

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., June 3, 1992**

PRESENT: His Honor, Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Otis Herrington,
Roosevelt Lawrence, Doris A. Davis
and Rev. G. E. Darrisaw.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner G. E. Darrisaw.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Darrisaw moved that the minutes May 20, 1992 be approved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

BID

The following bids were received for a miniature TV camera system for Water and Wastewater:

VENDOR	BID
Cues, Inc. Orlando, FL	\$ 21,980.00*
Pearpoint, Inc. Palm Springs, CA	\$ 26,115.00
Flexible Video Systems Marina del Rey, CA	\$ 10,500.00

Submitted as an "alter-native" to the City's specifications. Does not meet our requirements.

The Purchasing Agent stated that the TV camera from Cues, Inc. of Orlando, Florida in the amount of \$21,980.00 did not meet all specifications; however, this was his recommendation. He further stated that it does not mean it is an inferior product. Mayor Wilson asked the Purchasing Agent if he received only one quote. The Purchasing Agent stated that he received two more quotes and explained the bids and specifications he received. Mayor Wilson stated he would like to hear from the Water and Sewer Representative before the Commission votes for acceptance of the quotes.

Jeff Altman was present, and he explained that the camera would aide in finding service lines at houses when problems occur without having to dig up resident's yard, and when the City has problems with main lines the problem can be located and repaired without having to dig up parts of the streets. Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Altman what was the life span of the equipment and how long will it last with reasonable care.

Mr. Altman stated that the equipment will last about 10 to 15 years. Commissioner Darrisaw asked what other advantages are there other then helping locate leaks in water lines. Mr. Altman pointed out that the equipment can spot possible problems such as cave ins and damages to residents' cars before they happen.

Mayor Wilson questioned the 4,000.00 differential between the top bid and the next bid, and

asked if the equipment had the same features.

Commissioner Herrington stated that he had seen the equipment in operation and it will be a great asset to the Water Department. He further stated that he was a little bit concerned and asked the City Manager if the equipment was a budgeted item. The City Manager confirmed that this equipment was included in the Water and Wastewater budget that was adopted last year.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that one thing that bothered him is the mere fact that the equipment does not meet specifications, and the City is discussing purchasing it and two years later the equipment might not do what it is designed to do, then the Commission would have to come back and get another one. The Purchasing Agent stated that the unit is 7 pounds heavier and that was significant, but it did not change anything. Commissioner Lawrence asked the Purchasing Agent what specifications the equipment did not meet. Commissioner Darrisaw stated that he wanted some specificness on the specifications not just being overweight, he asked what was in the specifications that the equipment specifically did not meet.

The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that the camera, the color type the specifications from one manufacturer to another are not exactly the same, and the resolutions may be just a little different than the other in one area. There is a different type of reel take up on the cable, but both do the very same thing. One company may charge more, but they have the same basic operation for the camera in the sewer line. Cue, Inc. is a very well known company and has been in the Sewer Line Business for a very long time, many contractors are using Cue products. Both products are acceptable to the Water Department and they would be satisfied with either one.

Commissioner Lawrence stated in other words both cameras will be able to look down the pipes at the same distance.

The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that the reason the Department is looking at purchasing a camera is that the City changed the Ordinance on the service lateral granting plumbers an opportunity to put in service laterals and the City is no longer responsible for putting in laterals for property owners, however in case of a leak, the City is responsible for finding the service lateral and repairing the leak. Mayor Wilson stated that he had to agree with the Director, because anything that would help the City detect problems before it happens is to the City's advantage and he went on record stating that he thinks that when the City changed the Water and Sewer Ordinance it should be the responsibility of the City to maintain the water lines on City property. He further stated that he was in favor of purchasing the camera, but he wanted to make sure the City was getting the value for their dollar.

Commissioner Herrington offered the motion to accept the low bid as recommended by staff. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING

This being the date, time and place for public hearing on proposal to rezone Lot No. 20, Southend, between Ellis and Norwich Street from LC Local commercial to GR General Residential.

Deborah Chapman, Zoning Administrator of Glynn County Community Development was present to submit the request for rezoning a parcel of land which has an existing structure, the Old Brunswick Hospital. The owner desires to convert the existing three story brick structure into 25 multi-family residential units, consisting of 1 - Efficiency apartment, 21 - 1 Bedroom, 3 - 2 bedrooms. The site plans shows off street parking with access drives from Norwich Street to First Avenue. All the live oak trees 17" and over will remain on property identified by the plans.

A rezoning request was submitted to rezone the said property to General Residential in 1980, but was withdrawn before action was taken by the City Commission. A petition was submitted by surrounding property owners in 1980 stating objection to zone change.

The staff discussed the present rezoning request with the Director of Community Development and determined that the proposed rezoning to General Residential would be consistent with the City's comprehensive plan. The developer will remodel the structure to fit in with the historical character of the South End of Brunswick.

Mrs. Chapman stated that staff recommended approval of request.

Mayor Wilson pointed out that it is a requisite that the City hold two public hearings and today was the first of the two and another hearing will be held before the Commission would take any action.

Commissioner Herrington asked if anyone was in opposition of the proposed rezoning.

A resident in from the neighborhood stated that she would like to hear more about the plans.

Elmer Harper, present owner and developer stated that he was building 25 units mainly for retirement for elderly people. The building will be very secure and attractive, a security fence will be placed around building which will be under historical guidelines.

Ussery-Rule Architects, architects for Mr. Harper were present to submit the plans for the 25 unit complex. Application was made to the Department of Natural Resources at the State level to make the old building a historical site. The application has been accepted, but it will be fully accepted after the project is completed.

Many questions were raised from property owners about the tenants, the age group and whether single families would be allowed to lease the apartments.

It was confirmed by the property owner that the 25 unit complex will house the elderly and handicap persons. Mayor Wilson thanked everyone for attending the Public hearing and asked everyone to attend the next public hearing scheduled for June 17, at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall.

CEMETERY DEEDS

The following petitions on cemetery deeds were submitted and Commissioner Herrington moved that petitions be granted, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was carried by unanimous vote:

- (1) From Richard W. Wacker, to transfer N-1/2 of Lot No. 2, Section No. B-14 in Palmetto Cemetery to Glenda Beck.
Original deed surrendered;
- (2) From William H. Stewart, to transfer N-1/2 of Lot No. 51, and S-1/4 of Lot No. 52 in Catholic Section to
Carmel Stewart Fine. Original deed lost, misplaced or destroyed, but City records verify ownership;
- (3) From Beulah P. Williams, for deed to Lot No. 11, Section No. 80 in Greenwood Cemetery, in lieu of original deed
which was lost, misplaced or destroyed without being recorded, but City records verify ownership;
- (4) From Guy Le Roy, Sr. for deed of correction on S-10 ft. of Lot No. 3, Section No. 105 in Palmetto Cemetery which

was dated 11/13/91. Deed of correction should read N-10 ft. of Lot No. 3, Section No. 105 in Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed surrendered;

(5) From Thomas E. Miller, to return for resale Plots A and B of Lot No. 6, Section No. 27 in East Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed surrendered;

(6) From James W. Thomas, to return for resale N-5 ft. of Lot No. 14, Section No. B-12 in Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.

DELEGATION

Ernie Craft appeared before the Commission to discuss the crime on the Southend. Mr. Craft stated that because of the drug task force it has made a positive impact on crime in the Southend. He pointed out that he could hear gunshots from his front porch on the Southend, and this diminished. He stated that after talking with a group of concerned citizens they felt that having a Police Substation at Albany and London Street would help improve the crime situation in that area. He next requested that the Mayor appoint a citizens group to give quarterly reports on crime activity and hear recommendations from the group to control crime in that area. Mr. Craft suggested that it would be a good thing to get citizens involved in helping the Commission understand the crime situation.

Mr. Craft next stated that about a year and a half ago the County allocated \$30,000.00 for the restoration of Old City Hall provided that the City match it. The City Commission agreed to match the funds. The funds were not needed at the time and a package was not put together, however the funds are needed now. Mr. Craft requested that the City consider setting up a line item budget for Old City Hall and place the \$30,000.00 into it from the City and the \$30,000.00 from the County to set up an operating fund of \$60,000.00. The funds will be used for preliminary work and architecture design. The plans have been submitted and are on file with the City Commission. The Committee is establishing a tourist designation center with volunteers staffing it.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to see a picture of the First Mayor elected in 1856 and all other Mayors that were elected including the present Mayor in the lobby of Old City Hall.

Commissioner Herrington stated that he was wholeheartly in support of the idea especially the tourist information center. He next asked if the Commission had anything on record committing to the \$30,000.00.

The City Manager updated the Commission on the funds that were allocated for Old City Hall which was \$30,000.00.

Commissioner Herrington stated that he would like to ask the Commission to look into the upcoming budget and make an appropriation for the line item budget.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that Mr. Lyde was present to ask the Commission to proclaim Saturday, June 6, 1992 as Pedal Bikes not Drugs Day.

Commissioner Darrisaw moved that a proclamation be presented on Saturday proclaiming Saturday, June 6, 1992 as Pedal bikes not Drugs Day in the City. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that people were complaining about the bicycle patrol coming on private property ordering people out of the yard and these people were on private property. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that there is a No Loitering sign posted on a tree, and expressed his concern about the situation.

Sgt. Bevan was present and stated that a man next door called and requested that the people be removed from his property. The store owner also requested that he wanted people off his property. An officer was dispatched at their request.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he asked the property owners to put up a fence. He next expressed his concerns about people being arrested on private property.

Commissioner Lawrence next stated that citizens are complaining about water meters that were moved from area to another and the City charged them for moving the meter plus labor. The City Manager stated that he would get a copy of the Water and Wastewater Ordinance for the Commission to review it.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about the complaints he received about trash not being picked up. He stated that if the City was not going to pick up trash like they are suppose to then the citizens should not have to pay for trash pick up. The City manager explained the trash situation and confirmed that the problem will be addressed and taken care of immediately.

Commissioner Darrisaw mentioned that driveways on Parkwood Drive have not been repaired. The City Manager stated that he would straighten out the problem.

Commissioner Darrisaw asked the City Manager about the City's Policy and Procedure of personnel seeing their records, and securing copies of them. The City Manager stated that the Policy of the City is that an employee may come in and look at their personnel file, however the City does not allow them to make copies of material on file and the City does not allow employees to put items in their files because the files are City property. The current practice and policy of the City is that employees are not allowed to make copies of their personnel file.

Commissioner stated that he know that state employees have a right to look at their files and make copies of them. Commissioner Darrisaw asked the City Manager if the City were in violation if employees are not allowed to see their files. He asked the City Manager whether the City had a policy on file that was adopted by the Commission and asked if he could see the policy.

The City Manager stated that he talked with a Labor Attorney regarding Personnel files and that the City was perfectly legal, and this is the prevailing policies for most cities not to allow employees to make copies of their personnel files.

Commissioner Darrisaw stated that if there is a policy he would like to know, because he had problems with his file being somewhere and he could not review his file. If the City does not have a policy he would like the Commission to take some action for or against.

Commissioner Davis stated that she wanted to clear up the cemetery situation and asked how much money was collected and what was the money being used for, and why was an out of town company allowed to work in the Cemetery.

The City Manager explained that the situation with the money was that after the vandalism occurred he was approached and asked if the City would be willing to set up a fund to allow people to donate proceeds for cemetery lots to repair graves of people that have no families left in the City and no one present to take care of getting the work done. The fund has about \$650.00 in it and \$100.00 was sent in earmarked for a certain lot. When the vandalism occurred a monument firm from Waycross volunteered their services because a lot of people in the City did business with their company so they sent a truck to repair the graves free of

charge.

Commissioner Herrington asked if local companies volunteered their help. The City Manager stated that companies in the City did not volunteer their services.

Commissioner Herrington stated that he was concerned about dismissals and layoffs because of the way the economy is and the condition the City is in and financial problems in working with the budget. The Commission in its last session informed the City Manager to get out letters to all Department Heads on the possibility that there will be terminations and dismissals. The City Manager stated that he did not know exactly how the Commission wanted him to do that and he did not follow through with putting the memo out because he did not know whether the Commission wanted to go ahead with it. He stated that he thought it was some difference of opinion among the Commissioners on the matter.

Commissioner Herrington stated that it was clear to him that the Commission wanted the memo posted and he asked the Commission for their opinion.

Commissioner Darrisaw stated that he would like to have an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss a Personnel matter.

Commissioner Darrisaw stated that it should be recorded in the minutes about the Commission's request that was made to the city Manager about terminations and dismissals. He further stated that he was getting more and more disturbed about what the City Manager is thinking and not doing. The City records should show it.

Commissioner Herrington stated that he would like to go on record stating that due to financial problems the City is having, he would like a bulletin posted with the possibilities of there being some terminations and dismissals and possible job title changes and some possible reduction in pay. Informing all employees in due time about the problems we are having balancing the budget and bringing the budget in line.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would never go into an Executive Session to concur with anything on the City Board, it will have to come from the table before he could agree. Any action taken would have to be taken at the Council table.

Commissioner Darrisaw stated that perhaps the Mayor misunderstood him. He stated that his concern for an Executive Session is for discussion and comments as it relates to Personnel matters and not to make a decision. since he was already sure that what he said was at the last Commission Meeting and there should not be a need for another motion, but a need to follow through with what was already instructed.

Commissioner Herrington offered the motion to instruct the City Manger to post a bulletin first thing in the morning. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

The Commission appointed Commissioner Davis as voting delegate for the GMA Convention and Commissioner Herrington as alternate.

On the matter of the 5 ft. alley Commissioner Herrington moved that the alley be conveyed to Schell and Hogan. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and was unanimously carried.

Commissioner Herrington stated that in the future all alley's utilities lines should be updated.

The City Attorney reported that he received the 911 Emergency Agreement from the County.

The City Attorney reported that he prepared an ad to advertise the proposed changes in the Zoning Ordinance Hearing Procedures for the 13th day of June.

Commissioner Herrington moved that an ad be placed in the Brunswick News to advertise the Zoning Ordinance Hearings Procedures for June 13, 1992. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Herrington and was unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Darrisaw moved to hold an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Herrington and was unanimously carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk