

ROBERTA M. CORREA
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

TAMMIE McCASKILL
COMMISSIONER

JUSTIN R. CAMPBELL
COMMISSIONER

WILL JONES
COMMISSIONER

RUFUS J. BOROM
COMMISSIONER



TROY BELL, ICMA-CM
MPA, MS-Finance
CITY MANAGER

JANE WEST, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SUNNI L. KRANTZ, CMC
CITY CLERK

MARCIA G. CARTY, CPA
MS-Taxation
FINANCE DIRECTOR

JASON L. SHAW, SR
CHIEF, POLICE DEPT.

CHRIS TAYLOR
CHIEF, FIRE DEPT

MINUTES **CITY OF PALATKA** **August 27, 2024**

The minutes of the proceedings of a special called meeting of the Palatka City Commission held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 6:00 PM at City Hall, 201 N. 2nd St., Palatka, FL 32177.

1. CALL TO ORDER (90 MINUTES ALLOTTED) at 6:00 PM.

a. Special Called Meeting Notice
read by the Clerk.

b. Invocation
led by Chaplain Mulberry.

c. Pledge of Allegiance
led by Commissioner McCaskill.

d. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Tammie McCaskill
Commissioner Justin Campbell
Commissioner Will Jones
Mayor Roberta Correa

Absent: Commissioner Rufus Borom

Also Present: Troy Bell, City Manager; Jane West, City Attorney; Sunni Krantz, City Clerk; Marcia Carty, Finance Director; Virginia Jones, HR Generalist; Chris Taylor, Fire Chief; Jason Shaw, Police Chief; Matt Newcomb, Assistant Police Chief; Greg Forhan, Esq, Police Benevolent Association; and Alonzo Mulberry, City Chaplain, Eddie Cutwright, Community Affairs Director, and Meg Zabijaka, Esq. (via telecommunications technology)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. **Public Comments** - (Speakers limited to three minutes - no action taken on items)

The floor was opened to public comment. Upon hearing no requests to comment, the floor was closed to public comment.

3. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. **NEGOTIATIONS** with the Police Benevolent Association

Greg Forhan, Esq. representing the Police Benevolent Association addressed the Commission. He spoke of how the union was formed and the negotiations up to this point. He indicated predominately the ability for just cause in the contract, so that no one could lose their job for political reasons, was the main reason for forming

the Union. He spoke of points of negotiation between the Union and the City. The Commission commenced questions of Mr. Forhan. Commissioner Jones spoke highly of the City's pension plan. Mr. Forhan disagreed and indicated the benefit package here is not the best, however this City does not have the best money (compared to other cities). The Union has asked for the ability to take home cars up to 30 air miles from the City limits, as young officers need a vehicle to go to and from work. Another issue was window tinting as Palatka is the only City he has seen that does not have window tinting on the patrol vehicles for shade and for safety. He spoke of multiple incidents where law enforcement officers have been murdered through the window (in other cities). Another issue is starting pay for officers.

Commissioner Jones expressed concerns regarding the liability of taking a car home 30 air miles from the City, specifically the liability of an exhausted officer driving a car an hour away. Mr. Forhan advised they are flexible on how it is done whether it is listed as a street address or something else. Mr. Bell advised there are 3 officers that currently would live in that distance, with a potential of a fourth (see handout). Mr. Forhan advised there have been concessions other than the air mileage which is a firm request.

4. ADJOURN The Commission advised an executive session was necessary to continue discussions with the City Manager.
Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM upon a Motion from Commissioner Jones.

NOTICES: 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 ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, AT THE APPLICANT'S EXPENSE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. FS 286.0105

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 329-0100 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATIONS.