VERNON MYERS
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

ALLEGRA KITCHENS
COMMISSIONER

PHIL LEARY
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER

CITY OF PALATKA
FLORIDA

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

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

MINUTES
CITY OF PALATKA INAUGURAL MEETING
January 7, 2013

Proceedings of an inaugural meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 7th day of January, 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; Planning Director Thad Crowe; Main Street Manager Charles Rudd; Project Manager Jonathan Griffith

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the following Notice, dated December 19, 2012:

TO MESSRS: MARY LAWSON BROWN, ALLEGRA KITCHENS, PHIL LEARY AND JAMES NORWOOD, JR.:

You are hereby notified that the inaugural meeting of the Palatka City Commission will take place on Monday, January 7, 2013, at the regular meeting place of the Palatka City Commission, Palatka City Hall, 201 N. 2nd Street, Palatka, Florida, to commence at 7:30 p.m., as prescribed by Article II, Section 24 of the Palatka Municipal Charter.

The purpose of the meeting is to administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner-elect Group 1, James Norwood, Jr., and Commissioner-elect Group 3, Mary Lawson Brown.

/s/ Vernon Myers
Vernon Myers, MAYOR

The following Commissioners acknowledged receipt of a copy of the foregoing notice of an inaugural meeting on the 19th day of December, 2012.

/s/ Mary Lawson Brown
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Phil Leary
COMMISSIONER

/s/ James Norwood, Jr.
COMMISSIONER

/s/ Allegra Kitchens
COMMISSIONER

INVOCATION - The Reverend Frederick Demps, Pastor; Calvary Missionary Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Theodore & J. Maurice Brown

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Sung By Kimberly Johns

INTRODUCTIONS:
Commissioner-elect Brown introduced her sons, Theodore and Johnny and his wife Crystal, Theodore Brown II, and her blood sister Glorida Epps.

Commissioner Norwood introduced his daughters Chrislena and Mary, and his sisters Marietta and Sarah.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY – Conducted by The Honorable Tim Smith, Putnam Co. Clerk of Court and former Mayor of Palatka – Clerk Smith introduced his wife, Darlene. He said 25 years ago tonight he was sworn in as Mayor of Palatka, and that was a special night, as he raised his hand and took the Oath of Office. Tomorrow morning Putnam County Constitutional Officers will take their Oath of Office at the courthouse at 8:30 a.m. Six weeks ago former Palastka Mayor Flagg took his oath as a new Putnam County Commissioner. Tonight Mayor Myers will also issue a Proclamation recognizing 160 years that this City has been chartered. Tonight it is timely for them to remember that they are elected officials charged with doing the best they can to take care of the interests of the citizens they represent. Many Mayors went before him; his father served as Mayor. Lee Conlee, who was scheduled to become Mayor but died just before assuming office, also holds a place of honor amongst former Mayors; he always remembers Lee Conlee during these meetings, as he was a great commissioner. He himself served with Commissioners Brown and Norwood, and he is proud to administer the Oath of Office to them both.

Commissioner Mary Lawson Brown, Commissioner Group 3 – Four-year term – Clerk Smith administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Brown, who was joined by her family members that were present. Commissioner Brown said she intends to work just as hard these next four years as she has over the past 28 years. Clerk Smith noted today is also Vice Mayor Brown's birthday. Following her installation, she took her seat at the dais, and was presented with a Certificate of Election.

James Norwood, Jr., Commissioner Group 1 – Four-year term – Clerk Smith administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner-Elect Norwood, who was joined by his family members present. Commissioner Norwood thanked the citizens of Palatka for the opportunity to serve another four years. He is grateful to God for putting him in the position of being able to serve another four years. He thanked his family for their support and his campaign workers. He thanked City Staff for their hard work in making sure they are where they are supposed to be, doing what they are supposed to do. He said he believes Palatka is the #1 city in the State and is poised for great things. He thanked the community for rallying around them and providing their support, which enables them to move the Community forward.

Commissioner Norwood said he was not able to attend the League of Cities conference in August, but wanted to acknowledge that Vice Mayor Brown was awarded the E Harris Drew Award during that conference. This is a well-deserved honor, and the highest award a City Official can receive. She works tirelessly for this community; she is consistent and diligent and perseveres to get things done. She represents the citizens of Palatka well.

Following his installation, Commissioner Norwood took his seat at the dais, and was presented with a Certificate of Election.

REMARKS:
Commissioner Kitchens said Marcia Lane, Debbie Banks, Pauline Pellicer, Pam Pellicer Garris and Sandy Byrd extend their congratulations and apologies for not being able to attend tonight.

Commissioner Leary said the City has many challenges before it, and he looks forward to working with Commissioners Brown and Norwood for the next several years; he offered his congratulations.

Mayor Myers said they've made a lot of progress for the past four years; much of that was due to the leadership of Commissioners Brown and Norwood. They have a lot of challenges before them, but they are up to facing those and will move the City forward. It's their responsibility to improve the quality of life in Palatka and for its citizens.

Commissioner Norwood noted the Clerk and her staff worked diligently to put this Ceremony together, and he wanted to make sure they know the Commission appreciates what they do.

PROCLAMATION – City of Palatka 160th Anniversary – January 8, 2013 – Mayor Myers read the Proclamation outlining the history of the City of Palatka and proclaiming a celebration for its 160th Anniversary of the date Palatka was chartered by the State Legislature, January 8, 1853.

Mayor Myers noted refreshments would be served upon adjournment.

ADJOURN – There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.