

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., June 5, 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 Macleod seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of May 15, 1996.

RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO ALBERT WILLIAMS

Mayor Homer L. Wilson presented a Resolution to Albert Williams for his act of bravery in helping to save the lives of the Cuyler family during a fire at their residence on April 8, 1996.

DELEGATIONS

Bill Tipton representing the Visitors Bureau submitted a Economic Impact of Tourism Report to the City Commission. Mr. Tipton introduced Kathy Stratton a volunteer with Trupp, Hodnett Enterprises. Ms. Stratton gave an update on the Economic Impact on Expenditures in Glynn County. The update covered the total expenditures made by visitors, the number of jobs supported by the expenditures, wages, salaries and proprietary income earned by area residents and State and local government revenues generated. Mrs. Stratton stated that 1.53 million tourist stayed overnight in Glynn County and spent a total of \$699,874,553.00 on shopping, food, recreation, transportation and lodging.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the SPLOST tax would come from the great tourism in the City of Brunswick. Commissioner Jennings added he would like everyone to support SPLOST.

Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. Tipton and Ms. Stratton for the presentation.

Commissioner Plyman reported that Larry Credle was unable to attend the meeting. Commissioner Plyman stated that Mr. Credle was concerned with the 50/30/10 Liability limits required for taxi cabs operating in the City of Brunswick.

The City Manager stated that a meeting was held to discuss the current taxi cab ordinance. The City Manager pointed out that the current taxi cab ordinance was a version of the 1953 Code Book. Taxi cab owners and the City Attorney attended the meeting.

Commissioner MacLeod questioned whether the taxi cab owners discussed the liability limits. The City Manager stated that he recalled owners mentioning the liability insurance limits. Commissioner Plyman stated that the City should eliminate the use of a log book taxi cab owners are required to keep for the Police Department. Commissioner Plyman recommended that the City consider changing the taxi cab ordinance.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned the length of time the taxi cab owners keep log records. The City Manager stated that the records must be kept for one year. Mayor Wilson instructed the City Manager to look at raising the liability limits for taxi cabs

and review the statute on taxi cab owners keeping a log book.

Commissioner Jennings stressed his concerns about the log book and recommended that taxi cab owners use computers to record data and a tape recorder to tape calls.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the Police Department has not requested the use of a log book in fifteen years. Commissioner Plyman reminded the Commission that the use of computers are costly. Commissioner Plyman recommended that the City Manager meet with taxi cab owners and Chief Cowan to refine the taxi cab ordinance.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he wants it to be known that the City would not raise insurance liability limits unless the taxi cab owners have some input.

Ray White representing American Heritage Marketing Corporation appeared before the Commission to offer the Old Norwich Street Baptist Church building to the City of Brunswick. Mr. White stated that the building could be used for offices. Mr. White stated that the Church was appraised for \$550,000.

Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. White for the information.

The City Manager stated that he requested that Mr. Tony Kreimborg attend the meeting to discuss the proposal for a building for the Department of Family and Children Services.

Tony Kreimborg, Director of the Department of Family and Children Services appeared before the Commission to discuss locating a building or land for the use of the Department of Family and Children Services. Mr. Kreimborg stated that the relocation of the Department was approved and the agency was considering three sites: The old Brunswick Manufacturing Plant on Second Street, the Goody's Store in the Brunswick Mall, build or renovate a facility in Brunswick transferring ownership to the City of Brunswick. Mr. Kreimborg pointed out the State would choose the best bid using a number of factors to determine the site for the Department of Family and Children Services Building. Mr. Kreimborg stated that the Department of Family and Children Services has outgrown the building they are presently using.

Mayor Wilson questioned how the Department will pay rent and whether the City would collect taxes on the building. Mr. Kreimborg stated that the rent will be paid on an annual basis. The City Manager stated the property taxes will be paid by the individual who owns the property and if the City leases the property no taxes would be paid by the Department of Family and Children Services.

Commissioner Plyman asked who would be responsible in case of a default. The City Manager stated that the City would be responsible for the mortgage payments. Commissioner Plyman stated that he was under the impression that the State would be responsible and take care of any defaults.

Commissioner Plyman recommended that the City Manager and City Attorney meet with representatives to discuss the Department of Family and Children Services project.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like for the City to eliminate O&A Development Company from the project.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended using the Old Pontiac Building on Altama Avenue for the location of the Department of Family and Children Services, pointing out that the building is centrally located and has ample parking.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the Old Pontiac Building is not centrally located and is in the northend of the City. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that the building is a few blocks from the Brunswick Mall.

The consensus was authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to meet with representatives from the Department of Family and Children Services to discuss the project.

APPOINTMENT TO THE VISITOR'S BUREAU BOARD

Mayor Wilson relinquished his chair and as Commissioner Wilson he nominated Commissioner Jennings to serve on the Visitor's Bureau Board. There being no further nominations the nominations were closed. Commissioner Wilson moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion appointing Commissioner Jennings to serve on the Visitor's Bureau Board. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING PROPERTY FOR USE OF PARKING FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

The City Manager stated that Mr. Zell mailed a letter to the Commission concerning the sale of a sixty five foot tract of land for use of a parking lot for employees of the Fire Department. The City Manager stated that the employees used the lot to park their vehicles on for a number of years. The City Manager stated that the owners would like the City to purchase the property or sell it to another buyer. The City Manager stated that the land should be appraised, pointing out that the owner of the Antique Shop offered the City use of the parking lot behind the shop. The Commission authorized the City Manager to get another appraisal on the property.

DISCUSSION OF WATER USE IN THE CITY

The Director of Water and Wastewater appeared before the Commission to discuss water usage in the City and County. The Director of Water and Wastewater submitted a chart of daily water usage to the Commission. The Director of Water and Wastewater recommended installing irrigation meters to limit the use of water and asking residents to volunteer to use water at a certain time in the morning and evenings.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he was concerned about current water usage and usage for future generations.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that many citizens have complained about the water pressure and leakage of old underground pipes.

Mayor Wilson asked how the City of Brunswick compare to other cities in water usage. The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that he would have to look at the situation in each City separately. He stated that the question cannot be answered.

Commissioner Plyman asked whether the City could use gray water. The City Manager mentioned he attended meeting on Jekyll Island and found that the State was satisfied with the amount of water withdrawals Industries were making. He stated that Rayoneer in Jesup used the most water from the Florida Aquifer. The City Manager stated that the use of surface water is being considered by the Environmental Protection Division as an option.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like the City to encourage residents to use less water and water their yard from six to eight o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

It met the consensus of the Commission to advertise in the newspaper asking residents to restrict water usage on a voluntary basis.

CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

The City Manager submitted the proposed franchise agreement to the Commission. The City

Manager stated that Greg Fender a representative of the Georgia Municipal Association will appear at the next meeting to answer questions about the franchise agreement.

Mr. Broussard representing Century Cable stated that the company has been re-regulated by the FCC and Congress have been trying to structure the regulation. Century Cable has increased rates and have better programming.

Mayor Wilson stated that he received complaints from citizens concerning cable problems. Mayor Wilson stated that most of the low numbers on the television are cloudy.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he received a call from a citizen concerning problems with the company.

Mr. Broussard stated that citizens may call and report all problems to Century Cable.

Commissioner MacLeod questioned the terms of the franchise agreement. The City Manager stated that the franchise is for 10 years.

Commissioner Plyman questioned why the franchise fee is carried on the customers bill. He stated that he felt that the company should pay for the franchise fee out of their profit structure.

Mr. Broussard stated that the FCC give cable companies directions on what the company could charge.

CEMETERY DEEDS

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

- 1) Returning for resale Spaces C,D,E, & F of Lot No. 7, Section No. 102 in Greenwood Cemetery from Louise Walthour: Original deed surrendered.
- 2) Transferring Lot No. 9 Section No. 55 in Greenwood Cemetery from Hazel Allen to Delores Coleman. Original deed surrendered.
- 3) Transferring Lot No. 3, Section No. 76 in Greenwood Cemetery from Irene Atkinson to Delores Coleman.
Original deed lost or misplaced, but cemetery records verify ownership.
- 4) Issuing another deed to Gerald S. Atkinson in lieu of original deed which has been lost, misplaced or destroyed, but cemetery records verify ownership.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion adopting a Resolution authorizing the City to make purchases from the Department of Administrative Services. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager informed the Commission that the projects for the construction of the Waterfront Park have been finalized and the City will have a ground breaking ceremony with a completion date set for December of 1996.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract changing the date of completion on the Waterfront Park project to December 5, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City purchase materials to place a fencing around the front of Greenwood Cemetery.

Commissioner Plyman recommended opening up Lee and R Street to one-way traffic. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would not want congested traffic in front of the nursing home on Lee Street.

Commissioner Plyman recommended starting a perpetual care fund for the cemeteries in Brunswick. He also suggested asking the County to make contributions to the perpetual care fund, and to assist the City's staff in cleaning the cemetery at a joint City/County meeting. Commissioner Plyman then recommended that the City bring rates up to a comparable price for opening and closing of graves. Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like the City to set up a trust fund for the perpetual care at a bank in the City.

Commissioner Plyman offered a motion to set up a fund for perpetual care at a bank in the City. There was no second to the motion.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that setting up a perpetual care fund should be done at the discretion of the City Manager. Commissioner MacLeod also instructed the City Attorney to investigate to see whether the City can set up a perpetual care fund.

Commissioner Plyman asked the Commission to discuss the matter and make a decision when the Mayor is present.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he offered to repair the roof at the Police Department for \$1.00. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should not enter into a business contract with Commissioner Plyman while he is serving as a Commissioner, pointing out that it is not wise or legal. Commissioner MacLeod asked the City Manager to place the matter on the Agenda.

Commissioner Lawrence reported he received complaints from citizens concerning snakes living in ditches on Woodland Way.

The citizens also complained about children playing in the ditches. Commissioner Lawrence recommended fencing and cleaning the ditches on Woodland Way.

The City Manager stated that the City is in the process of hiring summer help to clean the ditches.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned why property owners pay a \$100.00 fee for rezoning property. The City Manager pointed out that the \$100.00 fee covers the City's Administration cost. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the property owner should be told that the fee is non-refundable.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like the City's staff to refrain from advising persons to proceed with any plans unless the zoning is in place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk