

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., August 16, 1995**

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 Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 19, 1995. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO THE BRUNSWICK GOLDEN ISLANDERS

Mayor Wilson presented individual resolutions to the Brunswick Golden Islanders Girls Softball Team in recognition of their recent win of the State Major League Girls Softball Championship.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The following reports for the month of July 1995 were submitted and filed as information: (1) General Fund (2) Water/Wastewater Fund (3) Community Development (4) Metro Squad (5) Municipal Court and (6) Uncollectible Water Accounts. Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the reports.

QUIT CLAIM DEEDS

Petition received from Joseph H. Ferrier, as Attorney for James Leon White for quitclaim deed in favor of his client to southwest 7/30 of Town Commons Lot No. 39 between Cochran Avenue and Stonewall Street to clear title record of tax deed taken in 1954 by the City, which was subsequently redeemed but was lost without being recorded. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the quitclaim deed as petitioned for.

Petition received from Joseph H. Ferrier, as Attorney for Kermit Blash for quitclaim deed in favor of his client to Day Tract Block 40, Washington Heights Lot 3, Block F to clear title record of tax deed taken in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, and 1989 taken by the City, which was subsequently redeemed, but was lost without being recorded. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the quitclaim deed as petitioned for.

Petition received from James D. Benefield, III as Attorney for Glenn Moore and Barbara Elaine Moore for quitclaim deed in favor of his client to the N-1/2 of New Town Lot No. 755 and New Town Lots 756, 757 and 758 to clear title record of tax deed taken in 1986 by the City, which was subsequently redeemed but was lost without being recorded. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the quitclaim deed as petitioned for.

CEMETERY DEEDS

On motion of Commissioner MacLeod seconded by Commissioner Davis the following cemetery petitions were unanimously granted:

- (1) Transferring Lot No. 12, Section No. 214 in Palmetto Cemetery from J.H. Tankersley to Marsha Tucker. Original deed lost, but city records verify ownership.
- (2) Transferring Lot No. 9, Section No. B-14 in Palmetto Cemetery from Vida C. Bullard to M. L. Bullard. Original deed lost but city records verify ownership.

DELEGATION

Ray Snow, member of the Downtown Development Authority appeared before the Commission to discuss the 1996 Harbor Fest in the city of Brunswick. Mr. Snow stated that a group of members have joined together to organize the Harbor Fest with the city's blessings. Mr. Snow stated that they will ask for funding from businesses and corporations.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that it was a very excellent idea.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned the process used to select members. Mr. Snow stated that the members volunteer to serve on the board.

Ernest Craft appeared before the Commission to discuss the condition of Old City Hall. Mr. Craft stated that the building leaked so badly that on rainy days the stairs were dangerous because of all the water that accumulated in the stairwell.

Mr. Craft stated that court was held in Old City Hall for over 100 years and the water has caused tremendous damage to the building.

Mr. Craft read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that on this day the Board of Directors of the Old Town Brunswick Preservation Association encourages the Commission of the City of Brunswick to plan for the stabilization and restoration of Old City Hall. This structure is a cornerstone of the historical and architectural significance of Brunswick. Further deterioration of the building will only increase the cost of stabilization and could jeopardize its survival. As a preservation organization, Old Town Brunswick Preservation Association encourages the city to actively pursue the stabilization of Old City Hall and prevent further deterioration of the structure.

Mr. Craft stated that the building has been the cornerstone of city government in the 1890's to the 1950's and the city cannot afford to let the building deteriorate to the point of rotting and collapsing on itself.

Mr. Craft strongly recommended a new slate roof be added on Old City Hall. He requested that the Commission authorize the City Manager to take whatever steps that are necessary to place a roof on Old City Hall.

Commissioner Plyman suggested that repairs should be made to save the building before it ends up like the Oglethrope Hotel. Commissioner Plyman mentioned that the insurance

coverage on the building has decreased.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to investigate the type of roof needed and saving the present brick work at Old City Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the City had a roofer to inspect the roof and the chimney and it was recommended that the chimney and the roof be torn down and rebuilt at a cost of \$250,000. Before this work could be done the super structure would have to be repaired first.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like for Commissioner MacLeod to amend his motion to include moving the Municipal Court sessions to Howard Coffin Park and have court there for the public's safety.

Commissioner Lawrence asked Commissioner MacLeod to clarify his motion.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he was unaware of the water damage and recommended a temporary roof be placed on the building. He pointed out that the City may have to do more as stated by Commissioner Plyman. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he had no objections to removing court from the building for safety reasons.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the guidelines for bidding should be followed before the city accept any bids.

The City Manager recommended using the same guidelines for the roof at Old City Hall as used by the Police Department. He stated that a structural Engineer should be used to determine the type of roof needed for Old City Hall.

William "Bill" Slaughter, Chairman of the City of Brunswick Structural Fitness Board appeared before the Commission to express his concerns about the building on the corner of Gloucester and Albany Streets.

Mr. Slaughter stated that the building was an eyesore and a health hazard. He pointed out that the building has not had any repair work since May of 1994.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission took action to allow Mr. James Boone enough time to obtain financing to restore the historic building. Commissioner Lawrence recalled that the time given was 14 months.

Mr. Slaughter pointed out that the building was violating the City's ordinance by remaining in it's present condition.

Commissioner Davis recommended that the owner, James Boone prepare a report and present it to the Commission.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center opposed tearing the building down because funds may be available to secure financing for the building through RDC.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that the building on the causeway has not been torn down and Commissioner Plyman agreed pointing out that the hotel has violated several city ordinances. He pointed out that the hotel has no bricks falling and is not a health hazard.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Boone building should not be singled out, pointing out that several buildings in the city are listed in deplorable condition.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would like to see that building come down and that he was not

pleased because it has not come down already. Mayor Wilson recalled all the buildings in deplorable condition in the city and personally offered \$500.00 to go toward demolishing the Boone building.

Dave Rouse appeared before the Commission to discuss his concerns about the replacement of the Sidney Lanier Bridge and objected to the cost of replacing the bridge. Mr. Rouse stated that the replacement bridge would be used for promoting tourism to Jekyll Island. He stated that he would like to see approval of funding by the Government before building a new bridge.

FORMING A THIRD FIRE STATION

Commissioner Plyman brought up for discussion the need of a third Fire Station in the City of Brunswick. Commissioner Plyman stated that he met with the Fire Chief and the Manager of Hercules to get estimates for a third fire station for the north end of Brunswick. Commissioner Plyman stated that the Manager of Hercules has been gracious and offered to lease the building to the City of Brunswick for \$1.00 a year. Commissioner Plyman gave a rough estimate of cost to be between \$18,000 and \$20,000 with labor handled in-house.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the Fire Chief would not request any additional employees to operate the fire station.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he was under the impression that this matter would be discussed at a work session and asked why was it placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Davis recalled at the last meeting the Commission requested that the Manager of Hercules and the Fire Chief be present at a work session to discuss a third fire station.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City Manager should handle scheduling the work session. This met the general consensus of the Commission.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager reported that a ninety day extension was granted to Century Cable on the Franchise Agreement. He stated that Georgia Municipal Association was preparing the Franchise Agreement between the City of Brunswick and Century Cable, however he had a medical emergency and has not been able to meet with GMA to finalize the agreement. He recommended granting another ninety day extension to Century Cable.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting another ninety day extension to Century Cable. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported he was notified that Friday, August 18, was the deadline to purchase the '95 model pick up truck in upcoming proposed City Budget for the Water and Wastewater Department and the Public Works Department.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to make a purchase order for one truck for Water and Wastewater and Public Works. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Attorney recommended that the City of Brunswick use 1% of the voters for the City's nominating petition.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to place a four-way stop sign on Evergreen Road and Kaiser Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman recommended purchasing a tractor for Public Works Department in the

amount of \$14,403.00

Commissioner MacLeod requested that the Director of Public Works attend the meeting to make a request to purchase the tractor. He pointed out that he would not vote on purchasing a tractor unless it was requested by the Department Head.

Commissioner Plyman reported that BFI has continued to operate their garbage collection business in the City and continue to violate the City Ordinance. He recommended rewriting the City Ordinance..

It met the consensus of the Commission to authorize the City Manager to stop writing citations to drivers until the ordinance could be amended.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

The City Manager reported that a proposal was submitted by Jeff Chapman asking the City to consider the use of Chapman Waste, INC to transfer trash to the transfer station on Habersham Street. The City Manager pointed out that the cost was \$1.00 per ton less than the Cate Road landfill.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that the City Attorney look at the proposal and report a recommendation to the Commission.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to offer Mr. Chapman an opportunity to transfer the trash on a trial basis, if the agreement is acceptable to the City Attorney.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion approving the agreement subject to the approval of the City Attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion appointing Sammie Thompson and Kerry Janes to the Structural Fitness Board for a term of four years to fill the expired vacancies. The motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Francis appeared before the Commission to request that the City enforce the trash ordinance.

The City Manager stated that it may be a possible solution to the trash problem to use 90 gallon containers.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he was concerned about the county's recent re-evaluation of City and County property and requested a report from the Director of Finance to find out the increase in City property.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would like to reduce the millage rate to compensate for the increase in the property values in the city.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk