

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., December 20, 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 approving the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 1995. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER DAVIS

Mayor Wilson presented a Certificate of Recognition to Commissioner Doris A. Davis for four years of distinguished service on the Brunswick City Commission. Mayor Wilson also presented Commissioner Davis with a plaque and gift.

Mayor Wilson spoke words of appreciation to Commissioner Davis.

Commissioners MacLeod, Lawrence and Plyman stated that they enjoyed working with Commissioner Davis and were impressed with her.

Commissioner Davis stated that she enjoyed working with the Commission and will still be active in the community.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

The following alcoholic beverage petitions for 1996 license renewals were submitted, having been approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager, were on motion of Commissioner Lawrence seconded by Commissioner Plyman unanimously granted:

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

Donna C. Vara at O'Henry's Saloon, 211 Monck Street;

To retail beer for consumption on premises:

Dennis J. Sullivan at King and Prince Seafood, 100 Lanier Blvd.

Petition received from George Sofos to retail alcoholic beverages including beer and wine for consumption off premises at G & G Liquors, 1933 #12 Glynn Avenue, and having been approved by the Chief of Police and the City

Manager, Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

This being the date, time and place for public hearing on a proposal to adopt the restructured a Business License Ordinance.

The City Attorney stated that the Business License Ordinance has been advertised for a public hearing to hear from anyone who has comments about the ordinance.

The City Attorney stated that in order to continue this form of taxation in the City it would be necessary to reinact the entire Business License Ordinance. He stated that major changes would be made in the definition of gross receipts and the graduation of the cap on business licenses. The City Attorney, the City Manager, the Director of Finance and other staff members met to discuss the reduction in Class I, II, and III. In Class I the amount would be reduced to \$510.00 in addition to administrative fee of \$30.00 and Class II would be reduced to \$680.00 and Class III to \$850.00 plus administrative fees. The caps would increase up to Class VII. The majority of the businesses in the City would fall within the first three classes and businesses would receive a reduction in the caps.

Mayor Wilson questioned how the reductions would reflect in the City Collections.

The Director of Finance stated that it would be within two and a half thousand dollars increase. Some business gross receipts would go up and some would come down. It is a fair attempt to keep the cap at a lower amount, and also give a reduction to small businesses.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he wanted to make a point about the Business License Ordinance since he was primarily the only small business person on the Council. He stated that his desire is ultimately to try and bring about uniformity of taxes between the City and County. Businesses in Brunswick have to pay County taxes and City taxes and in the City businesses pay a higher business tax than in the County.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he intended to vote for the new Business License Ordinance, pointing out that it is an improvement and would like to see small businesses opening in the City not be penalized for being in the City of Brunswick.

The County's ordinance is based on employees that actually works for the businesses and the City should have the number of employees on record to determine how much money the City would lose or gain by switching from gross receipts to number of employees.

Commissioner MacLeod indicated that the City Manager would conduct a survey to find out the number of employees in the one thousand businesses located in the City. Commissioner MacLeod pointed out after the survey is completed the City would be able to calculate the new tax base. Commissioner MacLeod

stated that the City should consider the plight of the small businesses.

Commissioner Plyman questioned the basic minimum license fee in the City. The Director of Finance stated that licenses in the City starts at \$30.00 which is an administrative fee based on gross receipts and small businesses pay up to \$50.00 for a business license.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether Transient companies who operate in the City are required to have a business license. The City Attorney stated that the City cannot impose a business license fee on companies that are licensed in the State of Georgia.

Woody Woodside, representing the Chamber of Commerce stated that he met with the City Attorney and the City Manager to discuss the proposed business license ordinance and requested that the City use the SIC code for business license fees. Mr. Woodside pointed out that the City lost a number of businesses last year.

The City Manager stated that the City lost revenues from businesses because they were located in the County and businesses are not required to purchase a license to operate in the City if they have a county license.

Zack Lyde was present and asked how did the change of business licenses fees come into effect. The City Attorney stated that in 1994 the State mandated Cities to change the way they charge for businesses licenses.

Mr. Beckham the owner of Beckham Heating and Air stated that he knew about the State mandate in April and he was opposed to the way the City charges for business licenses.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to table the adoption of the Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Director of Finance submitted the following recommendation for renewal of the Third Party Administrator for the City's Group Health Insurance, Administrative Claim Service Inc., Stop Loss \$85,565.28 and Administration \$27,506.40.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to approve the recommendation of the Director of Finance for renewal of the Third Party Administrator. The motion passed unanimously.

BID RECOMMENDATION ON COLLECTION AGENCY

The Director of Finance recommended Coastal Collection Agency for collection of the uncollected Water Bills for the City of Brunswick. The Director of Finance stated that Coastal Area Collections was a well established computerized Collection Agency.

Commissioner Plyman asked the percentage of bills that Coastal Area Collections collects and the track record of other businesses they collect for. The Director of Finance stated that he would check with all of the

collection agencies to gather information about their percentage of collections.

It met the general consensus of the Commission to table the matter for further discussion.

PRIVATIZATION COMMITTEE

The City Manager recommended the following persons for appointment to the privatization Committee: Arnold R. Wood, Sisi D. Woolridge, John A. Clay and Edward Pinckney. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion appointing the five persons as recommended by the City Manager to the Privatization Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

CEMETERY DEEDS

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

- (1) Issuing another deed to James B. O'Quinn to Block 104, Spaces 15-20 in Palmetto Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost, misplaced or destroyed, but City records verify ownership.
- (2) Issuing another deed to C. W. Kendrick to Lot No. 11, Section No. 12 in Palmetto Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost, misplaced or destroyed, but City records verify ownership.
- (3) Transferring Lot No. 21, Section No. B-7 in Palmetto Cemetery from Ruby Johns to Ruby Robinson. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager recommended not to allow another extension to Century Cable on the Cable franchise.

The City Manager reported that he received calls from local lounges about opening on New Year's Eve. The City Manager stated that lounges could not serve alcoholic beverages on New Year's Eve, but they could serve alcoholic beverages on New Year's Day at 12:01 A. M.

Commissioner Plyman stated that vendors should be made aware of the brown bag law.

The City Manager reported that terms on the City Boards and Commissions will

expire at the end of December. Mayor Wilson instructed the City Manager to advertise for appointments to the City Boards and Commissions. Commissioner MacLeod suggested placing smaller ads in the newspaper and advertising the openings on the radio.

The City Manager reported that an engineering firm is working on specifications for the roof at the Police Department.

Commissioner Davis requested that the City Manager keep her informed about the construction of the water front park and the garbage cans that have been placed in the City.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the City Attorney to write an Ordinance pertaining to commercial garbage pick up in the City. The City Manager stated that the Commission was informed about the garbage situation and the loss of revenues. Mayor Wilson instructed the City Manager to give an update at the next meeting. On call for the question the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that persons have already been working on the Privatization Committee and it was not approved by the City. The City Manager stated that the meetings have been totally outside of the City because staff did not have any knowledge that this was taking place.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the Structural Fitness Board has been giving out information on certain houses that will be torn down and the City has not approved these houses for demolition.

The City Manager stated that he would send a memo to the members of the Structural Fitness Board about their responsibilities. He further stated that there have not been any houses torn down since the Structural Fitness Board started meeting.

There being no further business the Mayor recessed the meeting.

MEETING RECESSED.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk