

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**8:30 A. M., May 1, 1996**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Wilson presented a proclamation to Mrs. Gay proclaiming May as Older Americans Month in the City of Brunswick.

Mrs. Gay representing the American Association of Retired Persons mentioned all the activities that the local chapters participated in during the month of April.

**HARBORFEST COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Ray Snow, Chairman of the Harborfest appeared before the Commission to discuss the streets that the Committee would like to have closed on May 17, 18 and 19th to hold the Festival. Mr. Snow submitted a schedule of the Harborfest to the Commission.

Commissioner Plyman questioned the status of the Harborfest Parade. Mr. Snow stated that the Committee did express an interest in having a parade, however the committee did not have enough time to put a parade together. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the purpose of the Harborfest was to bring the Community together and the Harborfest Celebration should begin with a parade.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned he received calls from citizens who were interested in participating in the Harborfest and would like to have more information about the Harborfest.

Mr. Snow stated that citizens should call the office of the Main Street director for information.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION EXCHANGING CITY PROPERTY**

The City Attorney stated that the City duly advertised the proposed exchange once a week for four consecutive weeks as provided by State Law. The City Attorney read the Resolution abandoning Blythe Square and exchanging the said property for property owned by St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion adopting the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the Commission of the City of Brunswick pursuant to Section 1.14 of the Charter of said City (Ga. L. 1855-1856, pp. 335 et seq., and Ga. L. 1994, pp. 5326 et seq.) that the following described portion of Blythe

Square be, and the same is, hereby vacated and abandoned as a public park or square:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia, identified and described according to the well-known map and plan of said City as the northernmost 60 feet of Blythe Square lying between Norwich and Egmont Streets, said parcel being in the shape of a rectangle having the dimensions of 60 feet by 90 feet, bounded on the north 90 feet by Old Town Lot 331.

Be it further resolved, as authorized by Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 36-37-6(c), that the aforesaid property shall be exchanged for the following described property owned by St. Mark's Episcopal Church:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia, identified and described according to the well-known map and plan of said City as the northernmost 60 feet of Old Town Lot 332, said parcel being in the shape of a rectangle having the dimensions of 60 feet by 90 feet, bounded on the north 90 feet by Blythe Square.

Be it further resolved that the Commission of the City of Brunswick has approved the values determined by a Certified Real Estate Appraiser who has appraised the value of the property belonging to the City at \$10,800 and the value of the property belonging to St. Mark's Episcopal Church at \$10,800, and notice of the proposed exchange has been advertised once a week for four consecutive weeks, as provided by Official Code of Georgia Annotated Sec. 36-37-6(c).

Be it further resolved that the Mayor is authorized to execute all documents necessary to consummate the proposed exchange of real property.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the land swap is a present need. He added that in his views this swap is entirely within conservation goals, it keeps the intent, looks, spirit and feel of the past.

Commissioner MacLeod pointed out that he had no qualms about voting for the exchange.

Commissioner Jennings recommended establishing a committee made up of Old Town residents. Commissioner Jennings instructed the City Manager and the Chairman of the Old Town Preservation Committee to meet and organize an Old Town Advisory Committee to intercept future issues before they come to the Commission Board.

Commissioner Plyman recommended that each party pay their own legal expenses if any legal ramifications are made and not involve the City of Brunswick.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he had concerns with organizing an Old Town Advisory Committee suggested by Commissioner Jennings. Commissioner Lawrence stated that other citizens should be involved and members should be appointed to serve on the committee by the City Commission.

This matter will be discussed further by the Commission before anyone is selected to serve on the Old Town Advisory Committee.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

This being the date, time and place for Public Hearing on proposal to rezone Lot 25 and a portion of Lot 24 in Windsor Park located on the Southwest corner of Gloucester Street and Magnolia Avenue from R-9 One Family Residential District to Local Commercial.

Donald E. Gamblin owner of the property stated that the house he owns on Magnolia Avenue is difficult to rent and pointed out that he would like to sell the property because he no longer resides in Brunswick. Mr. Gamblin stated that he previously pastored a church in Brunswick.

A for sale sign has been placed in front of the residence and persons responded who are interested in using the property for commercial use. Mr. Gamblin stated that in 1983 he paid \$55,000 for the house. Mr. Gamblin requested that the property be rezoned to Local Commercial so that he may sell the house pointing out that his health is failing.

Commissioner Lawrence reminded the Commission that in 1991 he made a recommendation to rezone all property from Waterfront on Bay Street to the Waterfront on Highway 17 along Gloucester Street to Local Commercial.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he had an opportunity to look at the house on Magnolia Avenue and felt that the asking price of the house was far too much. Commissioner Plyman stated that the house should be used for a residence and not for commercial use.

Bill Goodyear, a life long resident of the City of Brunswick stated that the house at 1415 Magnolia Street has been in his family for over fifty years which was occupied by his late mother and sister. Mr. Goodyear stressed that Windsor Park is one of the finest residential areas in Brunswick and he would like the City to maintain the residential character of Windsor Park. Mr. Goodyear pleaded with the Commission to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood.

Kathleen Haller, representing Lindsey Properties stated that she lived in other communities and two years ago found the most beautiful place in the City of Brunswick. Mrs. Haller stated that the property was listed for \$99,000, however the owner expects to receive \$70,000 to \$80,000 for the sale of the property. Mrs. Haller pointed out that the house is not located on a two lane street, but a four lane highway and if the house was located on a two lane street, it would be a nice house to live in. Mrs. Haller stated that it is clear that the population in Brunswick has changed and things in the community will change.

Commissioner Plyman mentioned that this was the third request to change a zoning in the City from Lindsey Properties. Mrs. Haller stated that she was not aware of the other rezoning requests.

Mayor Wilson stated that this particular house has come before the commission for rezoning.

Ken Tollison filed an application for rezoning which was denied. Mayor Wilson stated that he feels the property should not be rezoned because of its residential character.

Mr. Horton resident of 1327 Magnolia Avenue stated that the property owners in Windsor Park do not want the property rezoned because older retired people and young adults with children live in the neighborhood. Mr. Horton recalled in 1988 that Mr. Gamblin and Ken Tollison tried and were unsuccessful in having the property rezoned.

Mr. Gamblin reminded the Commission of his health problems and explained that he finds it difficult to pay the taxes on the property which is valued at \$69,000. He asked the Commission to give him that right to sell his house without taking a drastic cut in the selling price.

Mr. Horton submitted an outlined map of the Windsor Park area to Commissioner Lawrence.

Mayor Wilson stated that this was the first Public Hearing and no action will be taken.

Melinda Thomas, owner of Gray Gables Antique Shop appeared before the Commission to request that the direction of a portion of Wolfe Street from Gloucester to F Streets be reversed to one-way North.

Commissioner Plyman moved to change a portion of Wolfe Street from Gloucester Street to F Street back to a two lane street.

The City Manager recommended reversing the direction one-way north, pointing out that two-way traffic would pose a traffic problem on Wolfe Street.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion reversing the direction of the traffic on Wolfe Street to one-way north. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman rescinded his motion.

Mayor Wilson recommended opening up a portion of F Street to allow parking and to finish the paving of about 150 feet of sidewalk. This met the consensus of the Commission.

### **SPLOST**

The City Manager stated that Mayor Wilson met with County Commissioner's Chairman Milton Lynn and discussed the SPLOST issue. Chairman Lynn agreed that the City would receive

34.8% of the SPLOST funds which is \$19,200,000 and the County would receive \$35,930,000 for a combined total of \$55,130,000. The City Manager submitted a list of the proposed City SPLOST project in the amount of \$19,200,000. The City Manager pointed out that the Commissions would meet jointly on Friday to vote as a body.

Commissioner Plyman stated that this is the first time the City will enjoy SPLOST funds and this will be the last time the City or County would have a SPLOST project because the Board of Education will take over.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he submitted figures for renovations of Old City Hall and the figures have changed. The City Manager stated that he spoke with Larry Evans and these are the figures that they came up with.

The City Manager stated that concerns about the SPLOST projects should be discussed and placed on a priority list.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the SPLOST projects submitted by the City Manager. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Tollison congratulated the Commission for their willingness to compromise. Commissioner Jennings commended the Mayor and City Manager for their leadership.

### **DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Mike deVegter, representing Office Associates appeared before the Commission to discuss constructing a new Department of Family and Children Services Building in the City of Brunswick and making the City of Brunswick the owner of the DAFACS Building. Mr. deVegter stated that there will be no financial risk or construction risk because funding would be provided by the State of Georgia, Department of Human Resources.

Steve Berman explained the City of Brunswick Department of Family and Children Services project. Mr. Berman pointed out that the building would be designed and constructed like other Department of Family and Children Services buildings in Dekalb County, Fulton County, Fayette County and Walker County. The cost of maintaining the building will be handled by the State and the City of Brunswick will own the building in 15 years. Mr. Berman stated that he felt that it is a good program for the Department of Family and

Children Services and the City of Brunswick.

The City Attorney stated that he was sure that the project was no risk to the City.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended drawing up a resolution supporting the Department of Family and Children Services project.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion adopting a resolution approving the Department of Family and Children Services project. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Wilson instructed the City Attorney and the City Manager to work with Mr. deVegter to find a site for the Department of Family and Children Services project.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the project is very good and that he has no objections to it.

Commissioner Plyman questioned how much money will be set aside for the maintenance of the DFCS building.

Steve Bergman stated that 25 cents per square foot will be set aside for maintenance of the building.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like to have a clause in the contract outlining that the City of Brunswick pays nothing and the DFCS building will be owned by the City in 15 years.

State Representative, Rev. E.C. Tillman stated that the money should have been used last year for the construction of the DFSC building. Representative Tillman stated that he wanted the City to have the opportunity to participate in the project, pointing out that it is a win, win situation for the City.

#### **OTHER CITY BUSINESS**

Robert MacGregor appeared before the Commission to report an incident that happened at his residence on Parkwood Drive on April 26, 1996 about 3:00 p.m. Mr. MacGregor recalled that a man approached him and his family in the back yard of his fenced in residence. Mr. MacGregor stated that he asked the man to leave his yard. Mr. MacGregor stated that he was approached by a man with a gun aimed at him. The man who entered the yard was secured by officers who showed a badge and implied they were police officers. Mr. MacGregor found out that these officers were with the Metro Drug Squad, who stressed that the arrest was an undercover drug operation and a risk.

Mr. MacGregor dictated that he wanted an apology from the Metro Drug Squad officers and suspension of the officer pointing the gun at him.

Mr. MacGregor mentioned that he did not call the City's Chief of Police because his wife is employed with the Police Department.

Mr. MacGregor stated that a meeting was held with the officers and he did not agree with what the officers said about having tunnel vision in that type of situation.

Mr. MacGregor stated that he was not aware of the operation of the Metro Drug Squad. The Drug Enforcement Commander does not work directly for anyone in the City or County and Mr. MacGregor stated that he was offended by the actions of the Drug Enforcement Commander.

Commissioner Plyman instructed Police Chief Cowan and Commander Merriman to appear before the Commission to discuss this problem.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that part of the problem with the Metro Drug Squad is organization, one half is City and the other half is County. There is no coherent structure. The organization should be restructured.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that Commander Merriman's supervisor should be in attendance to hear the problems.

Chief Cowan stated that the Commander of the Metro Squad is responsible to the Advisory Board and both the City and County Police Chiefs. The Commander's supervisor is in Savannah.

Mayor Wilson suggested eliminating funding for the Metro Drug Squad. Commissioner Jennings stated that the City should speak with all persons involved in the operation of Metro Squad before eliminating funding.

Police Chief Cowan stated that the first problem was the suspect chose Mr. MacGregor's yard to go into. Chief Cowan pointed out that Mr. MacGregor's son may have mentioned to the Drug Squad Officer's that the suspect was in their yard. Chief Cowan criticized the Metro Officers for not wearing vests and not identifying themselves.

Chief Cowan advised the Commission that Commander Merriman was in charge of Glynn, Camden, Brunswick and Jesup Metro Officers and Ron Roth is Commander Merriman's supervisor.

Commissioner Jennings reiterated that Commander Merriman and his supervisor Ron Roth and the Chiefs of Police should appear before the Commission.

The City Manager reported that the City was asked to participate with the County in collecting solid waste. The City Manager recommended that the City allow the County to receive the request for the proposal and not participate right now. The City should negotiate with the bidders.

This met the consensus of the Commission authorizing the City Manager to handle the solid waste proposals.

Mayor Wilson commended Glynn Bus Lines for choosing the City of Brunswick. Mayor Wilson stated that each member of the Commission should ride the bus.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Mayor

Attest:  
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City Clerk