

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., September 6, 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 Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 16, 1995. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ELECTION ORDINANCE

The City Attorney read the Election Ordinance, on motion of Commissioner Plyman, seconded by Commissioner Lawrence, the ordinance was unanimously adopted:

THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. The Code of the City of Brunswick is hereby amended by striking in its entirety Section 9-2 and by substituting in lieu thereof a new Section 9-2 which shall provide as follows:

"Sec. 9-2. Political party primaries prohibited."

" No political party shall conduct primaries for the purpose of nominating candidates for election to the city commission. Candidates for election to the commission shall be nominated by petition. The nomination petition of a candidate shall be signed by at least one percent of the registered voters eligible to vote in the last municipal election for the particular office for which the candidate is qualifying."

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be of full force and effect from the date of its adoption.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether a citizen could be appointed to replace a vacancy on the Commission in the occurrence of a death. The City Attorney stated that the vacancy may be filled by a special election.

PUBLIC HEARING

This being the date, time and place for public hearing on proposal to rezone a parcel of land consisting of 3,375 square feet on I Street from General Residential to General Commercial. The City Manager stated that the staff report from the County Zoning Office regarding the zoning request states that all the property surrounding this property was zoned General Residential. The City Manager stated that the applicants received a building permit to

construct a resident and after the resident was under construction he understood that they changed their minds and decided to convert the resident and use it as a beauty shop.

The current property does not allow enough space to meet the City Ordinance in regards to ample parking spaces for a beauty shop. The City Manager stated that based on the fact that the property does not allow enough space for adequate parking to meet the zoning ordinance requirements and the fact that all surrounding property was residential, the Zoning Staff recommended that the request be denied.

Commissioner Plyman asked if the owners would consider living on the property and making the home occupational.

The City Manager stated that he has not spoken to the owners but this could be an option.

Wilson Marion, owner of the property at 1400 I Street, stated that he did get a residential permit and his wife was going into cosmetology and desired to work full time in that field, so he thought it would be a good idea since they already had the building under construction, to have it rezoned for commercial use. He stated that a resident home occupation could not obtain commercial insurance to insure damages that may occur in the cosmetology business and insurance for a resident would be limited in this field.

Commissioner Plyman asked the City Manager if the owner decided to have a home occupation would the resident require a zoning change. The City Manager stated that the ordinance allows under certain conditions for persons to carry on a home occupation and it would have to be totally contained in the house and restrictions for advertising does not require a zoning change assuming that other conditions are set out and met.

Commissioner Plyman advised the owner to re-think his plans pointing out that if he go with home occupation, he would not have to go through a zoning change. Commissioner Plyman stated that he realized some insurance companies looked down on home occupations.

Commissioner Lawrence asked the owner if he has purchased any equipment for the beauty shop. Mr. Marion stated that all of the equipment for the beauty shop have been purchased.

Commissioner MacLeod questioned the amount of parking spaces necessary in order to qualify the business. The City Manager stated that the zoning ordinance requires seven parking spaces.

Mayor Wilson stated that another public hearing will be held at the next meeting on September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

This being the date, time and place for proposal to rezone Lot 4 Block M of Goodyear Park Subdivision from R-6 One Family Residential District to Limited Medical. The City Manager stated that a special study was done in 1978 on the Glynn-Brunswick Memorial Hospital area and according to the study the property located at 2311 Parkwood Drive does meet the criteria to be rezoned to Limited Medical.

Mayor Wilson stated that he was not opposed to rezoning the property, but if any property owner opposed the rezoning then he would have to go along with the property owner.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he felt the same as Mayor Wilson.

The City Manager pointed out that this was the first Public Hearing and the second hearing will be held on September 20 and a decision would be made by the Commission.

DELEGATIONS

The City Manager reported that Mr. James Boone was scheduled to attend the Commission meeting and was not present because he was hospitalized due to health problems.

COASTAL GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER JOINT APPOINTMENT

The City Manager reported that the County Commission nominated Joe Jaudon to serve as the joint appointee with the City on the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center. The City Manager stated that the City nominated Tommie Herrington to serve as the joint appointee with the county at the last Commission meeting.

Mayor Wilson recommended that the City meet with the County to discuss the joint appointment to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center at a City/County meeting.

STRUCTURAL FITNESS BOARD

The City Manager stated that he received a request from Howard Lynn and Tommie Herrington to serve on the Structural Fitness Board. The City Manager pointed out that the appointee must be a resident of the City.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion appointing Tommie Herrington to serve on the Structural Fitness Board. The motion passed unanimously.

CEMETERY DEEDS

Petition received from W. Curtis Tucker to return for resale Spaces D,E,F,G, & H of Lot No. 8, Section No. 40 in Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed surrendered. Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The Highway 17 Association members were present to discuss five laning Highway 17. Mack Wilson, owner of Mack's Barbeque stated that the Highway 17 Association opposed the Department of Transportation's plan to widen Highway 17 to six lanes. Mr. Wilson pointed out that eighteen businesses want a five lane highway.

Mayor Wilson questioned whether the members of the Highway 17 Association felt comfortable with the services of Moreland- Altobelli Inc. Mayor Wilson stated that if the Association felt uncomfortable, the City of Brunswick should not use the services of Moreland-Altobelli as a consultant.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Association would like for Mr. Altobelli to start thinking the same way the merchants are thinking about five laning Highway 17.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City should not continue to pay Mr. Altobelli if the citizens are not pleased with the service.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would like to travel to Atlanta to discuss changing the widening plans of Highway 17 with state and local representatives. Mayor Wilson stated that he spoke with DOT Commissioner Shackelford and the Commissioner favored personal safety over businesses.

At Commissioner Plyman's request the City Manager read the automobile count on the highway.

Commissioner MacLeod suggested that the Association retain the services of Mr. Altobelli until the five lane plan could be approved.

Jim Jordan the owner of various hotels in the City and County stated that the I-95 merchants

encountered adding a raised median to the I-95 plans and the elected officials bonded with merchants to solve their problems. The County used the services of Moreland-Altobelli and all the changes in the I-95 plans were not approved by the Department of Transportation. Mr. Jordan stated that merchants and elected officials met with the Department of Transportation and received modifications to the plans. Mr. Jordan encouraged the Highway 17 Association to make a concerted effort to form a coalition to represent the Association when they meet with the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Plyman recommended sending a letter to representatives to resolve the problem.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he did not object to delegates and elected officials going to Atlanta to discuss the Highway 17 project with Mr. Shackelford.

Dan Altobelli arrived late at the meeting. Mr. Altobelli stated that he met with District Engineers and State Engineers to review the revised Highway 17 plans. The revised plans would lessen the impact on the business community.

Mr. Altobelli stated that the Department of Transportation would make Highway 17 a six lane highway with more median breaks. Mr. Altobelli recommended that the city call a meeting to discuss the Highway 17 plans with Mr. Shackelford and elected officials.

Commissioner Plyman stated the City would lose revenues from the tax digest if businesses were forced to close. Commissioner Plyman stated the City needed all of the businesses on Highway 17.

Mr. Altobelli did agree with Commissioner Plyman about the impact of major businesses on Highway 17. He stated that most businesses would lose 60 feet.

Mr. Altobelli pointed out that the city could not build a highway with no one losing some of their property. Most of the property would be used on the East side. He stated that the Department of Transportation will make improvements to Highway 17 and the City cannot stop the improvements. The City will not get a five lane highway. Mr. Altobelli advised the City to work with the Department Of Transportation to get the adjustments they want. Mr. Altobelli stated that the five lane highway would be dangerous and the State of Georgia has stopped building five lane highways.

Mr. Altobelli stated he would come back at the next meeting to give another update on the widening of Highway 17.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether the budget should be advertised before the Commission adopt it. The City Attorney stated that if the City is required to advertise the budget, it could be adopted at the next meeting.

Commissioner Plyman recommended an increase for the Municipal Court Judge.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about raising the salary of one employee. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he objected to raising one employee's salary and not raising other employees salaries as well.

Commissioner MacLeod asked the City Manager to survey the salaries of other Municipal Judges in the State.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion adopting the 1995-1996 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported that bids were received on the Waterfront project and the low bid was from Poppell-Eller Construction Company in the amount of \$1,659,000. The City Manager stated the bid was roughly double the amount of money appropriated through the state grant and matching funds appropriated by the City and Ports Authority. The City Manager stated that he contacted the Department of Transportation to find out what options the City had.

One Option was to accept the bid and the City would have to make up the difference, the other option was to reject the bid and modify the scope of the project and re-bid it.

The City Manager recommended that the City reject the bids and authorize the design team to modify the project and re-advertise the project to receive bids.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion rejecting the bids. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager recommended that the City issue garbage containers to residents for 90 days as a pilot project. The City Manager pointed out that the cost would not exceed \$500.00. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion approving the issuance of garbage containers to residents for 90 days. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported that the City is continuing to look at the situation on Riverside Drive. The City would like to bring in asphalt leveling material and put in enough material to raise it up to a six and one half feet elevation. The City Manager recommended fifty tons of material with cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion approving 50 tons of material to repair the road on Riverside Drive. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager recommended that Joseph Michael Cason of Albany, Georgia be appointed as the new Recreation Director for the City of Brunswick. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion approving the City Manager's recommendation for Recreation Director. The motion passed by vote of 4 to 1. Commissioner Lawrence voting No.

The City Clerk requested that the position of Deputy Clerk be filled in the City Clerk's Office with a pay grade of 10. The City Clerk explained that the title of Deputy Clerk was granted to a former employee in 1991 without the pay-grade, the pay grade at that time was a grade 5 which carries the title of Clerk Typist II. The City Clerk pointed out that the grade change would go along with the duties performed by the Deputy Clerk which are more advanced than the duties of a Clerk Typist II because computers are used to bill property taxes in the Clerk's Office. This requires a lot of data entry in the computer. The City Clerk stated that this position has not been filled since May of 1994.

Commissioner Lawrence recalled granting the title change from a Clerk Typist II to Deputy Clerk about four years ago. He stated that the grade change was not granted at that time and the Commission agreed to consider changing the grade on the Deputy Clerk's position.

Mayor Wilson stated that the former Clerk issued taxes to about 22,000 residents without the use of computers. Mayor Wilson also stated that he could not approve a grade change in that capacity which he pointed out would be a five grade increase.

The City Clerk stated that the former Clerk hired four additional workers to help type the tax bills during the summer and she felt that the Deputy Clerk's job description was one grade step above a secretary.

Commissioner Plyman questioned why the tax bills were not billed directly from the county's magnetic tape.

The City Clerk stated that approximately 500 name transfers are entered on the computer in the Clerk's Office along with exemptions and mortgage code entries before the taxes are billed.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to see the City bill the taxes from the County's magnetic tape.

Commissioner Davis recommended that the City hold a work session on Friday to discuss the matter in the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to oppose the issuance of the certificate of need for the Hospital. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that a street light in the 2900 block of Albany Street should be installed. The City Manager stated that he would look into placing a street light in that block.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he voted nay to the appointment of the Recreation Director because he felt that all the candidates had a good chance at the Recreation Director's position.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk