

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P. M., May 17, 1995**

**PRESENT:** His Honor Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Roosevelt Lawrence,  
Doris 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 Davis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 1995. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING REZONING**

This being the date, time and place for public hearing on proposal to rezone New Town Lots 555 and 556 from General Residential District to General Commercial District. Commissioner Plyman stated that he observed that the owners was placing a six foot chain length fence on the property to protect the vehicles that the business would sell.

Mayor Wilson questioned whether the zoning notice have been properly posted on the property. Mayor Wilson asked if anyone was present who objected to the rezoning. There was no objections.

The Administrative Assistant, Gail Mobley stated that the zoning notice would be posted after the application was accepted by the City and that this was the first public hearing.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion accepting the rezoning application. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONTRACT WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion accepting the rezoning application. The motion passed unanimously.

**PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Director of Finance submitted bids for the City's Property Insurance renewal. The Director of Finance recommended that the City accept the bid of Hartford Steam Boiler Insurance Company in the amount of \$79,437.00. The Director of Finance pointed out that the 5.9 % increase was the value of the new Compost Plant.

Commissioner Plyman questioned the deductible for property damage. The Director of Finance stated that the deductible for property was \$10,000.00 and \$100,000.00 for Wind damage.

Mayor Wilson questioned whether other quotes were received for the renewal of the Property Insurance. The Director of Finance stated that this was the third year of a three year bid and the City would be rebidding the property insurance next year.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether the current insurance company was aware that

next year they would have to rebid. The Director of Finance explained the process used to determine how insurance companies premiums are reviewed every three years. The Director stated that after the third year the insurance company must notify the City sixty to ninety days if an increase would be made in the premiums.

Commissioner Lawrence asked the Director of Finance whether all parties interested in bidding on the City's property insurance are notified in advance in writing if they lived outside the City.

The Director of Finance stated that a bid list is on file with the City and the Property Insurance renewal is advertised in the newspaper and all companies on the bid list are notified.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the Director of Finance's recommendation of Hartford Steam Boiler Insurance Company in the amount of \$79,437.00 for 1995-96. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CEMETERY DEEDS**

Petition received to transfer Lots No. 3 and 4, Section No. 20 in Palmetto Cemetery from James Holmes and M. A. Waring to Ricky Gunn and Pam Lane. Original deed lost or misplaced, but City records verify ownership. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to grant the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Herrington was present and asked the Mayor if the citizens would be issued a cemetery deed when purchasing a lot. Mayor Wilson stated that the Council discussed the issuance of cemetery deeds and whether or not the City could issue a bonafide deed because of certain limitations. Mayor Wilson stated that the City would continue to issue cemetery deeds.

### **REDEMPTION DEEDS**

Redemption requested in the name of present owners Estelle Oliver and Ozell Fields on New Town Lots 2388 and 2389, property acquired at a tax sale for 1985, 1986 and 1988. All taxes and interest and costs have been paid.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute redemption deed as petitioned for.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

The following reports for the month of April 1995 were submitted and filed as information: (1) General Fund (2) Water and Wastewater (3) Community Development (4) Metro Squad (5) Municipal Court and (6) Uncollectible Water Accounts. On motion of Commissioner Lawrence seconded by Commissioner Plyman the monthly reports were unanimously approved.

### **DELEGATIONS**

Mrs. Henri Woodman, representing the Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce appeared before the Commission to offer to put together a retreat for the City Commission and the County commission to meet on Sea Island to discuss issues and work them out so that it would be a win, win situation for taxpayers, businesses and property owners in the City of Brunswick.

Mayor Wilson stated that he thought the offer was very generous and benevolent. Mayor Wilson stated that he appreciated what the Chamber was offering to do, however he had some reservations about a retreat. Mayor Wilson mentioned if the County wanted to come to City Hall and meet or the City could go to the County to meet, he would be willing

to do that. Mayor Wilson thanked Mrs. Woodman for the offer.

Mrs. Woodman stated that the offer was given to literally get the Commissions away from the hustle and bustle of phones and interruptions to conduct a meaningful work session.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he appreciated Mrs. Woodman's concerns and thought that the Commission Board should take the retreat under consideration. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that no dates were mentioned for the retreat.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to discuss City business at City Hall or at the Glynn County Court House and concurred with Mayor Wilson. Commissioner Plyman stressed that he was not afraid of meeting with any Glynn County Commissioner at any given time to listen to what they had to say. Commissioner Plyman stated that all he heard and read was negative about the City and County meeting jointly. Commissioner Plyman stated that he would not go to Camden County or any other County to discuss City business.

Mrs. Woodman stated that it did not matter where the City and County met, but the Chamber of Commerce was concerned about the two governments meeting because of the deadline that was approaching.

Mayor Wilson stated that he saw exactly where Mrs. Woodman was coming from, the bible says blessed are the peace makers.

Mayor Wilson stated that the only thing that bothers him was when he picked up the newspaper and observed the County Commission stating that the City will get what the County was going to give them.

Commissioner Plyman expressed his concerns about the percentage of the sales tax. Commissioner Plyman stated that he was willing to discuss the sales tax split with the County if it took all night.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he was not willing to stay all night, and whatever was to be said could be said in a reasonable amount of hours. Commissioner MacLeod asked for a tentative date to discuss the sales tax issue.

Mrs. Woodman stated that the Chamber of Commerce did not speak with the County, but the Chamber wanted to ask the City first if they would be willing to sit down and work out the sales tax issue.

Commissioner Plyman indicated that the meeting would not be held behind closed doors and the meeting would be open to the press, pointing out that he would never say anything he did not want the press to hear.

Mayor Wilson told Mrs. Woodman that the Commission was overwhelmed with the generosity of the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Wilson asked Mrs. Woodman to give a date when the Chamber would like the City to meet with the County in a public building. Mayor Wilson thanked Mrs. Woodman for the Chamber of Commerce offer.

The Administrative Assistant reported that she met with Police Chief Cowan and discussed the School Crossing Guard uniforms. Chief Cowan submitted prices to purchase two shirts, one jacket and a badge for ten School Crossing Guards in the amount of \$1,900.00.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he spoke with Mr. Mosley of the Board of Education and Mr. Mosley stated that he would be happy to pay for the cost of the uniforms for the School Crossing Guards. Mr. Mosley requested that the City send him a bill for the uniforms. Commissioner Plyman stated that Mr. Mosley responded quickly and since school was ending in a couple of weeks the City could wait until August to purchase the uniforms.

Mayor Wilson stated that the Board of Education could pay half of the cost of the School Crossing Guards uniforms.

Commissioners Lawrence, MacLeod and Davis did not object.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the generous offer of the Board of Education to pay half of the cost to purchase two shirts, one jacket and a badge for the School Crossing Guards, and that funds be set aside in the next year's budget to purchase these items. The motion passed unanimously.

The Administrative Assistant reported that Habitat made a request at the last Commission meeting to waive tapping fees on their houses and the matter was deferred.

Mayor Wilson stated that the Commission was aware of the request and the matter was discussed, but no action was taken.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he believed Habitat was being reimbursed for their mortgages and the cost of the tapping was passed on as an added value attached to the purchase of the property. Commissioner Plyman stressed that the City of Brunswick have no business forgiving tapping fees for Habitat houses that are reimbursed through mortgages.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Administrative Assistant to write a letter to Mr. Slade explaining the City's position on tapping fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman asked for the progress of the City Manager, Mark Mitchell. The Administrative Assistant stated that Mr. Mitchell was doing well and recuperating at home.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like the Commission to seriously consider the policy of stopping new water extension and possibly sewer unless by court decree to the County. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he was only mentioning it because the City would sometime in the future have to consider the water extension to the County. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like for the Commission to think about it and discuss the matter later.

Mayor Wilson stated that he was reading the newspaper and found out that the City have not been working in the behalf of the overall City and County, but the City have been a caretaker in the water and sewer business for many years and have not realized any money. Mayor Wilson stated that he would not support the expansion of water and sewer in the County unless it was for the preservation of life, limb and property such as a sanitarium or the hospital. Mayor Wilson collaborated on how the City penalized the residents in the City of Brunswick so that the County could grow.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the City was mandated by the Federal Government to provide sewer services on a Regional basis to citizens north and east of the Brunswick Harbor and not on the Islands.

Mayor Wilson expressed his concerns about Glynn County residents using the Ritz Theater and Howard Coffin Park.

Mayor Wilson pointed out that the City owned the St. Simons Island Causeway, and gave away the causeway for the good of Glynn County and also three million dollars worth of Andrews Island for the good of the County to establish the Industrial Authority. Mayor Wilson stated that he could not sacrifice the 17,000 citizens in the City anymore.

Commissioner Lawrence stressed that he was totally satisfied with the stand the City Commission has taken. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he discussed the matter in 1991 and was told that the City did not want to fight fire with fire. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he was totally pleased to serve on a board that was willing to take a stand.

Commissioner Plyman indicated that he was not pleased with the stance that the Glynn County Commission have taken against the City. Commissioner Plyman pointed out all the

growth potential the County enjoy and the City enjoy all the liabilities and none of the assets. Commissioner Plyman mentioned that the County would enjoy 85% of the monies indirectly from the ship that was brought in and also the hotel and motels would benefit from the ship. Commissioner Plyman stated that the City of Brunswick was probably the only frugal operated government in the State of Georgia and that he was proud of the stand that the City Commission has taken. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the City have given away all the City's land, thirty nine percent of the land in the City is tax exempt.

Commissioner MacLeod explained the thinking of the County about the old law division which was done on the census and new law division which stated seven other factors to be considered besides the census. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the old law was based on a different interpretation of how the sales tax split should be and the new law which considers seven other factors and the split should be changed according to the new division law.

Mrs. Woodman stated that she was listening to what the Commission said and every should know and the City should sit down with the County to discuss the problems. Mrs. Woodman pointed out that the County may not be thinking the same way the City was thinking at a particular time and details should be worked out.

Commissioner Plyman recalled some to the meetings that the attended with the County and got nowhere.

Mr. Herrington commended the Commission for taking a stand.

Ken Tollison stated that on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce he would like to make sure that an agreement was made by July 1st and he wanted to make sure that the City did not lose ten million dollars. Mr. Tollison state that the Chamber only wants to get the two Commissions together to resolve the sales tax split.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to discuss arbitration instead of binding arbitration.

Commissioner Davis mentioned that item 7 was skipped at the Work Session on Monday the patch cuts in City streets where the water lines have been replaced. The Administrative Assistant stated that the streets are covered under the LARP project. She stated that the State would proceed as soon as the documents are received which had to be executed by the Mayor.

Commissioner Plyman asked when Martin Luther King Boulevard would be dedicated and turned over to the City. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that manholes are 4 to 5 inches depressed in the street and a catch basin on L and Stonewall Street is depressed six inches in the street. Commissioner Plyman stated that a sign prohibiting parking in the south bound lanes on Martin Luther King Boulevard between L and R streets should be posted.

Mayor Wilson stated that the State Highway Department has already sent letters of condition. Mayor Wilson instructed the Administrative Assistant to write a letter to the Highway Department requesting a complete report on the portion of Martin Luther King Boulevard that has been completed and also find out what portion of Martin Luther King Boulevard has not been completed.

Commissioner Plyman asked if the Park and Tree Commission have been by to look at the fence for the Cemetery. The Administrative Assistant stated that the Park and Tree Commission have not been by to look at the fence.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that stop signs should be placed on Brailsford Avenue facing North and South.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that trash in the lane on K street have not been picked up in 6 or 7 months.

Mayor Wilson reported that a Children at Play should be posted in the 3300 block of Brailsford Avenue.

The Commission discussed ways to collect water bills from customers that move from resident to resident in the City and County.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Mayor

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk