

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8.30 A. M., August 7, 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 Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of July 17, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING EMPLOYEES

Mayor Wilson presented a plaque and gift to Nan Bland in recognition of her 23 years of loyal efficient and devoted service to the City of Brunswick Finance Department. Received with appreciation, Commissioner Plyman adding his words of highest praise.

The Director of Finance, Rick Drummond stated that he worked with Mrs. Bland for fourteen years and she was very dependable and always at work even when she was sick.

Mayor Wilson presented a plaque and gift to Ernest Miller in recognition of his 28 years of faithful and dedicated service to the City of Brunswick as a Collection Foreman in the Water and Wastewater Department. Received with appreciation, Commissioner Plyman adding his words of highest praise.

The Director of Water and Wastewater, William Bill Powell stated that Mr. Miller was employed by the City when he began working for the City. He stated that Mr. Miller was a good employee who was always on time and very dependable.

CEMETERY DEEDS

Petition received to transfer Lot No. 25, Section No. C-11 in Palmetto Cemetery from Paul M. Varnedoe, Sr. to Paul M. Varnedoe, Jr. Original deed surrendered to the City Clerk. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion granting the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager reported in a Budget Work Session overtime for employees were discussed for grave openings for funerals scheduled on weekends.

Commissioner Plyman suggested having funerals during the week and not on weekends.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended notifying all Funeral Directors before any decision is made changing the dates of grave openings. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he understood the fee charged for grave openings pays for the employees overtime. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the fees that are charged for grave openings and closing are below the norm.

Mayor Wilson directed the City Manager to advise the Funeral Directors of the policy for opening and closing graves.

The City Manager reported that he received the project agreement from the Department of Transportation for I-95 and 341. He recommended that the City respond to DOT and authorize the Mayor to sign the project agreement.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the I-95 and 341 project agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Wilson went on record to state that he has always been against additional taxation unless SPLOST is used to upgrade the community. Mayor Wilson stated that he did not feel the citizens should go back to the bond market. He stated that he did not intend to stymie growth in the community and felt it is the City's responsibility to citizens to help maintain growth within the City.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the City may declare a moratorium on water in the County if something is not done about the improvements to the City's Academy Creek Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Commissioner Jennings recommended entering into a contract with the citizens of Glynn County so all citizens would know what infrastructure would be paid with SPLOST funds. Commissioner Jennings stated that there have been some misunderstandings in the past concerning local option sales tax and special purpose local option sale taxes. To avoid these past misunderstandings with our citizens and to be totally frank, we feel there should be a contract with people, so that everyone knows what infrastructure will be paid for by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

1. There will be a year report published in all news media stating precisely how much revenue came in that year;
and reporting exactly how money's were spent including interest.
2. There will be a sunset clause, if 57 million dollars is not received before five years then that will end the additional one cents sales tax.

Commissioner Jennings stated that people are disillusioned because roads were promised to be paved. This would assure persons on how SPLOST funds would be spent and this should be spelled out in the citizens contract.

Mayor Wilson stated that citizens of Brunswick would support SPLOST for improvements to the treatment and Old City Hall.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that citizens would support improvements to the treatment plant by voting for SPLOST; however, citizens would like to have the drainage problems addressed in College Park and Magnolia Park.

The City Manager stated that flooding and drainage in Magnolia Park and College Park will be addressed under SPLOST.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that drainage problems were investigated in Magnolia Park and found that City employees were using blowers to blow grass in the ditches after the ditches were cleaned.

Commissioner Plyman stated that City employees did not blow grass back into the ditches because the City's blower was on the back of his truck.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he found that the ditches behind homes in Magnolia Park are owned by the home owners and they had no knowledge of this.

Commissioner Plyman stated that property owners own the ditches because the City was not granted an easement.

The City Manager stated that the City acquired an easement for the large ditches in Magnolia Park, but most of the ditches are owned by property owners in Magnolia Park.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that citizens were encouraged to move into the City and was promised that the City would clean and maintain the ditches.

Commissioner Plyman asked what the City would have to do to gain easements to the ditches in Magnolia Park.

The City Attorney stated that he would have to look at the Subdivision Plat, and gather information and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should find out who is responsible for cleaning the ditches and select a drainage coordinator to take of the drainage in Magnolia Park.

The City Manager reported that the City was asked to pay one fourth of the cost to correct the lighting problems at Lanier Field. The \$23,500.00 cost would be split between the City, School Board, Boys Club of Glynn and the County. The County is willing to pay one fourth of the \$23,500.00 because the lights are not working and the Youth League uses the football field for games.

The City Manager explained that it would benefit the City and allow the City to utilize the field more and play more games after it turns dark.

Mayor Wilson stated that it is a great likelihood that the City would not turn down the request, however the City need to look at the budget.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the youth of the City is very important.

The City Manager reported that the City received \$10,000.00 for improvements to Goodyear Park from the State Department of Natural Resources. The City Manager stated that the Park was chosen from a grant that was submitted to the Department.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion accepting the grant for \$10,000.00 for improvements to Goodyear Park. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported a vacancy on the Recreation Board.
It met the consensus of the Commission to advertise the vacancy on the Recreation Board.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that reminders be mailed to members of the City's Board and Commission when their terms expire.

The City Manager reported that the City buried a time capsule and it is scheduled to be dug up in August. He suggested holding a ceremony to retrieve the time capsule.

Commissioner Jennings recommended a 3% increase for all employees beginning the 1st day of January 1997.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to discuss the Fire Department Budget. The City Manager stated that a Public Hearing must be held before the City's Budget is adopted.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to hear from the new Purchasing Director Johnny Cason.

Mayor Wilson recessed the meeting for five minutes.

Meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

The City Manager introduced the Administrative Service Director, Johnny Cason to the Commission. The City Manager stated that Mr. Cason is presently working on purchasing policies and procedures for the City. The City Manager stated that Mr. Cason has great experience in purchasing.

Mr. Cason stated a blanket order is in process with vendors to save on purchasing commodities. Mr. Cason stated that he was willing to work with the Commission on what they want.

The City Manager stated that purchasing will be limited to a number of persons authorized to sign on the City's account. This would allow much more control.

Mayor Wilson stated the he would like the City to take another look at other vendors for purchasing automotive and hardware items for the City. Mayor Wilson requested a monthly report for items purchased for the City.

Commissioner Plyman requested allowing \$200.00 to \$300.00 to each Department per week to purchase items that are needed to operate each department.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he objected, pointing out that the City will be nicked to death. Commissioner MacLeod suggested limiting purchases to \$25.00 per week for each Department.

Commissioner Jennings recommended buying in bulk to save the City money.

Mayor Wilson stated that items like pens and pencils should be in storage. Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Cason not to honor any purchases made without a purchase order.

Mr. Cason pointed out that a Courier Service was used to deliver materials to City Hall when the city was preparing for a Hurricane and not one employee had to go out and pick up anything.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City Manager and Mr. Cason should be the only persons authorized to sign for items that are purchased for the City.

Commissioner Plyman requested that the City set up a meeting to discuss the Fire Department's budget.

Commissioner Plyman recommended offering the County \$30.00 per day for prisoners retroactive to when the \$1.00 per day fee expired. Commissioner Lawrence stated that this should be discussed with the new County Commission Board.

Commissioner Lawrence requested installing handicap parking signs in front of Jordan Grove Church on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

The City Attorney stated that an ordinance on Soil Erosion would be submitted at the next meeting for adoption.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk