VERNON MYERS
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS
COMMISSIONER

PHIL LEARY
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER

CITY OF PALATKA
FLORIDA

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

MICHAEL J. CZYMBOR
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

MINUTES
CITY OF PALATKA
March 14, 2013

Proceedings of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 14th day of March, 2013.

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

Also Present: City Manager Michael J. Czymbor; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matt Reynolds; Police Chief Gary Getchell; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Main Street Manager Charles Rudd; Project Manager Jonathan Griffith; Golf Course Manager Andy Heartz

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

INVOCATION – Commissioner James Norwood

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – "Doc" Sweeny

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –2/14/13 & 2/28/13 Regular Meetings – Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. **PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS:**
PROCLAMATION - Women's History Month – March, 2013 – Mayor Myers read the proclamation recognizing the national designation of March annually as Women's History Month and recognized all women present.

PROCLAMATION – Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – March, 2013 – Jessica Peterson with the Alachua County Health Department was present to accept the proclamation, which was read and issued by Mayor Myers. Ms. Peterson described various types of colon cancer screening programs available to the public, one of which is available for purchase from Walgreen's Drug Store and can be done in the comfort of your own home. For more information, the public can contact the Putnam County or Alachua Health Department.

PROCLAMATION - Brain Awareness Week – March 11 through 17, 2013 – members of the Pilot Club of Palatka were present to receive the proclamation, read and issued by Mayor Myers. Brain injury prevention and support for those individuals and their families living with brain injuries is the focus of Pilot Club International. The Palatka Pilot Club has contributed much to the community in bringing awareness to brain injury treatment and prevention, and has donated thousands of dollars throughout the past 15 years to purchase handicapped accessible playground equipment and pavilions for City parks.

PROCLAMATION – 91.3 Hope FM Day – March 26, 2013 – Mayor Myers read and issued the proclamation recognizing WHIF 91.3 Hope FM's 17th anniversary.

SPONSOR RECOGNITION – 2013 Azalea Festival Mayor's Reception – Mayor Myers presented a plaque to Daniel Carle, Waste Pro, recognizing Waste Pro's contribution as title sponsor of the 2013 Azalea Festival Mayor's Reception.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH – March, 2013 – Commissioner Kitchens joined Mayor Myers in presenting certificates of award to the following students in recognition of academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and attendance at their respective schools:

Ashit Patel	Beasley Middle School
Hanna Morgan	Browning Pearce Elementary School
Savannah Cutrer	Children's Reading Center Charter School
Jacob Bryan	E.H. Miller School
Shelby Hill	James A. Long Elementary School
Carsyn Drew	Jenkins Middle School
Julian Rose	Kelley Smith Elementary School
Abrie Williams	Mellon Elementary School
Hennessey Hudson	Moseley Elementary School
Tyler McDaniel	Palatka High School
Jessica Raybon	Peniel Baptist Academy
Zoe Peters	Putnam Academy of Arts & Sciences, Inc.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Suzanne Jacobs, 117 Hotel Street, Palatka, former owner/proprietor of Boathouse Marina on River Street, said as to the inclusion of slips for rent at the City Dock, she objects due to the configuration of the dock and their being floating docks. She provided copies from a 1954 cruising guide referencing Palatka and its dock. She objects to the City competing with private industry. The dock should not be part of the Riverfront upgrade plan.

Marlene Lagasse, 125 Cypress Point, East Palatka, appeared on behalf of Scott Lagasse, co-owner of the Boathouse Marina, and read his e-mail into the record objecting to the City opening a competing marina with taxpayer revenue.

Pat Wilson, River Street, said she is very much opposed to the City competing with the Boathouse Marina.

Askew Vickers, 207 N. 18th Street, asked for clarification on red light cameras. He cited stats on how often the cameras take pictures a day and estimated city revenues. He asked what this money is being spent on. Mayor Myers asked him to contact the Palatka Police Department or the City Manager to discuss.

Mr. Vickers said his water bill on his commercial establishment is higher than his light bill. His line was checked for leaks. The meter is covered with leaves and dirt. The satellite read differs from the meter reading. He is only open one day per week.

The Clerk read an e-mail from David & Linda Girardin, E. Palatka, into the record (filed), stating their objection to a marina operation by the City.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
   a. **Adopt Resolution No. 2013-9-85** supporting proposed changes to Florida Statute Section 287.055, also known as "The Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act" or "CCNA"
   b. **Adopt Resolution No. 2013–9-86** awarding the bid and contract for Contractual Towing Services to Johnson's Towing & Recovery
   c. **Adopt Resolution No. 2013-9-87** amending the membership of the Community Redevelopment Agency to reflect changes in BOCC Districts and amending the terms of the two additional members
   d. **Adopt Resolution No. 2013-9-88** authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners appointing BOCC District 3 Commissioner Karl N. Flagg to the Palatka Community Redevelopment Agency and stipulating to the conditions imposed upon such appointments by FS 163.357(1)(d)
   e. **Appoint Karl N. Flagg to the Community Redevelopment Agency** as one of two additional members for a four-year term to expire December 31, 2016

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

4. **Resolution No. 2013-9-89** adopting a conceptual plan for improvements to the southern end of the Riverfront Park and authorizing the design, permitting & development of same – Adopt – The Clerk read a Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA RIVERFRONT PARK AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURSUE THE DESIGN, PERMITTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SAID CONCEPTUAL PLAN. Jonathan Griffith, Project Manager/Grant Administrator, presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the concept which was developed after meeting with adjacent property owners. They tried to incorporate all comments and suggested revisions. Option A was not presented at the City Commission workshop held on 2/28; it kept the current configuration of Laurel Street and just added some parking. It provides slightly more green space. Option B was the option that was presented in the Workshop; it has the roundabout and reconfiguration of Laurel Street. They felt this did not maximize parking space. The "Final Plan" as shown includes the suggestion by the Church to move the round-a-bout as far away from the entrance to the Church as possible, which they have done. They lined up the entrance to the parking lot so it almost lines up perfectly with their driveway. They kept Dr. Coleman's driveway and added handicapped spaces directly adjacent to him. A family visiting the Park could park directly adjacent to the green space. They kept the restroom facilities where they were in the prior plan; they want to centralize those.

Rudd Jones, Project Architect, said this is a good example of utilizing good citizen input, which helped make the plan better. He is very pleased with it. Commissioner Kitchens asked if they explained to the Church how they would access the Church, or Dr. Coleman his business, during festivals? A church member expressed concern that they would not be able to be dropped off at the door of the church when streets are closed. Mr. Griffith said there are no less streets nor more streets. Commissioner Kitchens said all the accessory parking would pose a problem. She researched information on roundabouts and found they increase smaller accidents and decrease serious accidents immensely; however, the safety of pedestrians has not been thoroughly

studied. Roundabouts are not good for the visually handicapped; it's recommended you provide another crossing up the Street. She had the PD run a check; there have been no accidents at that corner since 2000. She believes a roundabout would serve to calm the extra traffic caused by only having two exits from this parking lot for boating traffic. There will be massive amounts of traffic coming from the Dock.

Mr. Rudd said roundabouts serve to calm traffic in high traffic areas. The Church has complained about people driving quickly through Laurel and taking the curve very fast. If they are to have more pedestrians in that area, they need to slow traffic down. The circle is a very effective way to do that. Commissioner Kitchens said she objects to closing Short Laurel for reasons prior stated. She said there will be no access during the Festivals to Dr. Coleman's property. If he has no problem with that, that's his business. She believes the ideal thing is to keep short Laurel and keep it open.

Commissioner Leary asked Mr. Jones to state his credentials, which Mr. Jones did, as did Mr. Griffith. Commissioner Leary noted Mr. Crowe is a professional planner. He believes this to be one of the most unique designs for waterfront property in Florida, and if this design is accepted it will ease the impact of pedestrian traffic. Mr. Griffith and Mr. Jones concurred. Mayor Myers said when traffic was two-way, cars blew past the front of First Presbyterian Church; it doesn't happen now that it's one-way. A round-about would calm traffic and keep people from shooting down Laurel. Commissioner Kitchens noted Mayor Myers is a member of that church; she asked him about the future excessive traffic coming from the Dock and whether that will disturb church. Mayor Myers said they have tournaments there now and the Church deals with them; when festivals come up, they make successful arrangements to provide access to the Church. The congregation doesn't oppose festivals. Commissioner Kitchens said she has no similar credentials as these three gentlemen; she is speaking as a citizen and a Commissioner. She has lived here all her life. She doesn't know engineering or landscaping, but she knows people and can make an intelligent decision based upon what she likes and doesn't like.

Commissioner Leary asked if they are talking about floating docks tonight. Mr. Griffith said they are not. Commissioner Kitchens said Option A shows more parking spaces than Option B. Mr. Griffith said they don't want to turn the Park into a parking lot; this is a more efficient use of space and leaves a park that feels like a park. More parking wasn't the only primary goal of the redesign. As to feedback from adjacent property owners, Mr. Griffith said they haven't increased or decreased access roads to the facility, so any inference that traffic would be increased is false. They conveyed that to property owners and tried to address their concerns. There were no comments about the effect on property values. Commissioner Brown said they are trying to make Palatka look great so when someone comes across the bridge they will want to turn in. Everywhere she's been cities are utilizing roundabouts. They are aesthetically pleasing. Palatka has to change something or they are going to die. She tries to make a point of looking at what other communities are doing. They can't please everyone, but they can work at it. Once people see these improvements, they may be pleased with them.

Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. Commissioner Kitchens said she was a deputy property appraiser for 30 years and is familiar with commercial property value. If you lose your frontage, your property decreases in value. Mayor Myers opened the floor for public comment.

Marcia Lane, 210 E. Forest Park Drive, said the workshop was held on a Tuesday afternoon at 4 pm and asked they consider a more convenient time when scheduling the next workshop. She said if Memorial Parkway becomes two-way again there will be a straight shot to the access road instead of the dogleg created by Short Laurel. There is less space for the children's park. They

lack the "safety zone" around the proposed children's park. People become confused when they are in roundabouts. They are cutting off people using the parking lot from the business section. This will discourage development on the 100 Block. She noted that Commissioner Leary had objected to the stop sign that was erected on River Street due to the "motorist anger" it created. The roundabout will create the same hostility. Once they put this in place, there will be no fixing it. She concurs with Commissioner Brown regarding making the town look attractive, but she believes this design will not encourage use of Downtown.

Normand Jutras, 412 Mulholland Park, Palatka, said they've successfully slowed traffic on Memorial Drive by making it one-way; two-way traffic will accelerate that. Mr. Griffith said they went to one-way to deter traffic during construction. The Main Street Manager suggested the two-way traffic to provide access for traffic to the 100 Blocks; they need the two-way traffic, but want it to travel at safe speed. Commissioner Kitchens asked if this is the Redd Plan; Mr. Griffith said the Redd Plan didn't show Short Laurel closed.

There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Brown, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Commissioner Kitchens, No. The resolution was declared adopted by a vote of four in favor, opposed by Commissioner Kitchens

5. **Resolution No. 2013-9-90** modifying the Infrastructure Surtax Loan Document with Hancock Bank to reduce the interest rate from 5.19% to 2.35% (Frank George Apartments Purchase & Demolition) – Adopt – The Clerk read a Resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 8-31 ADOPTED BY THE CITY ON MARCH 27, 2008; PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA TAXABLE INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2008 TO LOWER THE INTEREST RATE THEREOF; AUTHORIZING FURTHER OFFICIAL ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE AMENDMENT OF THE BOND; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE – Commissioner Kitchens moved to adopt the Resolution as read. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion.

Matt Reynolds, Finance Director, said this amends the Frank George Apartments Loan that was taken out to purchase the building and demolish it. This Resolution amends the interest rate and saves $194,000 over the remaining life of the loan. Mr. Czymbor noted Bond Counsel was present and said they did a great job on this. He recommends adoption of this Resolution. There being no further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, none. The resolution was declared adopted. Mayor Myers commended the initiative by the City Manager and Finance Director, saying this is an example of good fiscal management. Bond Counsel and Staff were introduced

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

* 6. **PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE** to revise the Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvement Element – ***Authorize transmittal of draft ordinance to state agencies for review*** – City of Palatka, Applicant – The Clerk read the draft ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. There being no public comment or discussion, Commissioner Leary moved to transmit the draft ordinance to

state agencies for review. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

7. **ORDINANCE** amending Palatka Municipal Code Section 22-2, Cemetery Fund, and Appendix A, Fee Schedule, in regards to zoning matters, vehicles for hire and references to occupational license fees – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING SECTION 22-2 OF THE PALATKA MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED CEMETERY FUND; REVISING APPENDIX A, FEE SCHEDULE OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE IN REGARD TO VEHICLES FOR HIRE, VARIANCES AND CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS, AND AMENDING ALL REFERENCES PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 78, TAXATION, REGARDING REFERENCES TO OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAXES TO REFLECT STATUTORY CHANGES RELATIVE TO THEIR DESIGNATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. There being no public comment or discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading.

8. **ORDINANCE** amending the Palatka Municipal Code to eliminate minimum lot sizes for churches in residential areas – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ELIMINATING MINIMUM LOT SIZE STANDARDS FOR CHURCHES AS ALLOWED BY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE Commissioner Brown moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion.

   Thad Crowe, Planning Director, said the zoning code now allows churches in residential districts; however all churches must get conditional use permits, and churches on lot sizes less than a certain square footage can't go through that process. They don't want to discriminate against churches on a small lot size. This allows all churches in residential districts to go through the conditional use process. Those churches are non-conforming now. This will be done on a case-by-case basis and those cases will come before the Planning Board. Mr. Holmes said the way the ordinance reads now it is counter-productive; it only allows churches occupying almost an acre to go through this process; this is not the way they want to go. Larger churches aren't better in a residential area, and this allows existing churches to make improvements. There being no public comment or further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Brown, Kitchens, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Nays, none. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading.

9. **ORDINANCE** amending the Palatka Municipal Code regarding Outdoor Sales, seasonal or temporary goods and Farmer's Markets – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ALLOWING STAFF REVIEW OF OUTDOOR PROMOTIONAL SALES, SALE OF SEASONAL GOODS OR COMMODITIES, SALE OF TEMPORARY GOODS, AND FARMERS' MARKETS; EXTENDING THE MAXIMUM SALE PERIOD TO 45 DAYS FOR SALES OF SEASONAL GOODS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN APPEAL PROCESS FOR STAFF DECISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the ordinance as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion. Commissioner Kitchens said this is the second ordinance change in a month that eliminates the public hearing process. She is not in favor of anything that eliminates the public hearing process. They need to be very careful about this. Commissioner Leary said he brought this to Mr. Crow's attention through a situation at Lowe's regarding Christmas Tree Sales. This is just a practical change to help the public do

business. There being no public comment or further discussion, a roll-call vote was taken, which yielded the following results: Commissioners Brown, Leary, Norwood and Mayor Myers, Yes; Commissioner Kitchens, No. The ordinance was declared passed on first reading by a vote of four in favor, opposed by Commissioner Kitchens.

10. **ORDINANCE** revising sign standards for Reid Street business locations in the Downtown zoning districts – 1st Reading – The Clerk read an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, REVISING SIGN STANDARDS FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED ON REID STREET WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AND DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Commissioner Norwood moved to pass the ordinance on first reading as read. Commissioner Leary seconded the motion.

Askew Vickers, 207 N. 18th Street, asked for clarification on this amendment. Mr. Crowe said at this time the Zoning Code in the downtown area on Reid Street is a "hodgepodge" of districts. Some is intensive commercial; there are pockets of downtown business and riverfront zoning. Each district allows different types of signs. There is a disparity between the types of signs allowed. At this time in the downtown district you can only have a "ground" sign maximum six feet high. This increases the size of the signs and makes them uniform, and keeps signage on the south side of Reid Street and allows a little larger sign for downtown businesses. The "downtown" area is between 11th Street and the River, and this only affects signs on Reid Street.

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

11. **DISCUSSION, Direction and Action** -- Consider amending Chapter 10 of the Palatka Municipal Code to allow Sunday morning sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages at the Palatka Municipal Golf Club – Item added for discussion by Commissioner Leary. Commissioner Leary said they have a situation where they are hundreds of thousands of dollars in the red on the Golf Course. Every dollar they can generate is critically important. One thing occurring there now is that golfers bring coolers onto the Course with their own beverages on Sunday morning. They don't purchase them at the facility. He thinks they should allow on-premises consumption every Sunday morning; they are drinking out there now, and they don't have the personnel to police this. Sunday is probably the highest traffic day, and Sunday morning is the highest traffic time. They should be making the profit from this consumption. In Putnam County the Live Oak Golf Course is not a municipal course, and there are no restricted Sunday sales. He asked Chief Getchell if there has ever been any incident at the course related to Sunday morning alcohol consumption. They are losing sales at this point; they need to look at amending sales at the golf course. The golf Course Advisory Committee supports this. They have a short and long range plan for the golf course. They were out there last Saturday for the opening of the Azalea. Mr. Weed is on track with improvements. The USDA State Director said today the Golf Course was one of two gems in this City; they are looking at helping to upgrade the Kitchen facilities. The City needs to come into the present and understand alcohol sales are part of golf courses. They can either get the revenue or lose it.

Commissioner Kitchens said if they make $1,000 a month per year, that's only $12,000 per year; that doesn't make a dent in the debt. If people are bringing coolers in on Sunday morning, they will bring them in any day of the week. The City can either send police out to arrest these people, or let it continue. Sunday morning alcohol sales on a city-wide basis affected the PD. She said Mr. Holmes has assured her it was legal to just allow the golf club to have Sunday morning sales;

her concern is that this is one step towards loosening the ordinance for the rest of Palatka. Mr. Holmes clarified that he was only speaking of on-premises consumption.

Andy Heartz, Golf Course Manager, 145 Brittany Lane, Palm Coast, said they don't sell package liquor. All their liquor sales will be on-premises consumption. The sales will be much more than $8,000 per year; this Sunday he will sell over $1,000. As for personal coolers, they don't have a big problem with that. They don't search bags. They've never had a problem with people imbibing alcohol. Commissioner Kitchens noted sales at this one place probably won't affect the Police Department's calls for service.

Commissioner Leary said if golfers know they can buy alcohol at the course, they will be less likely to bring a cooler. If they are losing $500 each Sunday morning, that's $26,000 per year. They need to solve the problem, and this is a move in the right direction. They can look at doing this on an interim basis.

Commissioner Norwood said there was a lot of hard work that went into putting the current alcohol ordinance together. One of the issues was that businesses were being hurt by not being able to sell alcohol on Sunday. He's not heard anything yet that convinces him they should revisit the ordinances. At this time they can give permission for special events, and that's sufficient. Unless he hears something that convinces him they need to change the ordinance, he's not in favor of a change. It is not fair to give the City permission to sell on Sunday morning, but no one else. If they do that, they end up back in the same place they were, which necessitated changes.

Commissioner Leary said there is a significant difference in on-premises and off-premises consumption. People can drive across the bridge and buy all the alcohol they want. The City is losing revenue to the tune of a minimum of $26,000 a year. They need to look at management alternatives to turn the golf course around. They've just asked the high school for $5,000 to allow their golf team to play. This is a unique situation unlike anything else in the City.

Commissioner Norwood said he received some phone calls on the high school issue. They are asking kids to play the course, and introducing alcohol onto the course. There is a lot of give and take between the schools and local government. The PAL is allowed to use school facilities at no cost. If they start charging kids for golf and the school starts charging the City fees for PAL, this is not the desired reaction. Mayor Myers said the County charges the City for the PAL program.

Mayor Myers said if those young men are playing golf on Saturday morning, alcohol sales are now legal on Saturday mornings. There is no difference. Golfers will go to Live Oak to play on Sunday morning because they can have a Bloody Mary there. Golf is a game of pleasure; if a person wants to play golf on Sunday morning and have a drink, that's not hurting the public. Commissioner Kitchens said the problem is revisiting the alcohol ordinance. They did studies for three years. Meetings were filled with people. This will discriminate against other businesses. There is already an exception to give permission for Sunday sales for tournaments.

Rev. Kirby Kennedy, 106 Lisa Lane; Pastor, First Baptist Church, said he represents the Central Putnam Ministerial Association and First Baptist Church of Palatka. The Ministerial Association voted overwhelmingly to oppose this request. Changing the ordinance does not benefit the community. There is little benefit to the golf course. This will lead to progressively more lessening of the alcoholic beverage ordinance. Alcohol will not transform the Downtown. They want a family–friendly environment. They ask that the Commission vote no on expanding alcohol availability on Sunday mornings, and are asking the Commission to go on public record opposing any change in the availability of alcoholic beverages on Sunday mornings.

Askew Vickers 207 N. 18th Street, said before the ordinance was changed, Palatka had something unique; the ordinance said any restaurant with a seating of more than 75 had no restrictions on serving alcohol. This did not apply to bars. They changed the ordinance because of crime rates. Businesses have lost revenue due to this ordinance. This was not a good change. This proposed change is about the wealthy. He loses money because of this ordinance change. He loses money and the golf course loses money. They should look at what's good for the people.

Normand Jutras, 412 Mulholland Park, said government shouldn't be in private business. They are fortunate to have a Donald Ross golf course and Bobby Weed to manage it. It's a beautiful golf course. It is a professional golf course. They shouldn't be bickering about the liquor. This is petty. The golf course is a gem. Many of the golfers were at Corky Bell's Saturday night having drinks and dinner, which is normal.

Commissioner Leary said he appreciates the comments, but he's looking at this from a financial standpoint. The golf course is not downtown. He moved to direct staff to bring an ordinance back for consideration to amend the Code to allow Sunday morning on-premises sales at the golf course. Commissioner Norwood seconded the motion. Commissioner Brown said she is torn on this issue. People drink alcoholic beverages. She knows some businesses have gone out of business when they changed the ordinance; these weren't always bad businesses. Mr. Vickers owns a supper club; Spurs closed and the owner relocated. She asked that they look at the long term affect these changes have on businesses in the long run. They have to look out for everyone. They need to look at all businesses that serve food and drink.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was requested and taken, with the following results: Commissioners Leary, Brown and Mayor Myers, yes; Commissioners Kitchens and Norwood, No. The motion passed by a margin of 3 in favor, opposed by Commissioners Kitchens and Norwood.

12. **CITY MANAGER & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Czymbor said, regarding the $5,000 payment for the school to use the golf facility for the golf team, there is always another side to the story than what appeared in the newspaper, which was based upon one conversation with one school board member. From 2005 to 2008 the city incurred a $1.3 million debt on the golf course. The auditors said they had to pay it off, and they borrowed money to do that. Between 2010 and 2012 the city incurred an additional $1 million in debt, and this year an additional $400,000.00. The City can no longer do business this way. They put together a plan to raise prices and increase marketing, but the bottom line is there is still debt. Only 21% of golfers who play this course come from the City. They are supporting that debt service. Whether you are a resident or a taxpayer, you are paying for the golf course. They looked for alternatives, and one of the things Mr. Weed and his associates pointed out is they can no longer allow free use of the course. They have to collect money for its use. The high school estimates 640 rounds during their season; and free use of the driving range. $5,000 is 65% off the cost of those services and is reasonable. Any sports team holds fund raisers to pay for services. The City is willing to partner with the schools to raise this money. They aren't asking the School Board to write a check. The School's response was that they have no interest in paying this money to the City. The City wants junior golf and encourages junior golf; they hold junior golf clinics. The Men's Golf Association has told the school they will work with them to run golf tournaments to raise this money. It is incomplete to say the city demanded $5,000. The City is doing everything possible to reduce the Golf Course debt. They have pledged to work with the school. They want to spread the message that the City is not the bad guy here.

Commissioner Norwood asked if there is an updated business plan. Mr. Czymbor said they've met with the golf course management staff monthly to develop a workable budget. They will

keep trying innovative ways to get this enterprise fund closer to self supporting. There may come a time the Commission may reach the end of its effort. They are going to propose a joint ownership to the County commission. This course is a fundraising driver for more than 20 non-profit and other groups and is used fund their critical operations. If that is unsuccessful, the City can lease or sell the asset. That may be the ultimate decision. Commissioner Norwood said they need to have a business plan in hand when they approach the County Commission. Commissioner Leary said Bobby Weed has a 3-year plan which is modified as needed. Commissioner Myers said revenues have got to exceed expenses; they need to enhance the course so that more players will pay green fees and play. They have cut expenses to the bone; they need to increase revenues. If they raise green fees, they drive people away. The course is beautiful and they received rave reviews from golfers from all over the world this past weekend during the Azalea Tournament. Mr. Czymbor said he'd take questions after the meeting.

Mr. Czymbor said tomorrow he will send out a memo talking about the six or seven RFP/Qs they will be issuing so the Commission will have a clear understanding of these.

Mr. Czymbor said they had a positive meeting on resolving riverboat issues; the City has a contract in-hand for the satisfactory delivery of those riverboats in the very near future.

Fire Chief Mike Lambert said the City dedicated Engine #23 today at 2 pm, which was purchased through a joint partnership with USDA. They got a great truck; this is a great benefit to the City and its citizens. This protects the safety of citizens.

Charles Rudd reminded everyone of the 3rd Friday Street Party in downtown Palatka tomorrow night.

13. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kitchens said the school fee is a very small amount; the City shouldn't charge the Schools for the golf team. The City can do this for the school children. Roughly $500,000 of county tax funds go into the CRA. They don't need to charge for school children.

Commissioner Kitchens said, as to the marina issue, they received messages and e-mails; she wasn't sure where that came from. In the past the public turned out against a marina on the waterfront. In 2006 the City started to put in for a marina grant, but didn't. Various studies show there are problems with a marina in that portion of the river. She didn't think they were looking at a marina; the current grant prohibits long-term dockage at the City dock. She is not aware they were talking about a marina.

Commissioner Kitchens said, regarding the alcohol ordinance studies done when the prior changes were made, the figures were real figures. Those calls for service figures came from the Sheriff's Department dispatch. The problem was caused by people coming in from other counties to Palatka to drink because the laws were less stringent.

Commissioner Brown said she missed the February 28 meeting because she was part of the League's FAST team that went to Washington DC to lobby Congress. They were divided up into teams and "attacked" the Capital. They focused on potential taxes on municipal bonds. If this comes to fruition, municipal bonds for utilities will go by the wayside. Also, there are bills going forward to tax internet purchases. Mom & Pop businesses are losing business because people are buying merchandise over the internet and paying no sales taxes on the merchandise. She brought back information on this and gave it to the City Manager.

Mr. Holmes said the charges referenced for the PHA Golf Team were not to the County, but to the School District. The County owns Triangle Park, not the School District, and the School District doesn't contribute to the CRA.

Commissioner Leary said he concurs with Mr. Czymbor; his son played high school baseball for four years; he wishes he'd only paid $300 for all the equipment he needed. They held additional fundraisers to meet those expenses. Golf is an expensive hobby.

Commissioner Leary said, regarding internet cafes, a bill is coming up in the Senate next week that will prohibit internet cafes. Mr. Holmes said he believes only one is left in the City.

Mayor Myers said all the residents of the City are subsidizing the golf course. A large part of the taxes paid by City residents go to the Putnam County School Board. He has no problem paying taxes to schools.

Commissioner Norwood said City Staff hasn't had raises in many years. They have to evaluate the best option for the City concerning the golf course. Mayor Myers noted everything is on the table concerning the golf course.

14. **ADJOURN** – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. upon a motion by Commission 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