

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., March 6, 1996**

PRESENT: His Honor Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Roosevelt Lawrence,
Dr. James MacLeod, Ken Plyman
and Harold E. Jennings.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner Dr. James MacLeod.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 21, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTED TO ROBERT HORTON, JR.

Mayor Wilson presented a proclamation to Robert T. Horton, Jr., Brunswick's Fire Marshall, who was honored by Georgia's Fire Commissioner, John W. Oxendine as a winner of "Build a Better Georgia" program. Robert Horton, Jr. was honored by the City of Brunswick as an outstanding community leader who created the EDITH program.

PUBLIC HEARING

Carol Highsmith, representing Cindy Lewis and other family members on the proposed rezoning of 2613 Parkwood Drive from R-9, One Family Residential to Limited Medical, stated that the owners inherited the property and would like to sell the property to allow a doctors office to occupy the premises. Ms. Highsmith stated that Dr. William P. Bristol is interested in purchasing the property. This property has been vacant since August of 1995.

Commissioner Plyman asked what the selling price is for the house. Ms. Highsmith stated that the house was appraised at \$170,000. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the staff of the Glynn County Community Development Planning and Zoning Division did not give a recommendation for zoning of the property.

The City Manager explained that he contacted the County Administrator to ask him to find out why the staff did not give a recommendation for the rezoning. The City Manager stated that he did not agree with the county and suggested that the staff look into the matter and think about bringing the function back to the City.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission should look into providing quality homes for residences and if the City continues to rezone residents as limited medical, then quality homes would not be available for residents.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that every time the City rezones a house to limited medical, the City loses a residential house.

Commissioner Plyman stated that there are no available quality houses in the City. Ms. Highsmith stated that she would be glad to show Commissioner Plyman available quality homes in the City.

Mayor Wilson stated that it was understood why persons were not interested in the purchasing of the house because of the price.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he Zoning Board probably did not know what to recommend, pointing out that the hospital will have fifty six million dollars worth of expansion and the area would grow medically. Commissioner Macleod noted that the Brunswick Commission is a small town board and cannot stop the growth of the hospital and it is a decision that the Commission would have to live with.

Commissioner Jennings stressed that Commissioners should always talk to the people who put them in office. Commissioner Jennings stated he visited the area and spoke with residents who wanted to continue to live in the area. Some residents he spoke with over the phone objected to the proposed rezoning. Commissioner Jennings suggested inviting members of the Hospital to attend Commission meetings. Commissioner Jennings recommended rezoning an area for medical use and stop spot rezoning because traffic congestion, ingress and egress, should be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended taking the rezoning under advertisement.

Ms. Highsmith stated that the lot had enough space for parking. She visited the neighborhood and spoke with residents and the responses were not very negative.

Henry Moore, resident of 3015 Cherokee Road stated he lived two houses down from 2613 Parkwood Drive and grew up in the neighborhood. Mr. Moore stated that the Commission should think seriously about what would take place in the neighborhood because he had a lot to lose. Mr. Moore pointed out that the Hospital's fifty six million dollar expansion has a lot to do with money. He recommended a buy-out of all property in the area.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended that the City Manager ask the Zoning Board to look at the entire area and bring back a recommendation.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Petition received from Brady Turner to retail alcoholic beverages including for consumption on premises at Royal Cafe, 1618 Newcastle Street, having been approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager, Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting the license.

KENNETH SMITH, JR. (L.I.F.E.)

Kenneth Smith, Jr., representing Living Independent For Everyone, appeared before the Commission to offer assistance in making things more accessible to disabled persons in Brunswick. Mr. Smith stated that he spoke with Officials in the Community and found that Glynn County does not have a transition and self-evaluating program for three thousand disabled persons living in the county and city.

Mr. Smith stressed that people are getting hurt and the services are not there. He stated that handicap persons can work no matter what disabilities they have. Mr. Smith pointed out that he did not want to force the Americans With Disabilities Act on anyone, but would like for the Commission to have a self-evaluation and transition plan in place by the year 2000.

Commissioner Plyman stated that City Hall and other City buildings are not in compliance with the ADA mandate. Commissioner Plyman stated that he was well aware of the mandate and it takes money to enforce the mandate.

Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Smith whether any compensation would be involved in accepting his services. Mayor Wilson stressed that this would enable the City to be well informed of the needs of disabled persons in the Community.

Mr. Smith stated that no compensation is involved and he will volunteer services to the City.

The City Manager stated that most of the City buildings are handicap accessible except for bathrooms in Old City Hall and City Hall.

Mr. Smith stated that Billy Edwards in Liberty County has a program in place to help make handicap persons homes accessible. Mr. Smith was referred to the Director of Community Development.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to accept the services of Kenneth Smith, Jr. in helping the City with a transition plan for disabled persons. The motion passed unanimously.

NATIVE INDIAN FESTIVAL

Jim MaGahee, appeared before the Commission to request the use of Howard Coffin Park to hold a Native American Festival on May 3-5, 1996. Mr. MaGahee stated that vendors will sell native American crafts and Indians will perform native dances. Mr. MaGahee stated that he hosted a festival in Savannah at Armstrong State College. He stated that an admission would be charged and booth spaces would be available, pointing out that no profit would be made because the money would be used to pay for hotels. Mr. MaGahee requested that the City furnish showers for Indians who are coming from reservations.

Commissioner Jennings asked Mr. MaGahee if he was bonded in case someone gets hurt. Mr. MaGahee stated that they do have liability insurance.

Mayor Wilson asked if the festival would be in conflict with any other event and whether the park could accommodate the festival. The City Manager stated that there is no other event scheduled and the showers would have to be repaired at the bath house.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he wanted to make sure that no one would be prevented from using the park on the days of the festival.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion granting the use of Howard Coffin Park on May 3-5, 1996 to hold an American Indian Festival, and Mr. MaGahee must submit a copy of their liability insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

DIXVILLE BUS STOPS

John Demery, representing Dixville Coalition appeared before the Commission to request that the City build three bus stops in Dixville to accommodate children in rainy and cold weather.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that Mr. Demery and forty citizens visit the Board of Education and ask for funds to build the bus stops.

Commissioner Plyman asked if citizens in Dixville were willing to maintain the bus stops. Mr. Demery stated that the citizens would maintain the bus stops.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended that Mr. Demery submit a cost for the project and make a request to civic clubs to donate materials for the project. The consensus of the Commission was for Mr. Demery meet with the City Manager and come up with a definite price of the project.

Commissioner Plyman stated he would talk with Mr. Mosely, the Superintendent of the County Schools, on behalf of the Dixville Coalition.

It met the consensus of the Commission to have the City Manager meet with Mr. Demery and make a recommendation on building the bus stops in Dixville.

APPOINTMENT TO THE HOSPITAL BOARD

Commissioner Jennings nominated Billy Rogers, Commissioner Lawrence nominated Dr. Nathaniel Armstrong and Commissioner Plyman nominated Linda Pinson to be considered to serve on the Hospital Authority Board.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to submit the names of Billy Rogers, Dr. Nathaniel Armstrong and Linda Pinson to the Hospital Board to be considered to serve on the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion appointing Sammie Thompson and Bishop James Brooks to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman recommended that the Commission meet with candidates who apply to serve on Boards in the City.

SURVEY OF GARBAGE CONTAINERS

The City Manager reported that he mailed a survey to residents in the City about the use of the large garbage containers. He stated the city received tremendous responses, and overall the residents were pleased with the garbage containers.

The City Manager stated he would like to move forward with getting additional information together regarding possible financing alternatives for the use of the carts and coming up with recommendations on how the system could be put in place and the costs.

This met the consensus of the Commission.

CEMETERY DEEDS

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion granting the following cemetery petitions:

- 1) Issuing a deed to Evelyn Clark to Lot No. 5, Section No. 84 in Greenwood Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost.
- 2) Issuing a deed to Emily Smith to Plots 81,82,83 & 84 of Block 103 in Palmetto Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner Jennings announced that the Community Unity Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 8:00 a.m., at the Ramada Inn on Glynn Avenue.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the Park and Tree Commission meet to advise the City on placing hedges at the Sewer Plant.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should place more "Welcome to Brunswick" signs in the City. Commissioner MacLeod suggested placing a sign beneath the Recycling Plant sign that says "First Recycling Plant in Georgia".

Commissioner MacLeod stated the taxi situation should not force any taxi cab to carry a meter. He pointed out that the taxi cabs who choose not to carry meters should place a sign on the taxi that reads "No Meters". Commissioner MacLeod stated that the fee should be discussed before a passenger enters the cab.

Commissioner Plyman stated that all taxi cabs should have meters and it should not be a pick and choose situation. He stated that he made an attempt to change the taxi cab ordinance when he owned Yellow Cab Company. He pointed out that people will be traveling around unnecessarily before they reach their destination in cabs that do not have meters running.

Commissioner Plyman reported that his garbage was being torn up by dogs and recommended hiring someone to catch the stray dogs in the City.

The City Manager stated he will make a request to the County to contract with them for the use of a dog catcher and the City will pay the salary.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he objected to contracting with the County. The City Manager stated he would move forward with posting the opening of a position for a Dog Catcher.

Commissioner Plyman asked the Commission if they had an opportunity to look at the fence from the cemetery. Commissioner Jennings stated that the fence from the cemetery was rotting.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that the money from the fence be placed in the General Fund if the City holds an auction.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he has not completed placing the fencing around the cemetery and requested that the funds from the auctioned fence be used to complete the fencing.

Sammie Thompson suggested that Commissioner Plyman end the fencing project he started and let the City decide whether they want to finish the project.

Mayor Wilson stated that the taxi cab ordinance should be discussed at a work session along with the repairs that should be done at the Treatment Plant. Mayor Wilson recommended setting a tentative date for a work session.

Mayor Wilson stressed that the Budget should be adopted by July 1, 1996.

Mayor Wilson discussed placing a moratorium on making new water connections in Glynn County. Mayor Wilson suggested that the County pay a greater portion of the impact fee.

Commissioner Lawrence discussed allowing citizens more time to complete tearing down their houses if the project is not completed within the thirty days given by the court. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he received a complaint from a resident concerning the Building Inspector asking him to replace light fixtures and placing 2 X 4's on the floor after carpet has been laid.

The City Manager stated that when citations are issued the resident has 30 to 45 days to bring the house up to code. the City Attorney stated that the Building Inspector can show some discretion when residents attempt to bring their home up to compliance.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City Manager should be allowed to make the decision to allow an extension extending the due date.

Commissioner Plyman recommended dismissing cases against residents because of the progress they have made.

The City Attorney stated that he would look into the Unfit Building Ordinance.

Mayor Wilson recommended advertising the position of Personnel/Purchasing Director. Commissioner MacLeod suggested that the applicant has a background in personnel.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk