CITY of Palatka FLORIDA

MINUTES
CITY OF PALATKA
October 24, 2024

The minutes of the proceedings of the regular meeting of the Palatka City Commission held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM at City Hall, 201 N. 2nd St., Palatka, FL 32177.

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 PM

   a. Invocation

led by Chaplain Mulberry

   b. Pledge of Allegiance

led by Commissioner Borom

   c. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Marcia Carty, Interim City Manager/Finance Director; Jane West, City Attorney; Sunni Krantz, City Clerk; Virginia Jones, HR Manager; Joe Verrechio, Interim Public Works; Peter Willott, Public Information Officer; Eddie Cutwright, Community Affairs Director; Chris Taylor, Fire Chief; Jason Shaw, Police Chief; Matt Newcomb, Assistant Police Chief; Yul McNair, Airport Manager; Lorenzo Aghemo, Planning Director; Alex Romero, Planning Clerk; Rebecca Jones, Fire Administrative Assistant; Jackie Pappas, Grants Accountant; Carlos Dominguez Britto, Project Manager; Allegra Kitchens, former City Commissioner; Terril Hill, former Mayor; Alonzo Mulberry, City Chaplain (via telecommunications technology); Junior Roger Daniels; Patricia Daniels; Sarah Cavacini, Palatka Daily News; Mark Litten, Chamber of Commerce; Breck Sloan; Berniece Johnson; Deborah Eckhardt; Colin Bingham; Risa Byrd; Dennis Sousa; Breck Sloan

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES **Motion to approve (A and B) by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Motion passed unanimously.**

   a. September 12, 2024

   b. September 30, 2024

3. PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

a. PROCLAMATION - The Arc of Putnam's 50th Anniversary

Motion to approve by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Borom. The Motion Passed unanimously.

Representatives of the Arc of Putnam accepted the Proclamation, including Dennis Sousa and Breck Sloan. They spoke on the upcoming expansion of the Whitaker Center.

b. PROCLAMATION - Family History Month - October 2024 - Putnam County Genealogical Society

Motion to approve by Commissioner McCaskill. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The Motion Passed unanimously.

The Proclamation was accepted by the members of the Genealogical Society including Kathleen Fulton, Sharon Varnes, and Deborah Eckhardt.

c. PROCLAMATION - Florida City Government Week October 21 - 27, 2024

Motion to approve by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Borom. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission thanked Staff, Commissioners, and Lobbyist for their work during Florida City government week.

d. IN THE SPOTLIGHT - Employee of the Month of September and October

Ms. Jones recognized the employees of the month Chief Chris Taylor (September) and Fire Engineer Jared Bradley (October).

Deputy Chief Branford spoke regarding Chief Taylor's outstanding qualities, including reliability and standing for the values of the City of Palatka. Chief Shaw accepted the recognition on behalf of Chief Taylor. D.C. Branford spoke regarding Engineer Bradley as a capable and motivated driver and operator and one of our hazardous materials technicians and instructors.

4. CITY MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS Ms. Carty introduced Mr. Carlos Dominguez Britto as the City's new Project Manager.

a. REPORT - Financial Report for the FY ended September 30, 2024.

Ms. Carty highlighted the financial report from the agenda packet. The General Fund operated at an excess revenue of $1,388,464. Better Place operated at an excess of $2,459,336. Sanitation operated at an excess revenue of $866,723. Utility Fund operated at an excess revenue of $1,634,521. While we must maintain 16% of General Fund as reserves, currently we are maintaining 26.8% reserve balance.

Discussion commenced. Commissioner Borom asked that as administrative heads transition, we work with our auditors to ensure we have clean books. Commissioner Jones asked concerning the City's utilization costs of water. He expressed if the public is paying for water, so should the City. Ms. Carty advised the practice of the City does not reflect water usage in the internal city, itself. She would like to analyze whether we should bill ourselves for our own consumption of water. This would have a 0 impact to the funds balance as ,ore funding would be reflected by Palatka Gas Authority and you would see a higher cost in various funds, but we would be able to quantify our own water consumption.

b. REPORT - Airport Department

Mr. McNair thanked the Commission for its support of capital projects at the airport, which he summarized. We are 95% complete in the grant funded project for the west taxilanes and fuel apron rehabilitation project. On the Runway 9 extension study project, we have received the State's criteria to qualify for runway extension. All of the property we need to extend Runway 9 is within the fence of the airport. This project would take 10 - 12 months, after we provide our position to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The Airport Master Plan Update Project is to provide the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and FDOT the vision that we want to see, while being realistic. On the Taxiway E and corporate hangar project, we have wrapped up our environmental matters and as apart of this project there was a preliminary design aspect. In order to encourage corporate folks to come, we need to allow them to come in and develop parcels.

Discussion commenced between Mr. McNair and the Commission. Mr. McNair advised the Flight School is partially within the City's airport terminal. The City does not have enough office space for administrative staff. The Airport and City Management are looking at options to accommodate the Flight School as well as room for City Staff.

Commissioner Borom asked regarding the Public Works facility project. Ms. Carty responded in January 2024 we purchased the building/warehouse space near the airport. We are in the beginning stages of architectural design for the building. Phase II is to pursue FAA approval of additional land swap. The FAA will post this in the Federal Register for 60 days prior to authorizing the land release. There are 4 smaller parcels and a 12 acre parcel that we need authorization from the FAA to release. Commissioner Jones expressed concern the entire deal was not complete. Commissioner Campbell asked that the Public Works facility remain before the Commission.

c. PRESENTATION - Team Palatka Renewal

Mr. Willott provided a video on the cleanup efforts following Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

d. UPDATE - ARPA

Ms. Carty advised at the last Commission meeting, the Commission authorized to use $200,000 from ARPA for the Lead and Copper rule. Staff is suggesting to move $100,000 from small business, $40,000 from public health, $8,900 from the sports complex, $14,562.90 from St. Johns Ave Palm to Moseley project and $36,446.56 from the radios.

The Commission asked to bring the item on where to move ARPA allocations back to the Commission.

Ms. Carty advised the total amount we need to encumber by December is $946,280.57. Commissioner Jones suggested moving the COVID-19 education to ARPA allocation. Commissioner Campbell and Mayor Correa dissented as there is opportunities for vocation and education.

Commissioner McCaskill asked for updates in the notes column on where the money went.

Discussion commenced regarding the Affordable Housing project. Ms. Carty advised the Affordable Housing project is moving forward. The City's contractor has a list of homes with code enforcement violations. Commissioner Jones advised folks have come to City Hall to get on the list. Ms. Carty advised that Ms. Pappas can take down the individuals contact information to give the contractor.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

The floor was opened to public comment:

Risa Byrd, Hastings, FL - thanked the Commission for including Putnam Classical Academy and Little Sprouts Learning Center in the Students of the Month ceremony. The Schools are hosting the Kids Zone at the Datil Pepper Festival this weekend.

Tarsha Givens, Palatka, FL - asked regarding investigations into former employees and when the findings/records will be public. She asked if the Airport land swap was in the City's best interest.

Hearing no further requests to comment, the floor was closed to public comment.

b. **Commission and Staff Response**

Ms. Carty advised the former employees investigations were impacted by the recent Hurricane. One of the investigations has been referred to two law enforcement agencies. We do not know at this time when the investigations will be complete. When they are complete, records regarding the investigations will become public information.

Ms. Carty advised she can advise at a future meeting who initiated the airport land swap.

6. CONSENT AGENDA Ms. Carty asked to pull item 6 B as Staff is not ready to move forward with the item at this time.
   Commissioner Jones asked for discussion on items 6 C, D, and G.
   Motion to accept the Consent agenda excluding B, C, D, and G for discussion by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner McCaskill. The Motion Passed unanimously.

   a. SET HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT DATE/TIME for October 31, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

   b. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-212 authorizing execution of deductive reconciliation Change Order No 9 with TB Landmark for previously authorized work within the Palatka Heights ALT A Project in a deductive amount of $261,524.75 for a total contract cost of $3,026,797.00.

Ms. Carty asked that this item be removed from the agenda with no vote. Staff will bring back the item when it is ripe.
Ms. Carty advised we received information at the last minute that the Palatka Heights Alt A project, that FDEP has a back flow issue related to the waterline replacement at Ravine Gardens.
Staff needs to make sure the issue is resolved prior to approval. We need a certified fire backflow plumber to fix the situation.

   c. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-213 authorizing the execution of Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant Agreement No. P5086 for Shaw Buck Park Phase 1 in the amount of $50,000 (100% grant funded).

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NO. P5086 FOR SHAW BUCK PARK PHASE 1; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVERNERS ERRORS

Mr. Dominguez Britto provided a presentation regarding updating the playground, pickleball court, tennis court and basketball court. A picnic table will also be added.
Commission discussion commenced. Commissioner Campbell advised other playgrounds have a more up-to-date playground. He asked the Commission to consider bringing this park up-to-speed. Commissioner Borom suggested using some funds from ARPA to help. Commissioner McCaskill recommended reaching out to the Pilot Club regarding working with individuals with disabilities and mentioned other parks should work with them also. Commissioner Jones suggested making the tennis court area an area to skate on rather than as a tennis court. Mayor Correa suggested polling individuals in the community on what they want. Commissioner Campbell asked for signage on the site to identify it as a project for new things to come. Commissioner Borom asked for it to be posted on the website and communication in the utility bill in the area.

The floor was opened to public comment. Upon hearing nothing further, the floor was closed to public comment.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Borom. The Motion Passed unanimously.

   d. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-220 authorizing the execution of Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant Agreement No. P5096 for Palm Bowl (Triangle) Park Phase 1 in the amount of $50,000 (100% grant funded).

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NO. P5096 FOR PALM BOWL (TRIANGLE) PARK PHASE I; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENERS ERRORS

Mr. Dominguez advised the City is planning a dog park and a walking trail at the area known as the "Palm Bowl".

We will add a picnic table and trees have already been planted. There will be signage for the park.

The floor was opened to public comment:

Ernest Robinson, Palatka, FL - advised this park used to be called the "Turkey Bowl". He asked if the City will be adding concrete as in the past it has been a giant area for children to play.

Mr. Verrechio responded the only concrete on site will be a stable walkway.

Hearing no further requests to comment, the floor was closed to public comment.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Borom. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Motion Passed unanimously.

e. Authorize execution of FAA grant applications for Kay Larkin Airport Taxiway Echo Phase I Final Design Phase and Transient Aircraft Parking Apron.

i) ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-222 authorizing a Federal Aviation Administration FY 2025 Pre-application for Kay Larkin Airport Taxiway Echo Phase I Final Design Phase (the amount requested from FAA is $72,000 and $8,000 will be requested from the Florida Department of Transportation during their FY 25 funding cycle for a total project cost of $80,000 100% grant funded)

ii) ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-223 authorizing a Federal Aviation Administration FY 2025 Pre-application for Kay Larkin Transient Aircraft Parking Apron (the amount requested from FAA is $63,000 and $7,000 will be requested from the Florida Department of Transportation during their FY 25 funding cycle for a total project cost of $70,000 -100% grant funded)

f. ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-R-218 authorizing the execution of grant agreement #PB007 with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in the amount of $250,000 for the purchase and outfit of ten patrol vehicles.

g. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-221 awarding RFP 2024-05 to GIA Community Solutions Group for CRA Consulting Services in the amount not to exceed $104,605 and authorizing execution of a contract and a budget amendment for FY 2024-25

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF RFP 2024-05 AND EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH GIA COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS GROUP FOR CRA CONSULTING SERVICES; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

Ms. Carty advised a request for proposals (RFP) was sent out for the purpose of creating an additional CRA area. The funding for the services must come out of General Fund. Three firms responded to the RFP. An evaluation committee met and recommended Community Solutions Group. This company was more receptive to the needs and a lower amount.

Commission discussion commenced. Commissioner Borom advised the area is North 5th Street on out and Madison and 11th Streets, all the way out to North 24th Street and then the Madison Street area and tying into the Transportation Hub.

The floor was opened to public comment. Upon hearing nothing further, the floor was closed to public comment.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Borom. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Motion Passed unanimously.

h. ACCEPT Resignation of Dana Jones and RATIFY the appointment of Mark Litten, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, to the Airport Advisory Board

i. REAPPOINT - Chris Hollister to the Historic Preservation Board for a 3-year term

7. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Recess for 10 minutes at 7:30 PM.

The meeting recessed at 7:27 PM and resumed at 7:38 PM.

b. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-214 adopting the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the City of Palatka

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES OF THE CITY OF PALATKA; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

Ms. Carty advised each Department has their own Mission, Vision, and Core Values. Staff worked together to create the proposed Mission, Vision, and Values for the City as a whole.

Commissioner Borom asked to add accountability as one of the core values.

Motion to approve with accountability added as stated by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Borom. The Motion unanimously.

c. DISCUSSION/DIRECTION - River Street retaining wall

Ms. West presented issues with the River Street retaining wall. She advised 1302, 1303, 1311, and 1321 River Street are impacted. The retaining wall is tilting at a significant angle over the sidewalk. Remedial measures have been taken to strap the structure together, but it is in need of work.This is impacting the bus stop. City records show the issue was noted on September 25, 2014. In 2015, the Commission voted to expend funds for repairs to the retaining wall. The City demolished the wall at 1325 River Street and regraded the slope of the property. However, the remainder of the wall was not addressed. There is currently a code enforcement complaint pending before the Special Magistrate.

Staff initially thought because the bricks on the staircases match the porches on the homes, the wall was on the current property owner. However, one property owner has a survey that shows the wall on the City's right of way and has hired legal counsel.

Ms. West outlined options: 1: The City could establish an MSBU to repair the infrastructure. The cost would be spread out over a 10 year period on the property owner's taxes, Option 2: the City takes responsibility and repairs/reconstructs the wall; Option 3: remove the sidewalk; and Option 4: the City split the repair costs with the residents.

Discussion commenced. Commissioner Borom advised the wall is located inside the sidewalk and generally speaking would be the property owners. He suggested the City assist, but not take full responsibility. Commissioner Campbell asked what dialogue has occurred between the residents and the City. A resident has retained counsel as they feel it is the City's responsibility.

Jeremiah Mulligan, Mulligan Law Group, representing 1321 River Street, addressed the Commission. He indicated he has a survey that shows the wall is outside the resident's property. The wall is a relic of when the plot was originally annexed into the City. He expressed we need to know a cost benefit analysis.

Commission discussion continued. Commissioner Campbell advised it is imperative to direct Staff. He asked to move forward as it was put on the back burner for 10 years. He would like to hear the about the cost benefit assessment and then have a conversation with the residents on whether they are interested in having a buy-in. Commissioner Borom spoke in support of temporarily closing the sidewalk. Commissioner Borom recommended moving the bus stop to the park. Mayor Correa suggested moving the bus stop to where the wall has been removed already. Ms. West advised the property owner on the other side, Aza Health, has taken steps to remediate their wall, which was not as big a project as there is not as much dirt held back by that retaining wall. Commissioner Jones expressed the need to determine who actually owns the wall via a survey first.

Ms. West summarized the direction from the Commisison: close the sidewalk, bus stop moved to where the wall is no longer located, obtain a survey company to get our own survey and find out who owns the wall. Commissioner Campell spoke regarding the incline of the sidewalk and asked that Staff provide a recommendation

Following Commission discussion, Mr. Mulligan asked that the Special Magisrate hearing be canceled and Mayor Correa responded affirmatively.

d. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-206 authorizing the City's Youth Ambassadors to host a canned food drive as its community service project for 2024-25

Ms. Krantz advised the City's Youth Ambassadors faced scheduling conflicts with school functions tonight. **Motion to table to November 14 meeting by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Motion Passed unanimously.**

e. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-219 establishing legislative appropriations and legislative priorities for the 2024-25 legislative session

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA CITY COMMISSION ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2024-25 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2024-25 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

Ms. Cash-Jackson congratulated the City on the work done last legislative session. Because of the hurricane, we may be facing challenges with funding as hurricane relief takes a lot of funding. We will also have new representation in Tallahassee. Last session, we received funding for our water projects. In the last couple years $13 million dollars have been received. She suggested to continue to ask for funding for water projects, she said the funding has to be encumbered but not necessarily spent. Ms. Cash-Jackson encouraged the Commission to come to Tallahassee to meet with legislators.

Commissioner Borom expressed frustration over our Cultural/Recreational appropriation was not approved due to it having the word cultural.

Ms. Sheals spoke regarding active projects that the FDOT has going on (they had submitted a comment that says the following):

- <u>**Department of Transportation is currently working on the following projects:**</u>
    1. **US 17 North Boundary Road to State Road 207 Resurfacing**
        - Includes milling and resurfacing of the roadway, corridor improvements, base work, shoulder treatment, drainage improvements, curb and gutter work, lighting improvements, highway signing, guardrail installation, sidewalk work, pavement markings and other incidental construction.
    2. **State Road 100 Resurfacing from U.S. 17 to Flagler County Line Resurfacing (Spring 2024 – Early 2025)**

- Construction consists of milling and resurfacing, signage upgrades, new pavement markings and other incidental construction

The Commission requested to add water lines to the appropriation brief.Commissioner McCaskill spoke in favor of workshopping the legislative appropriations until Staff advised the legislative appropriation requests are needed prior to the commencement of committee weeks in December and the legislative priorities are needed to be provided to the Northeast Florida Regional Council prior to November 22.

The Commission ranked the appropriation for Lead Pipe ranked first. The Interim City Manager recommended the amount of $300,000
Water lines ranked second based upon Ms. Cash-Jackson's recommendation. Commissioner Borom recommended to add homelessness as a third ranked item. However the Commisison did not provide an amount for the appropriation. Commissioner Borom suggested senior and low-income recreational programming should be number 4. Commissioner Jones asked if Ride Solutions is a top priority and expressed concern they need to serve the entire City. Commissioner Borom expressed the need to know what Ride Solutions is requesting at this time. Commissioner Borom asked that Senior/Low-Income Recreational programming come before Ride Solutions. Commissioner Jones requested to keep the Spalsh Pad on the appropriation request list. Mayor Correa spoke in favor of submitting all the appropriation requests with emphasis on the top three.

Motion to approve (move forward with the recommendations that have come forward with the appropriations as well) by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner McCaskill. The Motion passed unanimously.

f. DISCUSSION/DIRECTION - Hank Bryan Park Restroom

Mr. Carlos Dominguez presented drawings from Doneda Cole, the Project manager at Putnam County. He presented an "option 2" sketch that would have a handicapped bathroom and a small bathroom with a little storage. The bathrooms would be unisex. The estimated cost would be $90,000-$110,000. Another option, "option 3" had two bathrooms with storage in the middle. The bathroom will be concrete. He advised we need to have water fountains to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Commissioner Borom spoke in favor of option 2. The consensus of the Commission agreed.

Discussion commenced regarding Riverfront Park. Commissioner Jones expressed we also need to have bathrooms at the Riverfront Park because we do not own the St. Johns River Environmental Center anymore. He asked Staff to look into a grant for a bathroom there.
Mr. Cutwright advised the storm impacted the City's mobile bathroom. He spoke regarding the efforts it takes to move the mobile bathroom. He advised the grant received intended the mobile bathroom to be for Booker Park, but there is nothing that would keep it from being temporarily at the Riverfront.

g. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-224 accepting the City of Palatka's Initial Lead Service Line Replacement Plan and authorizing the execution of a contract with Water Sensible Solutions

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA ACCEPTING THE INITIAL LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH WATER SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AND EFFECTIVE DATE AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

Mr. Verecchio thanked the Commission for allowing Staff to begin the work of inspecting the water connections in-house at the last Commission meeting. Because Staff began the work in-house, a new proposal was received today with a cost savings of $91,000 on the quote from the vendor.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Borom. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The Motion passed unanimously.

h. DISCUSSION/DIRECTION - Interim City Manager discussion

Ms. Jones advised at the last Commission meeting, the Commission requested discussions on whether to appoint Terrill Hill as Interim City Manager and allow Ms. Carty to return to her role as Finance Director, whether the Interim City Manager can apply for the permanent position, and whether Ms. Carty is interested in the role of City Manager.

Commissioner Campbell recommended to not "knock" who sits in the Interim City Manager position from being able to apply, but not be involved in the process. Commissioner McCaskill agreed.

Commissioner McCaskill suggested Terrill Hill as Interim City Manager. Commissioner Jones also recommended former Mayor Hill. Commissioner Campbell indicated we need to give consideration to former Mayor Hill, especially that he is a local business owner. Mayor Correa expressed concern of changing in midstream of leadership. Commissioner McCaskill spoke regarding Ms. Carty as a fantastic Finance Director. Commissioner Borom expressed pause because we have ongoing investigations and we need to audit from previous city managers to now. Regarding the investigations, he recommended an operational audit of 3 - 5 years. Commissioner Borom advised he asked for an operational audit. Ms. Carty advised the upcoming audit will have a separate rate and an operational component.

The floor was opened to public comment:

Elizabeth van Rensburg, Palatka, FL - spoke in opposition to Terrill Hill becoming the Interim City Manager. She advised the electors did not reelect Terrill Hill as Mayor, yet he appears as a suggestion for Interim City Manager while the Commission applauds Ms. Carty.

Allegra Kitchens 1027 S 12th St., Palatka, FL 32177 spoke regarding the current stabilization of City employees and spoke in favor of Ms. Carty serving as Interim City Manager. She called for an anonymous poll of City Staff on whether they would like to see Mr. Hill as Interim City Manager.

Patricia Daniel, Palatka, FL - spoke in support of Ms. Carty serving as Interim City Manager.

Audrey Wise, 1610 Edgemoor St., Palatka, FL 32177 - spoke in support of the Commisison doing the best for the town.

The floor was closed to public comment.

Mr. Hill spoke regarding the City's accomplishments during his tenure as Mayor, 25.1 lineal miles of water lines were repaired, the general fund budget is now $75 million. When he left office there were $78 million in projects on the board.He spoke regarding the 10 phase approach to the state Revolving Loan Fund that he helped the past Projects team put in place. He advised he has 25 years practicing law in Palatka and serves Palatka because of his love. People need help understanding historically what is happening. The projects happening now were conceived during his tenure. He spoke regarding team work making dreams work. He advised he would consider the position, if the welcome is good. He advised it is possible to have a law firm and be City Manager, as Mr. Holmes did it in the past. While Mr. Holmes had a law partner, professional associations can have contracts with other professional associations.

Ms. Carty advised she has enjoyed having the opportunity to help the City and spoke regarding trying to meet the needs of the Commissioners. She advised she has the capacity to be in a hybrid position until we follow the guidance Human Resources has developed and the City has a permanent City Manager. She asked the

Commission to consider that the Finance Department has two vacancies and one vacancy was recently filled. She advised because there is a vacancy, she does need to put more time into the Finance Department. She advised she and Mr. Hill are both strong individuals. She indicated she would be willing to continue in the role of Finance Director if the Commission selects Mr. Hill as Interim City Manager.

Motion to name former Mayor Terrill Hill as the new Interim City Manager by Commissioner McCaskill. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Motion Passed Yes 4, No 1, with Mayor Correa dissenting.

Ms. West advised we will need a contract for the Interim City Manager before his start date and asked for opportunity to review contractual terms. She advised we will use the contract with former Manager Don Holmes as the new basis of the contract. Mayor Correa advised the Human Resources department will be involved. Mayor Correa asked the contract to return to the Commission for approval on November 14th. Commissioner Borom asked for balance moving forward.

Commissioner Borom spoke regarding the efforts to harden City Hall and he and Mayor Correa thanked Ms. Carty for what she has done for the City. Commissioner Jones advised the addition of Mr. Hill will strengthen the team.

i. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-225 creating a Citizens' Advisory Committee

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, FORMING A CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD FOR PARTICIPATION DURING THE SEARCH FOR A CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF PALATKA; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

Ms. Jones advised that the Commission at the last Commission meeting, expressed desire to each appoint one member to the board. Staff is returning to the Commission for its approval to begin the application process for a new board. Ms. Jones responded the intent of the board is to interact and ask questions of the candidates and allow the community to be involved in the process, not to provide advice on whom to select.

Commission discussion commenced. Commissioner Jones spoke in opposition as he felt the citizens will form an opinion on whom to select. He advised he has served on a citizens advisory board to choose a City Manager in the past. At that time, he wondered why there is need for an advisory board. Commissioner Borom suggested it be a "Committee" rather than an "advisory board".

Motion to deny the Resolution by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner McCaskill. The Motion Passed unanimously.

8. EMERGENCY ITEMS **Motion to accept adding Resolution 2024-R-226 as an emergency by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner McCaskill. The Motion Passed unanimously.**

a. ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-226 granting a special events permit to the Palatka Police Department Palatka Police Department's 9th Annual Trunk or Treat to be held October 31, 2024.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALATKA, FLORIDA, GRANTING A SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT TO PALATKA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT; SETTING FORTH THE PROVISIONS OF THE PERMIT; AND GRANTING PERMISSION FOR ROAD CLOSURES; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

Commissioner Campbell asked the City to knock out the City's annual events in the approval process ahead of time, as do the citizens.
Mr. Cutwright advised the Police Department put in the application in July 2024, however due to the Hurricane Staff missed presenting the Commission with the application. Commissioner Campbell responded that there have been other events that did not meet the deadlines and citizens have noted it.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Campbell. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. The Motion Passed unanimously.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS Commissioner Campbell asked regarding an area of North 3rd Street that is sinking, and at least one vehicle had to be pulled out of the area. Mr. Verrecchio advised the road is beginning to cave in. Ms. Carty advised she will ensure it is a priority work order.

10. ADJOURN Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

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.