

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**8:30 A.M., NOVEMBER 1, 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 MacLeod seconded the motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 1995. The motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

Mayor Wilson presented a resolution to Joe Wilson in recognition of his retirement from the Water and Wastewater Department after 37 years of dedicated service.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

This being the date, time and place for Public Hearing on proposal to rezone 6.498 acres on Coral Drive from GR, General Residential to HC Highway Commercial.

Bill Downey representing Don Gentile and Anthony A. Aliamo stated that the property is located on Coral Park Drive and the property had been rezoned General Residential for many years and there has been no use of the property. The present owners would like to use the property after having it rezoned for commercial use. The property would be divided into sections and sold as commercial property for use such as an auto repair center or mini warehouse that would add to the City's tax base.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he was glad to see this property rezoned for commercial use and developed.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that this was the first hearing and no action would be taken. He further stated that he agreed with Commissioner Plyman that the property should be put to some use and developed.

The City Manager stated that the property was rezoned in 1966 and was never put to use. The request now is to have the property rezoned to commercial and the County Planning and Zoning Staff recommended that the property be rezoned.

Mayor Wilson stated that another public hearing will be held to discuss the

rezoning.

#### **HANDS OF HOPE**

Ken George representing Hands of Hope Organization appeared before the Commission to request \$250.00 for food baskets to donate to needy families. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving \$250.00 for the Hands of Hope Organization. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he knew the group personally and had hands on experience with the group. Hands of Hope comes through for all citizens of the City of Brunswick and Glynn County in their time of need.

Mayor Wilson stated that he realized that the people in this organization do a good job and receive no compensation and they do it out of just the great satisfaction of helping.

#### **APPOINTMENT TO JTPA BOARD**

The City Manager stated that the Job Training Partnership Act Board was set up to oversee a grant program that was administered through the RDC. Commissioner Stephens was appointed to serve on the Job Training Partnership Act Board and was very active and since his death the City did not have a representative to serve on the Board. Commissioner Plyman stated that he was interested in serving on the Board because it deals with job training.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion appointing Commissioner Plyman to serve on the JTPA Board. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **RDC APPOINTMENT**

The City Manager stated that the non-public representative appointment was currently held by Dan Coty and this is a joint appointment with the county. RDC requested that Dan Coty be re-appointed to serve another term. The Commission requested that the appointment be advertised and the City did not receive any indication from anyone other than Mr. Coty that they were interested in this appointment. The County has already taken action to support Mr. Coty as their nominee.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion re-appointing Dan Coty to serve as a non-public representative on the RDC board. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **RECREATION BOARD**

The City Manager stated that the Recreation Board is a new board that Commissioner MacLeod asked the City to create. The City has a new Recreation Director in place and advertised for five appointments to the Board. The City received interest from three people that are willing to serve on the Recreation Board, it does require that they be a resident of the City of

Brunswick. The three persons interested in serving on the Recreation Board are: Mr. Charles Scott, 1809 Q Street, Mr. Will Sullivan, 2829 Carrie Street and Mrs. Bonnie Leonard. The City Manager stated that he was not sure where Mrs. Leonard lives. There are five appointments and the City only received three names.

Mayor Wilson asked the Commission if it would be better to wait and receive all the names. It was the consensus of the Commission to have all five names ready to submit and approve at the next meeting.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that one thing he wondered about was the fact that the City has three people out of five that submitted a request to serve on the Board and questioned if any persons lived out of the City.

The City Manager stated that no one outside of the City expressed any interest in serving on the Recreation Board. The City Manager pointed out that the City should keep a majority of City residents on the Recreation Board and the City might allow one or two people to serve on the Board who live outside of the City.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the County has their own Recreation Board and he would rather have persons serve that live in the City.

Commissioner Davis pointed out that the City should appoint persons to the Recreation Board who live in the City.

#### **RENEWAL OF INSURANCE**

The Director of Finance submitted the following recommendation for the City's Worker Compensation Insurance, Administration HRH \$28,000.00. Loss Control HRH \$10,200.00 and Excess Insurance Safety National \$37,923.00.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the recommendations for insurance renewals as submitted by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **CLOSING OFF OF CYPRESS MILL ROAD**

Attorney Clinton Pearson representing Altama Presbyterian Church appeared before the Commission to request that a strip of land owned by the City that is the right of way for Old Cypress Mill Road that is not open to the public be closed and conveyed to the adjoining property owners, Altama Presbyterian Church, John Hart Trust and Mrs. Gordon MacGregor. Attorney Pearson stated that the area has become a dumping ground and Altama Presbyterian Church is interested along with the other property owners in maintaining it and acquiring a deed and placing it on the City's tax role.

Mayor Wilson stated that Attorney Pearson asked the City to convey the property to the Church and to other adjoining property owners to place the property on the tax roles, however the Church does not pay property taxes.

Attorney Pearson stated that the other adjoining property owners would pay taxes if the City conveys the property to them.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether this was similar to the City swapping land. The City Attorney stated that this was not the same kind of situation. There is a specific provision in General State Law that authorizes the City to close a public right of way where it is found that the property no longer serves any public need. The City can authorize to close the property and convey it to adjoining property owners if the property is found to serve no public need.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the property certainly serves no public need and it would help to have it maintained by someone else and the City does not have anything to lose.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that this matter should be viewed as a public hearing and treated like one.

The City Attorney stated that actually the City is not required to hold a public hearing. A decision can be made at this meeting and acted on because there is no specific legal requirements that state the City must conduct a public hearing on this matter.

Commissioner MacLeod moved to close the right of way and maintain the City's easement.

Commissioner Plyman requested that Attorney Pearson submit a letter stating that all the property owners were satisfied with the disbursement of the property.

Attorney Pearson stated that he could not submit a letter until he found out the actual footage that will be conveyed to each property owner. Attorney Pearson told Commission Plyman that he would present the letter when the deeds are approved. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he was concerned about giving away property to the adjoining property owners and expressed his concerns.

Commissioner Davis stated that this situation is the same as the alleys and it should be looked at again.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should deal with the right to close some of the roads that were left hanging from past years. He further stated that this was really cleaning up an unfortunate situation that has been left and the City needs to clean it up. The City is not giving away land without an easement. The City is getting rid of an eye sore and tying up a loose end.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to make sure that the City establishes an easement of 15 or 30 feet. The property owner may have full use of the property less placing a building or structure on the property.

Attorney Pearson stated that if the City reserves an easement then no one could place a building on the property.

The City Manager stated that the City will have to maintain an easement and have access to the property and the City Attorney would make sure that an easement and reservation would be included in the deed.

Mayor Wilson stated since the Commission has not seen the area, in fairness he would like them to have an opportunity to look at the property and make a decision at the next meeting.

Attorney Pearson agreed with Mayor Wilson.

Commissioner MacLeod withdrew his motion.

Mayor Wilson thanked Attorney Pearson for attending the meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION OF METRO SQUAD**

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to discuss the mission of the drug squad and the end results that would achieve this mission, because right now there is no drug interdiction. He further stated until you get rid of the source of drugs and until you get rid of the source of supply you will do nothing, but walk on a treadmill. He pointed out that he would like for the drug squad to catch the guy who is bringing in the drugs and catch the people who are distributing and using the drugs.

Commissioner Plyman offered the motion to meet with the County Commission to discuss the Metro Drug Squad.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that there is some financial inequity in financing the metro drug squad, however after investigating the matter he found that Metro does have serious problems. Metro does not need to be divided and should remain as one unit, but restructured for more efficient anti drug activity and remain a single task force. Commissioner MacLeod stated he would like to see Metro restructured, stream lined and made stronger.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to stop persons from bringing drugs into the City. Commissioner MacLeod stated that there is going to be a supply as long as there is a demand. As long as there is a demand there would be suppliers. He further stated that he appreciated the fact that he would like metro to catch as many suppliers as they can but, the fact should be faced that as long as the demand is there, if Metro get the supplier another one would appear. Commissioner Davis stated that she would like to make a decision on the Metro Drug Squad with the county. She stated that Metro cannot get rid of drugs because drugs are a monumental problem in all the United States. The dealers have use of boats and planes.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to continue to support the Metro Drug Squad.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he had a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Davis withdrew her motion.

Commissioner MacLeod asked Commissioner Plyman to amend his motion to discuss other City items with the County at the joint City/County meeting.

Commissioner Plyman stated that his motion was to meet with the County Commission to discuss in a joint meeting to gain some knowledge of the

funding of the Metro Drug Squad. Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion adding that the joint meeting should be more than one item. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that every time the City meets with the County an alternative is given about a convenient time to meet. Commissioner Lawrence further stated that he could not meet with the County at 1:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. because of his work schedule.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Commission should support Commissioner Lawrence and tell the County they have to meet at a convenient time for the City as well as the County.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to keep the metro drug squad in tack. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **HIGHWAY 17 IMPROVEMENTS**

Dan Altobelli appeared before the Commission to give an update on the progress of the Highway 17 improvements. Mr. Altobelli stated that the Department of Transportation has agreed to U turns and median breaks. He stated that he would have to meet with Hercules to see if they agree with the median breaks. Mr. Altobelli stated that the Department of Transportation has not changed anything about six laneing Highway 17, and six businesses would be lost. Mr. Altobelli recommended that the Commission arrange a meeting with Commissioner Wayne Shackelford to discuss the Highway 17 plans.

Mack Wilson owner of Mack's Barbecue questioned the U turns on Highway 17 and asked whether the City and County would place a service road in the area. Mr. Altobelli stated that service roads can be placed by the City and County at their own expense.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to authorize Mr. Altobelli to set up a meeting between Commissioner Wayne Shackelford, the Commission, the City Manager and Mack Wilson to discuss the Highway 17 plans. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **PRIVATIZATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to table the discussion of a privatization committee. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **CEMETERY DEED**

Petition received to transfer Lot No. 16, Section No. 76 in Greenwood Cemetery from John Busby to Carrie Busby. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership. Commissioner Plyman moved that the petition be granted. Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **REDEMPTION DEED**

Redemption requested in the name of present owner Mamie Elkins to Perry Park Lot G-68. All taxes, interests and costs in the amount of \$1,397.67 for 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1987 have been paid and account is clear. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the quitclaim deed. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **OTHER CITY BUSINESS**

Rev. Charles Harris appeared before the Commission to state that he had observed Commissioner Plyman on Saturday and Sunday cleaning up the City. Rev. Harris asked Commissioner Plyman if the money was coming out of his pocket. Rev. Harris stated that he considered this as a political ploy just to get votes. Rev. Harris pointed out that Commissioner Plyman should not be using City equipment or City employees to clean up anything. He stated that he did not see any other Commissioners following the Public Works Department around the City and carrying a radio. Rev. Harris suggested that Commissioner Plyman apply for the Public Works Director's position if he wanted to be the Director and emphasized that employees who work for Public Works should be doing their jobs and if they are not something should be done about it.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to respond to Rev. Harris allegations. Commissioner Plyman stated that he felt it is his duty to lead the Community. He was elected by voters to lead and teach by example. Any money that he spends which is his business, he spends freely without any reimbursement.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he goes out to work on the City's right of ways to cut grass and whether he uses his lawnmower or the City's lawnmower or any community workers, they are always supervised by City employees. He stated that he gave up his weekends for the last year and a half not since he was elected but even before he gave running for office a thought, this was a project of his. Commissioner Plyman stated that he purchased litter barrels and benches in Hanover Park with money out of his pocket. He stated he did not mind spending money in the City of Brunswick because he could see his money working everyday.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he does not tell Public Works what to do because he is not the Director. He stated that anytime Public Works needs a hand or whether they need his truck or equipment, they don't have to ask twice because he is not lazy, he loves to work.

Mayor Wilson stated that he observed two pieces of City equipment on Parkwood Drive and City equipment should be at the Public Works compound.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that Community service workers work on Saturday, however no City employees should be working on Sundays. Commissioner Lawrence asked who was driving City vehicles on Sunday, the community service workers or City employees.

Commissioner Plyman stated that a supervisor from Public Works supervised community service workers and he is not in charge of any community service employees. Mayor Wilson stated that Public Works can use City equipment to cut City right of ways and he was opposed to city equipment being used for

any other purposes.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he purchased his own equipment and all repairs are made by him and the City pays nothing for his clean-up efforts.

Commissioner MacLeod asked Commissioner Plyman if the City was forty percent cleaner because of his clean-up efforts. Commissioner Plyman stated yes it is.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that according to the City Charter a Commissioner should not be involved in day to day operations of the City providing free lawn services.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the matter should be discussed in a work session or a closed session because he considered this an ethics question.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he was opposed to City employees working on the Sabbath day. Mayor Wilson stated that City employees should not be working on Sunday and people who do work on Sunday have no regard for the Sabbath.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he regrets that Mayor Wilson is telling him that he could not work on Sunday. Commissioner Plyman stated that he goes out every Sunday to work and he cannot help it if his working on Sunday upsets the Mayor. He stated that he did not dictate what religion anybody else belongs to and he resented anyone dictating his morality because he was not going to tolerate it.

The City Manager stated that this is a policy issue and Community service workers must have the supervision of City employees. The City Manager asked the Commission if Supervisors will be allowed to work on Sunday.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should not authorize City employees and community service workers to work on Sundays. He questioned whether City equipment and City employees could be used on Sundays if it is not an emergency.

Commissioner Plyman stated that Sunday is the only day some community service workers are available to work.

The consensus of the Commission was to discuss the matter later.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to support the freeport tax issue. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported that a private citizen requested having bus stops on the City's right of ways to operate a transit system.

The City Manager reported that Century Cable was changing their line up and requested permission from the Commission to waive the thirty-day period. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to waive the thirty days. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City of Brunswick with the DDA paid

a firm to study Historical property in the city. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that he would like a report submitted to the Commission. He further stated that a report was given to DDA and not the City Commission. The Commission should have been informed about the findings of the study.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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**Mayor**

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**City Clerk**