather any storm.

BENEDICTION – given by The Reverend Karl N. Flagg, Pastor; Mt. Tabor First Baptist Church.

ADJOURN – there being no further business to be taken up, Mayor Myers adjourned the inaugural meeting at 8:15 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Kitchens, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Refreshments were served immediately following adjournment.