

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., July 6, 1994**

PRESENT: His Honor Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Roosevelt Lawrence,
Doris A. Davis, Dr. James
MacLeod and Ken Plyman.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner Dr. James MacLeod.

OATH OF OFFICE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIAL

Commissioner-Elect Ken Plyman was sworn into office as Commissioner from the North Ward. The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable William K. Killian, Senior Judge Superior Courts of Georgia Brunswick Judicial Circuit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 1994. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION RESULTS

The City Clerk submitted the following consolidated returns of Municipal General Election Run-Off of June 29, 1994, signed by Cecil Little, Superintendent of Elections and his assistants. For Commissioner from the North Ward - Charles E. Harris received 677 votes and Ken Plyman received 735 votes. Ken Plyman was elected as Commissioner of the North Ward.

PUBLIC HEARING

This Being the date time and place for public hearing on proposal to rezone Lot 0-2 in Goodyear Park, 2107 Parkwood Drive from R-9 Single Family Residential District to OC Office Commercial District.

The City Manager stated that this hearing was the first of two public hearings set for the proposed rezoning of property located at 2107 Parkwood Drive. The next public hearing will be held on July 20th at the next City Council meeting.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Dan Reuter a representative from the County Planning Office was present to answer any questions the council may have concerning the proposed rezoning. An application has been filed with the County Staff and the Council received a copy of the staff's report. The County Planning Staff recommended that the proposed rezoning be denied.

Mayor Wilson asked if there was anyone present to speak on the rezoning. There were no comments against the proposed rezoning.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Petition received from Malcom D. Goldin to retail liquors including beer and wine for consumption on premises at Texas Tumbleweed/4th of May Cafe and Deli, 4420 Altama Avenue No. 54.

A diagram was submitted showing the location of the building and the property line of real property. The diagram showed that Schools and Churches were not in the area. The application was approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to grant the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATIONS

William A. Taylor, a member of the SPLOST Committee appeared before the Commission to give a report on the Committee. Mr. Taylor stated that he felt the SPLOST Committee was a complete failure. He further stated that there are nineteen committee members, one member resigned and only nine members attend the meetings. The committee does not discuss any projects. Mr. Taylor recommended that the citizens of Brunswick vote no on the straw poll. Mr. Taylor explained that he would not like to do away with the sales tax, but he would like more time to discuss City and County projects. Mr. Taylor asked the Mayor if he could pass a Resolution asking the citizens to vote no on the straw poll.

Mr. Taylor next discussed the matter in which the Commission gives up their authority to citizens once they are sworn into office. Mr. Taylor read an article directly from the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence of which the Commissioners are sworn to uphold.

Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. Taylor for his presentation.

Mayor Wilson asked the City Attorney if the City have met conditions under the law to start negotiations by July of this year in regards to the local option sales tax.

The City Attorney stated that the City has met the conditions. Mayor Wilson stated that it was now up to the Commission to determine their fair share of the local option sales tax which would be forty percent.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City contributes a great deal overall to the County's well being and it is only fair and just that the city receive forty percent. Mayor Wilson mentioned contributions that were made by the City.

Commissioner MacLeod thanked Mr. Taylor for representing the City of Brunswick on the SPLOST committee. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to see the City stand by the forty percent.

Mr. Taylor asked how the City would legally collect their share of the sales tax.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the residents would have to support the tax in order for it to pass. It would be very difficult for the tax to pass. The County enjoy one-hundred thirty-eight million dollars worth of property in the City, that is maintained and protected by fire and police. The City donates these services and the County would have to make some accommodations to the City for a change.

The City Attorney explained that with regards to the Special Purpose County Sales tax all that requires is a vote by the electorate of Glynn County, if it is passed county wide the tax would be in effect.

Mayor Wilson questioned why the Legislators permit the Counties to exercise this control rather than Municipalities in Georgia.

Terri Prior, resident of Prim Place appeared before the Commissions to discuss the drainage problems residents are having in the 3100 Block of Prim Place. Mrs. Prior explained that three feet of water accumulates in her yard after a thundershower. She stated that she spoke with the City Manager and the City Engineer about the problems and the City Engineer stated he could revise a plan for drainage in the area. Mrs. Prior stated that apparently a lot of other drainage from other streets pool in the area. A long time resident of the area who have been living there for years informed Mrs. Prior that a wedge placed on Reynolds Street blocked of the drainage in that area. Mrs. Prior requested that something be done about the drainage problems on Prim Place.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would have to agree with Mrs. Prior about the drainage problems in the area.

The City Manager stated that he checked for obstructions in the lines. He explained that the drainage project have been included as a part of the Special Purpose Sales Tax project for that area to address drainage and to redirect drainage from other areas that come through the line.

Commissioner Lawrence asked the City Manager if he had a follow-up plan, if the local option sales tax did not pass. The City Manager stated that he would check to see if there were any other options to address the problem.

Commissioner Davis recommended that the City Manager check the area to see if the wedge is still there and whether the line is plugged up.

The City Manager stated that he would run a camera in line to check for obstructions.

It was the consensus of the Commission to authorize the City Manager to take immediate steps to give temporary relief until such time the City can give the proper relief in the area.

Robert Bradley appeared before the Commission to discuss the playground equipment and basketball goals for the Dixville park. Mr. Bradley stated that he checked with the Recreation Department to see if the basketball goals arrived that were promised for Dixville Park. Mr. Bradley stated that the Dixville Park has been neglected since 1986, and most of the equipment in the park have deteriorated and needs to be replaced. Mr. Bradley submitted copies of playground equipment that could be purchased for Dixville Park. Mr. Bradley asked the City to support Dixville Park.

Mayor Wilson stated that the goals were ordered and should be here by the promised date, and if the goals did not arrive in a couple of days the City should place an order with a company that will deliver the equipment in a timely manner. This met the consensus of the Commission.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that other parks in the City would have to be considered as well.

The City Manager mentioned that parts have been ordered to make repairs to the swings in Dixville Park.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he visited Dixville Park and noticed that there were two support braces coming out of the ground where an old slide was taken down. He stated the slide should be replaced or the braces should come out of the ground, pointing out that kids could cut themselves on the braces. Commissioner Plyman mentioned that there was no water facility at the park. He recommended that a water fountain be placed in the park. Commissioner Plyman next recommended that a light be placed in the park so that residents could play basketball at night. He pointed out that there are a lot of things that the City could do that will not be expensive, but will produce enjoyment for persons in the park.

REDEMPTION DEEDS

On motion of Commissioner MacLeod seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, the mayor was unanimously authorized to execute redemption deeds as petitioned for:

1. Redemption requested in the name of present owner Catherine J. Moses MacLeod to Town Commons Lot No. 85 between Albany and Amherst Streets, property acquired at tax sale. All taxes, interest and costs in the amount of \$246.55 for the year 1989 have been paid and account is clear.
2. Redemption requested in the name present owners John L. Swinson & N. L. Thomas to Lot No. 30 Rivesrside Section II, property acquired at tax sale. All taxes interest and costs in the amount of \$225.22 for the year 1989 have been paid and account is clear.
3. Redemption requested in the name of present owner J. L. & N. L. Swinson to Lot No. 30, Riverside Section II, property acquired at tax sale. All taxes, interest and costs in the amount of \$246.55 for the year 1987 have been paid and account is clear.

CEMETERY DEEDS

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

1. Petition received from Wilbert Crews to return for resale Space C of Lot No. 6, Section No. 8 in Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.
2. Petition received from Mike Jakeway to return for resale Spaces A, B, and C of Lot No. 2-A, Section No. 128 in Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.
3. Petition received to transfer N-1/2 of Lot No. 5 and S- 1/2 of Lot No. 67, Section No. 212 in Palmetto Cemetery from Spencer Horton, Jr. to Carol Martin. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.

The City Manager reported that Commissioner Plyman received a request form to apply for the Governor's discretionary funds to continue clean up efforts in the City that has already begun. The City Manager stated that in order to apply for these funds the form has to be submitted by the local governing authority.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to submit the form to apply for funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner MacLeod asked the City Manager to give update on the status of the motel at the entrance of the Causeway. The City Manager stated that he was directed at the last meeting to have the property placed on the City's condemnation list.

Commissioner Davis reported that on the corner of Albany and Gloucester Street on the south side area of both northend and south side entrance two pot holes need to be filled.

Commissioner Davis asked the City Manager if he checked the electrical system in Windsor Park. The City Manager stated that the pipes on the sprinkler system have been cut in several places and there was not any water because the pipes were cut. He stated that the pipes would have to be replaced.

Commissioner Davis reported that on Bay and Dartmouth Street and open swimming pool need to have a gate placed around the area to keep the kids out.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the property owned by Mr. Boone on Albany and Gloucester Street should come down for public safety reasons and not because it is an eye sore or health hazard. He stated that the City has procrastinated for months and the City has placed themselves liable for any legal action that happen at that building. He further stated that he did not want the City of Brunswick to be sued or anybody hurt because of a building in disrepair. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the City have given Mr. Boone enough time to get something done, and placing a ribbon around the building will not keep the kids out and if it is a loss of life it will be due to the City's negligence.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he certainly agree that something should be done about the building.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he thought the Mayor directed the City Manager to have Mr. Boone present at the meeting to see if the City could come up with some resolution about the building. Commissioner Plyman further stated that he realized it was a bad situation for Mr. Boone and especially for the City, however something needs to be done and this matter should not wait another day.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he was opposed to demolishing the building for historic reasons. The City has in the past preserved historic buildings and Mr. Boone's building should be preserved. He stated that he opposed demolishing the building for the reason that the building was an eyesore and there are many other eyesores in the City. He pointed out that the City should find a way to restore the buildings and that would be his solution.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the building would not be torn down because it was an eyesore. It will be torn down because it is a public safety hazard, the house on the northside of the building could be destroyed if the building falls. Commissioner Plyman stated that there are no restoration funds to restore the building and something has to be done with the building.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that the historic Patterson house was torn down because it was based on an eyesore. Commissioner Lawrence explained that the City should adopt a plan to recognize historic houses because it was sad to see a lot of historic places torn down for progress. The City should start preserving history the same as other buildings have been preserved and it should be looked at from that point of view.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that everybody admits that the City has eyesores. He asked if the City has done anything about an ordinance to fix up the eyesores.

The City Attorney stated that he has been working on an ordinance to attempt to simplify the procedures for requiring that vacant lots with trash and weeds on them be cleaned up. He stated that he was having problems with the ordinance.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City needs an ordinance that requires property owners to clean their lots.

The City Attorney explained the procedures used to initiate proceedings for vacant buildings and also for vacant lots.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that at the last meeting Mayor Wilson mentioned cleaning up the alleys in the City. He stated that his concerns was picking up the trash in the City. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he agreed with Commissioner Lawrence.

Commissioner Davis stated that Mr. Boone's property should be made safe by bracing and boarding up the building to keep kids out.

Commissioner Plyman requested that the City Manager be authorized to make copies of the litter ordinance that is now in effect in the City and give a brief synopsis to every home owner to show them where their responsibility lies, from the center of the street to their front door. He stated that the City cannot cut and edge every street every month in the City. Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to have a copy hand delivered by a uniformed employee to make citizens understand their responsibilities.

Mayor Wilson stated that he was opposed to tearing the building down. He agreed the City must do something to protect life, limb and property. He further stated that Mr. Boone is probably having a trying time financially and asked to Commission to try and resolve it in a manner that would protect the citizens and not make it difficult for Mr. Boone.

Commissioner Plyman recommended to place some kind of support to protect the house behind it and erect a temporary twelve foot fence in a timely manner.

It met the consensus of the Commission to meet with Mr. Boone on Monday morning.

Mayor Wilson questioned the percentage that the City collects on houses that were torn down and also for cutting the grass. The City Manager stated that he would supply the Commission with a list of citizens that have paid.

Mayor Wilson reported that he visited the Cemetery and noticed lots are grown up and also the streets. He recommended that the City clean the streets in the cemeteries.

Commissioner Plyman mentioned that in two weeks there would be a clean-up of Palmetto and Greenwood Cemeteries.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he found a number of Cities that take care of their cemetery lots. The City Manager stated that he checked with the City of Thomasville and they do have a system that offers perpetual care with their lot for a one time fee of \$4.00 per square foot. The City maintains the lot for citizens and these options are given at the time of purchase.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk