

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
CITY OF PALATKA
January 27, 2011

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 27th day of January, 2011.

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Elwin C. Boynton, Jr.; Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matthew Reynolds; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Building & Zoning Director Debbie Banks; Parks & Cemeteries Supt. Jeff Norton

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

INVOCATION – Sister Sheila McCoy, Executive Director, Christian Service Center

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner James Norwood, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 01/03/11 Inaugural meeting; 01/13/11 Regular meeting – Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS:

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – Jan Dunn Keller “Heels for Healing” Children’s Calendar Contest Awards – Cara Taylor-Swift, Director, Lee Conlee House, and Kasey Keller, Heels for Healing Chairman – Mrs. Taylor-Swift said they are here to recognize the Putnam County youth who are participating in a series of events to promote domestic violence awareness in memory of Jan Dunn Keller, an area teacher and recent victim of domestic violence. A total of 825 students entered into an artwork contest for a calendar; 14 entries were chosen for the calendar and those students are being recognized today. They will receive cash prizes and awards. The top 100 entries will be recognized and displayed at the Heels for Healing Walkathon on February 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Moseley Elementary track. Art is a wonderful way to start a conversation about domestic violence. The “A Day Without Violence” calendar will be available at the Walkathon. It will take the effort of the entire community to end domestic violence in this community, which always ranks at the top of instances of domestic violence per capita in the State of Florida.

Mayor Myers presented certificates to the following students:

Nancy Martinez-Ruiz, 1st Grade, Middleton-Burney Elementary School
Hailey Arias, 2nd Grade, Browning-Pearce Elementary School
Destiny Spell, 3rd Grade, Kelley Smith Elementary School
Julia McCubbin, 4th Grade, Kelley Smith Elementary School
Aukeyvia Waters, 5th Grade, Kelley Smith Elementary School
Jordan Nearing, 6th Grade, Jenkins Middle School
Maegan Withem, 7th Grade, Jenkins Middle School
Kaylee Haneline, 8th Grade, Jenkins Middle School
Haleigh Kwaak, 8th Grade, Q.I. Roberts Middle School
Katelyn Vogt, 9th Grade, Palatka High School
Taylor Driggers, 9th Grade, Palatka High School
Michelle Gelis, 10th Grade, Palatka High School
Jasmine Profitt, 11th Grade, Interlachen High School
Milexa Perez, 12th Grade, Interlachen High School

A Public Service Announcement on domestic violence awareness, made by men in Putnam County, was shown. Mrs. Taylor-Swift noted it will be shown on local television stations.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Service Above and Beyond the Call of Duty – Susan Leverette – Matt Reynolds joined Mayor Myers in presenting a certificate of recognition and a check to Mrs. Leverette for service above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Reynolds said he nominated Susan for this award because in November she took over Utility Billing duties while an employee was on maternity leave. She did this while maintaining her own job duties and did an exceptional job.

PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES – Palatka Fire Department – Fire Chief Mike Lambert announced the following promotions and changes, due to retirements and resignations:

New hires: Jason Pritchard, Clint Dixon, Aaron Denmark, and David Zimmer.

Chief Lambert said these men were hired out of 72 applicants that were accepted out of over 100 applications turned in.

Promotions: Philip Smith, Engineer, promoted to Lieutenant
Aaron Kunsberg, Firefighter, promoted to Engineer
Chris Taylor, Engineer, and promoted to Lieutenant
Chad Branford, Engineer, was promoted to Lieutenant (not present)
Ronnie Collier, Captain, was promoted to Assistant Chief (not present)

Chief Lambert said these men tested against their peers and took many hours of training in order to receive this promotion.

PROCLAMATION – Clean Sweep Month – Greater Palatka Clean-up – February, 2011 – Mayor Myers read and presented the proclamation to Ramicah Watkins, Executive Director, and Yvonne Parrish, President, Board of Directors, Keep Putnam Beautiful. Mayor Myers announced a yard/appliance pick-up amnesty period from Feb. 14 – 28 where the City will pick up items free of charge.

Ms. Watkins said KPB assists the community with clean-up projects or beautification projects through a network of volunteers. Mrs. Parrish said they welcome any volunteers to come help make the County a clean and beautiful place to visit. Festivals and tournaments are coming up and it's critical the County put their best foot forward. They are supported by the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners and through grants; they welcome any and all donations and help in their mission to keep Putnam Beautiful.

Mr. Boynton said typically the City charges an extra fee if there are large items to pick up or large land clearing operations, where several trips need to be made to pick up trash. During this amnesty period, the City waives the fee for large pickups. They normally pick up old tires once a week.

PROCLAMATION – March of Dimes Fundraising Days – January 12 – April 9, 2011 – Rick Mills, Seminole Electric, co-chairman of the 2011 Putnam County March of Dimes March for Babies, was present to receive the proclamation. Mr. Mills noted Joe Pickens, his co-chair, is in Tallahassee on business, and regrets not being here. Mr. Mills said per capita, Putnam County gives more money to March of Dimes than any City in America. Mayor Myers said years ago The March of Dimes focused on eliminating polio, and was primarily responsible for developing the polio vaccine. Now its focus is on birth defects.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – January, 2011 – Commissioner Leary joined Mayor Myers in presenting certificates to the following students in recognition of their academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at their respective schools:

Omari Smith	Beasley Middle School
Westen Weeks	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Isa Shivers	Children’s Reading Center Charter School
Jakyria Collins	E.H. Miller School
Hayley Burkes	James A. Long Elementary School
Stevie Pamplona	Jenkins Middle School
Jacob Burnett	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Gabriel Manzo	Mellon Elementary School
Joanna Rodrigues	Moseley Elementary School
Shanteria Brown	Palatka High School
Brittany Jackson	Peniel Baptist Academy

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Askew Vickers, 207 N. 18th Street, Palatka, said complaints, concerns and comments are things he’d love to see the City embrace in the community. There are things other people see that need to be addressed. He’s not once heard anyone talk about these things. They are spending taxpayer money, and things people have complaints and comments about should be of their concern. If you aren’t on Wall Street you can’t afford to play golf. The money is going to golf and the high rise. He asked how many commissioners look throughout the entire city to see what can be done to make the City a better place. They spend more money than the bigger cities. They embrace only the wealthier neighborhoods. They need to get more people to come to meetings. The less fortunate need to be heard too. The sidewalks downtown need to be pressure washed. They clean up wealthy people’s houses and not the City’s own house. They need to set an example for the leaders who will follow them.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. **Appoint Mandy M. Stephenson to the Palatka Code Enforcement Board** as Alternate for the remainder of a three-year term to expire September 30, 2012 (sole applicant)
- b. **Reappoint James Vickers to the Palatka Gas Authority Board** for a three-year term to expire January 31, 2014 (incumbent - sole applicant)

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

James Vickers, 124 Ashley Drive, thanked the City for the opportunity to serve on the Palatka Gas Authority Board with a unique group of individuals. He appreciates the confidence they have shown in him.

4. **RESOLUTION** authorizing the City to enter into a State Revolving Loan Agreement with FDEP for Project DW5419-010, Water Treatment Plant Upgrades, and pledging Connection Fee revenues for repayment – Adopt – The Clerk read a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN AGREEMENT; ESTABLISHING PLEDGED REVENUES; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING ASSURANCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the resolution as read. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. Mr. Boynton said this is the last installment of the FDEP State Revolving Fund loan for the Water Plant upgrades. This is the 11th Amendment to the original agreement. In the past these have gone on the consent agenda, but FDEP is now asking for a resolution. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, yes; Nays, none. The resolution was declared adopted.
5. **ORDINANCE – 7309 Crill Avenue** - Planning Board Recommendation to rezone from Putnam County AG to City of Palatka C-1A – April Annis, Agent for Daryll Futch, owner – 2nd Reading, Adopt – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA PROVIDING THAT THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA BE AMENDED AS TO THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 09, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST; FROM COUNTY AG (AGRICULTURE) TO CITY C-1A (NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL); REPEALING ANY ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Kitchens moved to pass the ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared adopted.
6. **ORDINANCE** amending the Palatka Code of Ordinances to revise Section 2-250.185(b), Police Officer Benefit Group Pension Amount Formula – 2nd Reading, Adopt – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, BY REVISING SECTION 2-250.185(b), POLICE OFFICER BENEFIT GROUP PENSION AMOUNT FORMULA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on 2nd reading for adoption. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, with the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, yes; Nays, none. The Ordinance was declared adopted.
7. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
IMPACT FEE MORATORIUM - Mr. Boynton said the Impact Fees moratorium expired at the end of December. The City is not in violation of the ordinance by not having done anything with this at this time. He will be proposing an extension of the moratorium. Mr. Holmes said the ordinance provided for the reinstatement of the impact fees, but that it specified a prerequisite of a 90-day notice period after advertisement. Regardless of the date the moratorium expired, the fees would not be reinstated until that date. Due to the economy and other situations, there was never an advertisement of the City's intent to reinstate impact fees. The City cannot reestablish impact fees until the notice has been provided. The ordinance also provided for reports by the City Manager. They will draft a new ordinance to officially extend the moratorium on impact fees. Because impact fees are part of the Comp Plan, the ordinance has to cite specific economic factors such as employment stats, etc. and will track the original ordinance. They can adopt a new ordinance that will officially extend the moratorium, which will have the same provisions for reinstatement of impact fees. The reports were set in time as to when they were to be provided, and the moratorium will also specify an expiration date. The preamble contained a number of economic indicators that were the basis for suspending the fees. Those factors will need to be restated; the numbers will not be the same. Bottom line, at this time impact fees are not

reinstated. Mr. Boynton said the last report was provided in June, 2011. A report will likely be on the agenda at the end of February or beginning of March.

COMPREHENSIVE FUTURE GROWTH/MASTER PLAN STUDY - Mr. Boynton distributed a one-page summary sheet regarding a comprehensive plan update, a market study or a plan for where the City is headed. There is a baseline for where he wants to start. They could do a master plan for the entire city. They could do this in components. They need to decide how they are going to upgrade the City. They will do that by creating jobs and economic development. Over the next month he will put a budget together for this and draft an RFQ to request proposals from firms to do this plan. The more comprehensive the plan, the more this will cost. He is trying to narrow this down to a more particular focus. He'd like input before he starts developing the RFQ. This could be called a visioning or branding program, similar to what the Main Street program is looking at for the Main Street area. This is on a larger scale and will bring the community together. Mayor Myers said they would solicit community input during town hall meetings. Mr. Boynton said they will go into individual neighborhoods separately and solicit comments.

Commissioner Brown said several years ago the community did an empowerment study trying to get grants. They went into different neighborhoods to hear comments and possible solutions. She'd like to see them call it a public empowerment process. They need help with housing and need more businesses. People came in and volunteered to complete this and sent a 500-page document to Washington. While Palatka wasn't designated an "Empowerment Zone" it gave the City a Champion City designation, which gave Palatka more points on grant applications. Commissioner Kitchens concurred and said they need to get the community involved and made a part of this.

Commissioner Leary said this is not a unique process; many cities and counties go through this. It's important they bifurcate residential from commercial. They need to add an economic development component to the Comp Plan. This is a more in-depth study from market analysis and job/economic development. He's started putting down goals and objectives for neighborhood revitalization. The City needs to establish districts and do neighborhood planning charrettes. They did this in Clay County. It gives residents an opportunity to talk about what they see for the future.

Commissioner Norwood said they need to put a plan in place to dictate how they vote on different issues that come up, and make sure issues that come up align with that Plan. They need to look at the entire CRA district, including the 11th Street corridor, which hasn't gotten the same attention as St. Johns Avenue and the riverfront. The CRA district goes all the way over to Madison Street. They need to plan for all the areas of the CRA. It is time to start looking at the 11th Street corridor. Commissioner Kitchens concurred. Commissioner Brown said President Pickens is interested in looking at doing a business incubator. At one time there was property the City owned that could be used to put up a building for this. She'd like to talk to President Pickens about doing the business incubator, which trains people on how to open up and stay in business, and teaches banks how to loan money for businesses. The 11th Street corridor was full of black businesses in the 1920's and 30's.

Public Comments:

Normand Jutras, 412 Mulholland said on the subject of economic stimulus, the City had impact fees in place, which was anti-stimulus. The economy is terrible. As they are doing this, they can help make a stimulus package for the citizens. There are many vacant lots in the community. If they can help to put any type of structure on those parcels and have no increase in taxes for that parcel over the next ten years, or 10 % increments per year, that would be a plus. Attitude is a big factor. Building a community is a business. They can only go up from here.

8. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kitchens said a few years ago the downtown merchants were trying to get certain tax abatements for downtown businesses. Much of this would be done through the Legislature. They've done things like suspending impact fees to try to encourage growth.

Commissioner Leary said yesterday in the House of Representatives, the FDEP did a presentation on 52 state parks that will be closing. Fortunately, Ravine Gardens won't be one of them. The Community needs to continue to support the Ravines. As the state budget gets tighter, they will be looking at cutting back on or closing other parks.

Commissioner Leary said tonight's meeting provided the City with a great opportunity to promote the Jan Dunn Keller Heels for Healing walk. He hopes all the members of the Commission will go out and support that cause.

Commissioner Norwood expressed thanks to The African American Cultural Arts Society, which sponsored the Martin Luther King Day activities in the City. They did an excellent job and the City greatly appreciates this. The City showed up and showed out as well. He thanked the Police Department for their support during the March. The community marched together and arrived at Lefty Turner Park safely. Mayor Myers concurred it was a beautiful day.

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