

VERNON MYERS
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS
COMMISSIONER

PHIL LEARY
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER



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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

CITY OF PALATKA

March 24, 2011

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 24th day of March, 2011.

PRESENT:

Mayor	Vernon Myers
Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
Commissioner	Allegra Kitchens
Commissioner	Phil Leary
Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Elwin C. Boynton, Jr.; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matthew Reynolds; Planning Director Thad Crowe, Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Assistant Police Chief James Griffith, Parks & Cemeteries Director Jeff Norton, Water Plant Superintendent Melvin Register, Airport Manager John Youell

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

INVOCATION – The Reverend Dennis Childers, Pastor, Holly Ridge Chapel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Don Holmes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 03/10/11 – Commissioner Norwood moved to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. **PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS:**

PROCLAMATION: Day of Service – April 16, 2011 - Ruth Carrin, Director of Public Affairs, Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, representatives of Putnam Community Blood Bank, and Boy Scouts USA were present to accept the proclamation. Mrs. Carrin said this is their 3rd annual Day of Service; they collect food and seek donations of blood. Last year was quite successful and this year should be even more successful.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION – 2011 Azalea Festival Mayor's Reception Partners:

Sponsor – First Coast Community Credit Union – Mayor Myers presented a plaque to James Norwood, Jr., Chairman, First Coast Community Credit Union Board of Directors, in recognition of the Credit Union's continued sponsorship of the Annual Azalea Festival Mayor's Reception

Refreshment Sponsors – Mayor Myers thanked Beck Auto Group, Rozier Oil Co., Prosperity Bank and Center State Bank for their sponsorship of the refreshment tent for the 2011 Azalea Festival Mayor’s Reception.

Volunteer Azalea Hosts/Hostesses - Mayor Myers presented a certificate of recognition to Jordan Driggers, Lisa Marie King, Willie Miller, Britney Howard and Morgan Holstein in recognition of their volunteer participation as official Hosts and Hostesses for the 2011 Azalea Festival Mayor’s Reception. Mr. Driggers, Miss King and Mr. Miller were present to accept.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH RECOGNITIONS - 2011 Women of Distinction – Mayor Myers presented a plaque to Jo Dunn, mother of Jan Dunn Keller, and her children, Kasey and Eric Keller, naming the late Jan Dunn Keller as the 2011 City of Palatka Woman of Distinction, in recognition of Women’s History Month. Mayor Myers said Jan’s life was cut short on August 23, 2010 when she became the victim of domestic violence at the hand of her domestic partner. Her friends and family came together to organize the Jan Dunn Keller “Heels for Healing” walkathon and “A Day Without Violence” Calendar Sales, which have raised more than \$20,000 to date, which will be used to educate the public on the subject of domestic violence. He said Ms. Keller’s life positively affected so many other lives, that her tragic death has done more to bring local awareness to the impact of domestic violence than any other single event, and has inspired the community to do something about Putnam County’s status as the “domestic violence capital” of Florida.

Jo Dunn, Jan’s mother, recognized the members of the Jan Dunn Keller Heels for Healing organizing team that were present, and said they did an outstanding job on the event. She said if one person is saved by the efforts of this organizing committee, then her daughter’s death won’t be in vain.

Cara Taylor Swift, Executive Director, Lee Conlee House Domestic Violence Shelter, said there are those who say this doesn’t happen in good families and nice neighborhoods. Jan Dun Keller’s death proves that this is not the case. Between January 2009 and June 2010 domestic murders were up by 24% and stalking complaints were up by 23.8%. On average, 3 women are murdered by their intimate partners every day in the US. Putnam County not only has the highest rate of per capita domestic violence, the rate is double the State’s average. Its victims are people we know. The Keller’s are taking an active role in educating the community. Their effort has proved in a meaningful way that Putnam County will not allow this to continue, and that Jan’s death was not in vain. Domestic violence services are available in Putnam County. The public can call the Lee Conlee House at 386-325-4447 to find out how to access services, and to find out how they can get involved in the fight against domestic violence abuse.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – March, 2011 – Commissioner Kitchens joined Mayor Myers in recognizing the following students for academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at their respective schools:

Baileigh White	Beasley Middle School
Trevor Hund	Browning Pearce Elementary School
David Dennin	Children’s Reading Center Charter School
Eric James Grems	E.H. Miller School
Kassey Tillis	James A. Long Elementary School
Ramie Allen	Jenkins Middle School
Jaidyn Martin	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Gavyn Manzo	Mellon Elementary School
Tiana Oxendine	Moseley Elementary School
Lavaris McCullough	Palatka High School
Makyla Beauford	Peniel Baptist Academy

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Megan Deputy, 223 Dodge Street, said in the South Historic District they've had a serious issue with neighbors throwing huge piles of construction debris and things that are dangerous to kids and animals in the right of way. She thanked Mr. Boynton and Commissioner Leary for helping her with this issue. The City has removed huge piles of construction debris a certain resident has thrown in the easement across the street from their house. The City needs to get a handle on this. There are ordinances in the Code that address this and they need to be enforced as a matter of Code Enforcement. Commissioner Norwood said they have ordinances addressing dumping, and asked if Code Enforcement gets involved. Mr. Boynton said they did write the offender a letter, and they are hoping for voluntary compliance. Code enforcement took an active role to rectify the situation. Commissioner Leary said they need a provision for chronic nuisances. He goes past this residence often, and this residence causes stressful situations on a regular basis. The PD gets many calls to this particular residence. They need to do something more with this. Mrs. Deputy said the resident does construction work on other homes, and dumps the construction debris here.

Commissioner Norwood said the nuisance abatement ordinance should address this. Mr. Holmes said in some instances a law suit is filed on a semi-permanent situation, like a dilapidated building. The court orders it fixed and the property is liened. There is an ordinance on the books regarding dumping or depositing trash on public right-of-way. If there is a residence that is chronically offending, there should be a number of things they could do. They can classify it as a nuisance and take action as prescribed.

Thad Crowe, Planning Director, said there is an ordinance that outlaws dumping on the right of way. The City can issue fines. They seek voluntary compliance.

Assistant Police Chief James Griffith was asked how many calls a month the PD gets to that residence. Assistant Chief Griffith said he can't say exactly, but he's spoken with Mrs. Deputy and conferred with the City Manager and Code Enforcement on this dumping issue. He can't say exactly how many and what type of calls they get, but they consider this residence a nuisance. They don't have an exact remedy on the books. Commissioner Kitchens said they passed an ordinance several years ago related to calls for criminal activity. They can amend it to include other calls. Mayor Myers said they can address this in a workshop.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Authorize expenditure of Police Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$4,000.00** to purchase communications services during drug investigations, per Chief Getchell's recommendation
- b. **Reappoint Christine Bolden as Resident Representative to the Palatka Housing Authority Board** for a four-year term to expire 4/14/15 (incumbent – sole applicant)
- c. **Amend City Commission Calendar (1/1/11 – 6/30/11)** to add 4/5/11 Workshop and 4/14/11 pre-budget workshop (if necessary)

Commissioner Kitchens moved to approve the Consent Agenda as recommended. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. The Clerk stated the 4/14 pre-budget workshop noted on Consent Agenda Item 3(c) will not be held. A workshop at the Golf Club will be held at 11:30 on that date. She will revise the calendar and distributed it. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. Commissioner Brown said they used to have at least a month during the summer where they held no meetings and asked if they will still try to clear their calendars for this purpose. Mr. Boynton said there are no meetings from mid-July to mid-August. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unopposed.

4. **ORDINANCE** amending Chapter 50 of the Palatka Municipal Code of Ordinances to amend the deadline for submission of a special events application – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING CHAPTER 50 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, ENTITLED SPECIAL EVENTS, BY AMENDING SECTION 50-201, APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS, TO REVISE THE TIME FOR SUBMISSION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Kitchens moved to pass the ordinance on first reading. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. Commissioner Norwood asked, in the future to highlight and strike-through the copy of what's being changed. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioner Kitchens, Leary, Brown, Norwood and Mayor Myers; yes. Nays; none. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading.
- * 5. **ORDINANCE** rescinding and repealing Palatka Ordinance No. 62-6 requiring the City Water Department to inject sodium fluoride into the City water system – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REPEALING AND RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 62-6, WHICH REQUIRED AND DIRECTED THE CITY WATER DEPARTMENT TO INJECT SODIUM FLOURIDE INTO THE CITY WATER SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR THE RENUMBERING OF CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE II ACCORDINGLY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. Mayor Myers opened the floor for discussion

Janet Petit, 418 Emmett Street, said she understands that the reason they are rescinding this has to do with finances, primarily.

Melvin Register, Water Plant Superintendent, said that was a consideration, but the main reason is that it is not required by the State and is not an essential part of safe water treatment. They've had numerous calls expressing concerns regarding the health effects of fluoridation, and even the EPA has suggested lowering the standard. Water already has a small natural fluoride level in it. These things considered, they recommend ending the practice. The State never did actually require it; the State says you can do it, but if you do it, you have to report it to the State, as it's reported to the Dept. of Health. Commissioner Brown said this was done because a contingency of citizens said it was good for children's teeth. Mr. Register said studies show those results were premature; the most benefit is for baby teeth; by the time children reach their teenage years the benefit decreases. Commissioner Kitchens said studies show it produces osteoporosis and brittle bones in children. Mayor Myers said this was popular in the 50's but toothpaste now has fluoride in it. Mrs. Petit said she's been fighting fluoridation of water supplies for 16 years. Most of the fluoride is produced by one company. This is a toxic product and it is so toxic they are not allowed to dump it. She commends the Commission for doing this. She passed out information in a notebook (filed), saying there are no studies that show it helps teeth. The product warning states if someone swallows more than a pea sized amount they should call poison control. That's the same amount that's in a glass of water.

Kevin Sharbargh 114 Riverview Drive, East Palatka, said he came tonight to bring similar information, and supports the Commission in this action.

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

6. **ORDINANCE** extending the 2008 Economic Recovery and Incentive Program suspending the City's collection of certain impact fees until December 31, 2012 – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING

CITY OF PALATKA ORDINANCE NO. 08-20, THE CITY OF PALATKA 2008 ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION OF COLLECTION OF THE CITY'S PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IMPACT FEES, FIRE RESCUE IMPACT FEES, ROAD IMPACT FEES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPACT FEES FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS; PROVIDING FOR PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE CITY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMY AND LOCAL BUILDING INDUSTRY DURING THE SUSPENSION PERIOD; REQUIRING REVIEW OF THE IMPACT FEE STUDIES; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF IMPACT FEE RATES UPON EXPIRATION OF THE SUSPENSION PERIOD; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on first reading. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Commissioner Brown, Leary, Norwood, Kitchens and Mayor Myers; yes. Nays; none. The ordinance was passed on first reading.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Boynton said, as to the pre-budget workshop they've held in the past, three years ago when the economy went down fast they held a pre-budget workshop. Since then they haven't had any big surprises, and have kept it on the calendar for the surprises. He and Mr. Reynolds will reevaluate this in mid-April and may decide then to schedule a pre-budget workshop. Revenues are stable and expenditures are in line with the budget.

Mr. Boynton said this past weekend was a great weekend for the City. The Bassmasters Citrus Slam bass tournament was held on the riverfront and 180 golfers participated in the Jr. Azalea Golf Tournament. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce, Putnam County BOCC and City Staff in those departments that handled preparations for a great weekend, on top of the Putnam County Fair. A great time was had by all at these events. City employees stepped up at every turn. This could be the premier bass event for the Bassmasters Federation for years to come.

Per the questions, Mr. Boynton said the floating docks at the Riverside Park are temporary; one set is owned by Putnam County and one by the City of Palatka. They will be up through the Wolfson's tournament. They will then remove the pilings. They may be used for the fireworks, but then may be dry-docked for use next year for tournaments.

John Youell, Airport Manager, said the Airport welcomed a new business to the Airport – Southern Eagle Aviation, which is in the business of painting Piaggio aircraft. This business has taken delivery of 56 aircraft and #57 is being built.

The Clerk noted the Fire Dept. is looking for volunteers for its Annual Fire Prevention Golf Tournament this weekend. Thirty-one teams are signed up to play.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kitchens said Mrs. Jo Dunn was interning as a teacher when she was in the 2nd grade, and interned with her 2nd grade teacher.

Commissioner Brown said she went to Tallahassee for Legislative Action Day. The Florida League of Cities received an Emmy for a commercial they produced that talks about cities. The City will receive a copy to show the public at a meeting, and she'd like the local television stations to run it. It brings the message home to everyone as to what cities do for citizens. On Legislative Action Day they approached legislators about the Arlington House trying to resurface. She brought back paperwork and distributed it. There will be an ethics workshop in the future. The FLC President's focus this year is on the arts and culture. Mr. Boynton has signed up for a workshop in Daytona next month on the subject, and she and Commissioner Kitchens may attend, also.

Commissioner Leary said Legislative Action Day was an exciting day; he spent it with Vice Mayor Brown. They had some excellent meetings with members of the House and Legislature. There will be a huge cut in the Human Health Services budget, which will put many people in the community at risk and will compound the situation for the needy. There will changes to Growth Management; mobility plans and transportation concurrency will be cut. These are good changes. They worked at a frantic pace and he appreciates Vice Mayor Brown and the work she did there. She did a tremendous job and is a great advocate for Palatka.

Commissioner Norwood said one of their citizens was mauled by a pit bull this week. They have an Animal Control ordinance in place to give the PD tools to address this. These are vicious dogs and can turn on you at any time. When things like this happen in the community, it makes him ask those questions as to whether they have the right tools in the ordinance. There are rumors of dog fighting in town. They need to bring that activity to a halt. The City Clerk stated there is a bill regarding animals that have been trained to fight going through the Legislature now. She will get a copy of that to the Commission tomorrow. Commissioner Norwood said he'd like to send photos on the results of this attack to members of the Legislature. Commissioner Kitchens concurred and said there was a situation with dog fighting some years ago.

Mayor Myers said last weekend's bass tournament reflected favorably on the community, It was a collaborative effort between Putnam County BOCC, the City of Palatka, Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, G-P Corporation and the Tourist Development Council. It was a great success. He spent a good deal of time there. The anglers were very complimentary. He gave much credit to City Manager Boynton and his staff and thanked Mr. Boynton for his leadership

Commissioner Norwood said, on behalf of the employees of G-P and Gary Frost, it was an opportunity to be a good neighbor and showcase the City of Palatka.

9. **ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. upon a motion by Commissioner Brown.

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