

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M. , NOVEMBER 2, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Meeting of October 26, 1994. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF OFFICER AL HUGHES

Mayor Wilson presented a Resolution to Police Officer Al Hughes for an act of heroism for rescuing two citizens from a burning house on Union Street.

POLICE TRADING CARDS

Police Chief T. C. Cowan presented copies of the complete set of Police Cards to the Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING

This being the date, time and place for Public Hearing on proposal to rezone Lot 2, Block L in Goodyear Park subdivision from R-9 One Family Residential District to LM Limited Medical District.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that residents in the area signed a petition stating that they did not object to the rezoning. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion granting approval of the rezoning petition.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that Southeast Georgia Regional Hospital purchased homes in the area and mailed certified letters to other home owners requesting to purchase their property. Commissioner Plyman stated that the homes purchased by the Hospital are rezoned automatically to Limited Medical, pointing out that the Hospital is a Governmental Entity. Commissioner Plyman further stated that citizens purchased the homes to live in and every Doctor's Office could not be located next door to the Hospital.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he visited the area and he noticed that all the homes in the area have been rezoned except six. He recommended that the remaining six be rezoned to Limited Medical. The Realtor representing Mr. Moffitt stated that all homeowners in the area signed the petition approving the rezoning.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that if the block was to be saved from the rezonings it should have been done years ago and that it was not economically fair to Mr. Moffitt to do it now.

Commissioner Plyman stated that there was no middle income housing in the City and explained that his relatives could not find reasonable middle income housing to purchase in the City of Brunswick.

The City Attorney explained for Commissioner Lawrence the function of the Hospital Authority. The City Attorney stated that the Hospital was an independent Agency of the State and they could purchase property for health related purposes.

The Commission heard differing views from Commissioner Plyman and Commissioner MacLeod about the proposed rezoning.

Mayor Wilson stated that the records from previous meetings would reflect that he was opposed to purchasing any home in the area for Medical use.

On call for the question the motion passed by vote of 4 to 1. Commissioner Plyman voting No.

Commissioner Plyman recommended sending a delegation to the next Hospital Board meeting to express the concerns of the City Council.

EMPLOYEES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City Manager recommended that the City renew the contract with the Center for Family Growth for the Employees Assistance Program for one year.

Commissioner Lawrence asked whether the employees who committed suicide participated in the Employee Assistance program. The City Manager stated that he did not know whether that employee took advantage of the program, but the employee's supervisor did notice changes in the employee and recommended the program.

Mayor Wilson asked the City Manager if he knew that employees were engaged in consuming alcoholic beverages while on duty. Mayor Wilson stated that businesses should be contacted to find out if employees were purchasing alcoholic beverages in the mornings while on duty.

The City Manager stated that random drug testing will be done in some departments. Employees are tested upon their initial employment with the City. Commissioner Lawrence stated that random testing should be done without the employee's knowledge of the testing date.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the City employees are driving heavy equipment without obtaining a Commercial Driving License.

Commissioner Plyman asked for the number of employees that took advantage

of the program. The City Manager stated that 43 employees and other family members scheduled 189 appointments for counseling.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to renew the Employees Assistance contract for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATIONS

Ed Able, Emergency Management Director appeared before the Commission to request that the City submit plans from Departments outlining their Standard Emergency Operating procedures. Mr. Able stated that in 1979 an agreement was made between the City and County, and certain emergency procedures have not been followed according to the Federal Emergency Management Authority Guidelines. Mr. Able stated that he has not received the standard operating procedures from each City Department, he did point out that the Fire and Police Departments submitted their procedures. Mr. Able indicated that he did speak with the City Manager about the plans and informed him that he could no longer cover for the City of Brunswick.

The City Manager stated that he and Commissioner Plyman met with Mr. Able, and it was explained that the Fire Department was working on an operating procedure that could be used as a model for all City Departments. Commissioner Plyman stated that the model could be pulled together very quickly to get all the plans in place.

Commissioner MacLeod asked Mr. Able to submit the requirements and the City would discuss the plans and submit the necessary forms.

Mayor Wilson stated that there was a lack of communication. Commissioner Plyman stated that Mr. Able contacted him about the plans and then he contacted the City Manager.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Mayor should have been contacted after the plans were not submitted. Mayor Wilson informed Mr. Able that appropriate action will be taken.

Roy Rooks, local resident appeared before the Commission to report that he requested that the Harbor Sound stop delivering newspapers to his house because the papers were left in the yard and City equipment cut up the papers. Mr. Rooks stated that he also placed an orange dot on his mail box hoping that would stop the delivery of the Harbor Sound.

Mayor Wilson asked the City Manager to speak with the Police Chief about discussing the problem with the owners of the Harbor Sound Newspaper.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City could issue orange dots as a public service to citizens to place on their mail boxes to stop the delivery of the Harbor Sound Newspaper.

The consensus was to have the City Manager speak with the Police Chief about discussing the matter with the Harbor Sound.

Allen Rothlisberg, Manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs appeared before the Commission to discuss the services that the Department offers to veterans. Mr. Rothlisberg stated that he was the new manager of the Veteran's Department located at 1803 Gloucester Street. Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. Rothlisberg for providing assistance to the Veteran's in the Community.

Dale Tushman, representing the Alzheimer support group appeared before the Commission to request use of office space at the Multipurpose Center for the support group.

The City Manager stated that the Alzheimer support group has been meeting at the Multipurpose Center and would like to use office space at the center for phone services. He stated that the group will be charged for the use of electricity and water.

Commissioner MacLeod asked the Director of Community Development if he felt that the support group was a viable service to the Community. The Director of Community Development stated that the support group was a service that was needed in the City.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion approving the request of the Alzheimer Support group to use office space at the Multipurpose Center.

In the absence of Mr. Boone who was scheduled to appear at the meeting Commissioner MacLeod offered the motion giving Mr. Boone 45 days to repair or make significant improvements on the building located on Gloucester Street. Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he objected to placing demands on Mr. Boone because some property owners have been granted three years to make improvements to their property.

Commissioner Plyman stated the building was a safety hazard and that the City did not give any property owner three years to make improvements to their property. Commissioner Lawrence stated that there are many buildings in the City that are in the same condition as Mr. Boone's property and the owner's were never asked to attend a Commission meeting to discuss repairing their property.

The City Attorney was asked to submit a list of condemned property for the Commission to approve for demolition.

Mayor Wilson pointed out that the Cody building was burned and has been in the same condition for seven years.

On call for the question the motion passed by vote of 3 to 1 and 1, Commissioner Lawrence voted No and Mayor Wilson abstained.

Herbert Taylor, representing Alcoholic Anonymous appeared before the Commission to request more parking spaces for the

building located on Martin Luther King Boulevard.
Mr. Taylor stated that there was no place to park on MLK and persons attending the meetings were parking at the H & H building on Gloucester Street, and found their cars burglarized.

The City Manager stated that he has been working with Mr. Taylor and he also talked with Georgia Power to increase lighting on Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that there was never adequate parking in the area.

Commissioner Plyman asked Mr. Taylor if they could use the vacant next to their building to park in. Mr. Taylor stated that the lot was being used for repairing cars.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City would need time to work out the parking problem. Commissioner MacLeod stressed that the Commission would need time to find a solution to the parking problem.

Ken George, representing Hands of Hope appeared before the Commission to request that the City participate in purchasing food baskets for needy families at the Elementary Schools in the amount of \$240.00.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City was prohibited from making allocations to organizations. The City Attorney stated that a section in the Constitution prohibits Governmental bodies from granting gratuities. Mayor Wilson recommended that the City Attorney research the law to find out whether the City could legally make charitable contributions. Mayor Wilson stated that the Council would raise \$240.00 if the City could not allocate the funds.

Mr. Boone arrived at the meeting and told the Commission he was waiting on an update from Mr. Kirk, Mr. Evans and Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Boone stated that he was not aware of the progress that was being made by the other persons he mentioned.

Mayor Wilson recommended that Mr. Boone prepare a progress report and present it at the next meeting.

Mayor Wilson recommended that a meeting be held to finalize the City budget.

The Director of Finance submitted the following recommendation for renewal of Liability Insurance for the City of Brunswick. (1) General Liability, American Southern Insurance \$43,439.00 and United National Insurance \$10,500.00 Law Enforcement, Homestead Insurance \$27,426.88 (3) Public Officials, Homestead Insurance \$9,060.00 (4) Worker's Compensation, HRH Insurance \$83,369.00. The Director of Finance stated that the City Attorney and City Manager have reviewed the policies. The City Manager stated that the renewal date on the policies was November 1. The City Manager stated that Mr. Warwick provided copies of policies written by other companies and at this point the City Attorney felt that the policy submitted was the best policy for the City.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to ratify the recommendation of the Director of Finance for renewal of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like for the City to review the Health Insurance Family coverage for employees. He stated that employees with two family members were paying the same rate as a family with five members. The City Manager stated that the Health Insurance Policy will be up for renewal in January and the City could review the policy to find out what could be done about employees coverage.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

The following petitions for 1995 license renewals were submitted, having been approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager, were on motion of Commissioner Plyman seconded by Commissioner Lawrence unanimously granted:

To retail alcoholic beverages including beers and wine for consumption on premises:

Sandra L. Webb at Bamboo Lounge, 2717 R Glynn Avenue;

Scott B. Jackmore at Red Carpet Lounge, 300 F Street;

J. R. Miller, Jr. at 7-11 Liquors/BYC, 212 Monck Street;

To retail alcoholic beverages for consumption off premises:

Peter J. Nermoe at Bottle Time Liquors, 1900 First Street;

To retail beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Peter J. Nermoe at Beer and Wine Depot, 1900 First Street;

Gowen Investment, at Spirit Food Mart, 2935 Glynn Avenue;

To retail beer and wine for consumption on premises:

Murray K. Wilson at The Oyster Box, 2129 Glynn Avenue;

To retail beer only for consumption on premises:

Z. L. Copper at Green Tavern, 1102 L Street;

To wholesale beer and wine:

Gary T. Sheffield at Sheffield Distributors Co, 2129 Line Street.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

A concerned resident of Riverside subdivision stated that she would like to hear the findings of the inspection performed by the City Engineer. The City Manager stated that the City Engineer was out because of illness and has not been able to visit the subdivision.

The City Manager reported that the Department of Transportation has completed the Martin Luther King Boulevard project and a ribbon cutting ceremony would be held in December.

Mayor Wilson stated that the speed limit on Martin Luther King Boulevard was still 35 mph and accidents have occurred in the area. Mayor Wilson recommended that the City Attorney and City Manager discuss the traffic problems with the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the County should acquire the right-of-way for Phase II of the Martin Luther King Boulevard project. The City Manager stated that it was discussed at a joint City/County meeting and he was not clear on what should be done. He stated that he would contact the County Administrator.

Commissioner MacLeod asked whether the signs were placed on Lover's Oak. The City Manager stated that the signs have been ordered.

Commissioner Plyman reported that Greg Cole the operator of Fairley's Cleaners on Altama & R Street reported that his property was being used for parking. The City Manager stated that once the project was completed and the street is turned over to the City then the City could make the necessary changes. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that Lee Street and Stonewall Street should be opened up to traffic on Altama Avenue.

Commissioner Plyman recommended that the City Manager investigate the \$2.00 tire tax to find out whether the City could receive the tax for tires collected in the City.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to hold an Executive Session to discuss some problems.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he like to meet with Department Heads to discuss Master Plans for the City Departments to cover a 10 year period. The City Manager stated that a comprehensive plan is already in place and land usage is discussed in the plans.

Commissioner Lawrence asked the City attorney what legal steps the City could take to stop the Hospital from purchasing property in the area.

The City Attorney stated that the City could not stop the expansion of medical and health care facilities. The City Manager stated that the City appoints four members to the Hospital Authority and the City should discuss some of the concerns relating to purchasing of property with Hospital Authority Board members.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the Executive Session the meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

City Clerk