

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., August 7, 1991

PRESENT: His Honor, Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Thomas P. Williams, Otis Herrington and Roosevelt Lawrence.

ABSENT: Commissioner James A. Stephens.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner Otis Herrington.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence moved that the minutes of the meeting of July 17, 1991 be approved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Herrington and was unanimously carried.

REZONING APPLICATION

Deborah Chapman, Zoning Administrator appeared before the Commission to submit application for Joseph E. Davis to rezone New Town Lots 931 and S-1/2 of Lot No. 932, from GR, General Residential District to OC, Office Commercial. Ms. Chapman stated that the staff recommends rezoning of the property and if a new building is constructed, the parking requirements in the City's Zoning Ordinance must be met.

Commissioner Herrington stated that the City should hold a Public Hearing to give the residents an opportunity to discuss the proposed rezoning. Commissioner Herrington moved that the City hold a Public Hearing on the proposed rezoning. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS

Mayor Wilson read a letter from Commissioner Stephens stating that he will not seek re-election due to illness. Commissioner Stephens was advised by his physician to lessen his overall activities. In his letter Commissioner Stephens indicated that serving the City as Commissioner for the past 16 years has provided him with all kinds of memorable experiences. He further stated that in his own way he has been able to help Brunswick and fellow citizens make their dreams for the Community become a reality. He also thanked fellow citizens for all of the wonderful experiences they shared. Mayor Wilson stated that it has been a joy to be associated with Commissioner Stephens and praised him for being personable and dedicated.

VARIANCE FOR TRAILER

John Beach appeared before the Commission to request that he be allowed to place a trailer on the property at 3409 Hardee Avenue for his grandson to live in because of economic reasons. Mr. Beach stated that it was a family problem with finding a place for his grandson and explained the social and economic problems they encountered. Commissioner Lawrence inquired as to whether the trailer would be temporary or permanent. Mr. Beach stated the trailer would be for temporary use. Commissioner Herrington stated that the City's Zoning Ordinance does not allow trailers in the City unless it is a hardship case. Mayor Wilson stated that the City does grant variances to people with extreme hardship circumstances. Commissioner Herrington moved that request be denied. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

REQUEST FOR CAMPER IN RESIDENTIAL AREA

Earl Goodyear was present to request that a camper at his residence remain there temporarily until his burnt house could be repaired. The City Manager stated that he visited the property and there was no progress since the last Commission meeting in trying to repair the house; the sanitary situation is not good. Commissioner Herrington stated that he also visited the site and he saw no visible improvements or preparation to begin repairs. Commissioner Williams stated that more improvements could have been done since the last meeting. Mr. Goodyear stated that he placed trash at his residence and it was not picked up by the Sanitation Department. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City was trying to work with Mr. Beach, but he did not see to it to clean the property or start repairs as requested by the Commission. Commissioner Lawrence moved that request to allow camper to remain on property be denied. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and was unanimously carried.

DELEGATIONS

Sonny Richardson was present to update the Commission on the Victory Parade for the Desert Storm veterans scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 1991. Mr. Richardson stated that the number of troops participating have not been finalized and he would give a report at the next Commission meeting.

Ron Mikell, President of the Police Benevolent Association was present to discuss the results of a study about Public Safety and Drug Use in the City of Brunswick. Mr. Mikell mentioned that the Brunswick Police Department will not receive a cost of living raise and merit increases. He next discussed the elimination of the City's Personnel Director and asked that the Commission delay the decision. Mr. Mikell expressed his views on the City's Pension Plan and Health Plan. Commissioner Herrington stated that he was aware of some of the things that Mr. Mikell mentioned and questioned where the PBA had been all these years. Commissioner Herrington stressed that the City was concerned about every department as a whole and not any specific department. Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. Mikell for his presentation.

LARP PROJECT

Commissioner Herrington moved that the Mayor be authorized to execute LARP Contract paving 2.110 miles of City Streets. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and was unanimously carried.

CEMETERY DEEDS

On motion of Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, the following petitions were unanimously granted:

- (1) Transferring Lot No. 9, Section No. 51 in Palmetto Cemetery from A. M. Johnson to Jeanette Gignilliat.
Original deed lost but City records verify ownership.
- (2) Returning for resale from William Neeley, Jr., S-1/2 of Lot No. 10, Section No. 103 in Greenwood Cemetery.
Original deed surrendered.
- (3) Returning for resale from Mrs. J. C. Douglas S-10 ft. of Lot No. 6, Section No. C-3 in Palmetto Cemetery.
Petitioner to retain N-20 feet of Lot No. 6, Section No. 3.
Original deed surrendered.

WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION

Commissioner Williams moved that the City accept bids for renewal on Workman's Compensation Insurance. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Lawrence moved that the City Manager establish a policy for personal use of City Equipment. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

This being the date and time for Public Hearing on proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance, Brad Brown was present to address the citizens. Mr. Brown stated that the Ordinance would protect private property rights, and that he favored the proposed Ordinance. Many residents and property owners in the area were present to express their views on the proposed Ordinance. Property owners that opposed the Ordinance stated that they did not want an Ordinance that would establish strict guidelines for homeowners to follow in the historic district. Property owners that were in favor of the Ordinance stated that the history of Brunswick should be protected and preservation would require minimum maintenance of historic property. Some property owners complained that the proposed Ordinance they received had been revised, and they were not given an opportunity to review the Ordinance before the Public Hearing.

The City Attorney stated that the proposed Ordinance was changed and the public was notified, and copies were available in the City Clerk's office. Mr. Highsmith explained that the Ordinance would help implement the Historic Preservation Act passed by the General Assembly in 1980 and the Commission would control the local historic Ordinance. Bill Brown stated that he obtained a petition with 100 signatures of citizens that opposed the Ordinance. It was noted that 150 signatures were collected of citizens who supported the proposed Historic Ordinance.

The Commission did not take any action on the proposed Ordinance and set a Public Hearing at the Ritz Theatre on Thursday, August 15, to hear from other citizens.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Ken Plyman was present to inquire as to whether the City would acquire the City's Building Inspections Office. The Commission stated that the matter had been discussed, but no action was taken.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk