

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., September 4, 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 Lawrence seconded the motion approving the minutes of August 21, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mayor Wilson presented Firefighter of the Month Award from John Oxendine, State Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner to Inspector P.J. Blanchard of the Brunswick Fire Department. Received with appreciation.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Mayor Wilson presented a Certificate of Recognition to Firefighter Jarvis Johnson and Engineer John Madala for volunteering service to the City of Atlanta during the 1996 Olympic Games.

RECREATION BOARD

Commissioner Plyman nominated Kathy Saveland to serve on the Recreation Board. There being no further nominations the nomination for the Recreation Board was closed.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion appointing Kathy Saveland to the Recreation Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Wilson deferred the following agenda items until the next Commission meeting.

Number 6. Solid Waste Plan and Discussion of the Radisson Hotel/Jekyll Island

Number 8. Cemetery Deed

DELEGATION

Ken Whiddon appeared before the Commission to discuss concerns of safety of citizens who live near the Old Brunswick Hospital, known as Harper's Joy Apartment Complex.

Mr. Whiddon stated that Gateway Center services people with disabilities and three fourth of the apartments at Harper's Joy will be used for physically and mentally disabled persons, and one fourth will be used by staff and non-disabled residents. The staff will live on the premises to monitor persons 24-hours a day 7 days a week.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he observed persons who live in another home on Norwich Street that were not supervised.

Commissioner Lawrence asked how will Gateway Center monitor the violence at Harper's Joy Apartments.

Jay Coughenour stated that there will be staffing twenty-four hours daily and clients will live as normal a lifestyle as their disability will permit and security will be on the premises. Some clients will require constant monitoring and others will need help with everything such as learning to do their laundry and balancing a check-book. Most persons who live in group homes are not monitored. Harper's Joy Apartments will be a good place for clients to live.

Mr. Whiddon stated that clients will be free to leave the apartment complex.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that citizens have a right to make sure they live in a well rounded neighborhood and they are concerned about violence.

Commissioner MacLeod asked Mr. Whiddon if the agency was operated by County or State. Mr. Whiddon stated that it was a public agency and Glynn County Commissioners appointed the Board of Directors and they receive State and Federal Funding.

Commissioner Jennings asked if Mr. Whiddon conducted a background investigation to find out if any clients are convicted felons.

Mr. Whiddon stated that they do not conduct a background check because they handle about 5,000 clients. A medical investigation check is conducted.

Mayor Wilson stated that he did not oppose it, but citizens are concerned and the Commission is concerned because Gateway entered into a contract with Harper's Joy Apartment and the City did not know patients was moving into the City until they read about it in the newspaper.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that Gateway should have been courteous enough to come before the Commission and offer the Commissioners an opportunity to appoint the Board of Directors.

Commissioner Plyman asked Mr. Whiddon why he circumvented the City Commission by not allowing any input from anyone before moving clients into the Harper's Joy Apartment complex.

Mayor Wilson stated that citizens in the community that would be affected were not given an opportunity to give input.

Mrs. Krauss a resident of the South End asked if any drug addicts will be living in the apartment complex.

Mr. Coughenour stated that he did speak with residents about their concerns and he pointed out that finding housing for the clients was a community problem.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he could not vote for the program if a City Commission was not part of the Board. Mr. Whiddon stated that State Law designates that Glynn County Commission appoints the Board of Directors and the City makes an appointment to the Board of Health.

Commissioner Plyman asked Mr. Whiddon to check with County Commission to see if a member of the City Commission can appoint a member to Gateway Board of Directors. Commissioner Plyman told Mr. Whiddon that Gateway should always come before the Commission if they plan on placing another facility in the City. Commissioner Plyman stated Mr. Whiddon did a bad job with Public relations.

Mr. Whiddon admitted he could have handled things differently. Mr. Whiddon questioned whether the City monitors all facilities in the City.

Mayor Wilson explained that every business must be licensed by the City.

Ernest Craft stated that the Glynn Paton Foundation trained persons back in the 1950's and never had problems. Mr. Craft pointed out that the numbers will increase and a lot of persons

will be living in the facility.

The City Attorney stated that the State Agency is a Multi County Organization and the City does not have jurisdiction and the building is authorized for any public use. It would have been better if the gentlemen met with the City Commission first.

A concerned citizen questioned whether a background check was conducted because she was concerned about having pedophile in the area.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he was appalled that the State Government over looked the citizens. He stated that if a Public Hearing was held it would have been held at the Glynn County Stadium and they would have been run out of town.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he did not agree with Commissioner Plyman and he was sure Gateway had good intentions.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City will be monitoring the facility and if the City finds anything objectionable the City will contact the State Agency about their concerns.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager stated that a request was received from the Risley High Alumni Association for use of the Friendship House on Bartow Street to hold meetings and other activities.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing Risley High Alumni Association the use of the Friendship Building on Bartow Street. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported that Glynn County Commission received from the Department of Transportation the cost for pre-construction engineering for Martin Luther King Blvd. The City Manager pointed out that the City should have control over the construction of Martin Luther King Blvd and not the County. The City Manager stated that the cost will be discussed at the County Commission on Thursday.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the SPLOST Projects should be listed in the Brunswick News and it would be helpful in making the Community aware of what the funds would be used for. Mayor Wilson stated that the Brunswick News should run it as a public service.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the public should be involved in the next time capsule. He asked that the new time capsule be deferred until next month to have more participation from the public and better organization.

Commissioner Jennings recommended raising the retirement rate from 1.50 to 1.60 starting in January. He recommended that the Director of Finance and the City Manager bring back a recommendation to the Commission.

The Director of Finance stated that the City contributes \$345,000.00 annually to fund the pension. Mayor Wilson stated that the City must be very careful about what they are doing. He stated that the City is not stable enough to use revenues so rapidly.

Commissioner MacLeod reported that people gather at the book store on Newcastle Street regularly to smoke and it is causing a real problem. Mr. Whiddon stated that Gateway leased space for clients to smoke.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether the City was preparing for Hurricane Fran. The City Manager stated that voluntary evacuation started at 8:30 AM on the South End of Brunswick to South of L Street.

Commissioner Lawrence asked the progress of the bathrooms at the cemeteries. The City

Manager stated that the building would be completed next Wednesday.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he received several complaints concerning Community workers operating lawn mowers when persons are sleeping. The City Manager stated that he would speak to the Director of Public Works about placing workers on another assignment.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that Five Points is still interested in collecting payments for water bills. The City Manager stated that he set a date to discuss collecting water payments with the manager Mr. Sallas.

The City Attorney stated that the Commission made a motion to accept a grant to make improvements to Goodyear Park in the meeting of August 7th. The City Attorney recommended amending the minutes of August 7th to include a resolution. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion amending the minutes of August 7th to include the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

WHEREAS, at the Regular Meeting of the Commission

of the City of Brunswick, Georgia, held on the 7th day of August, 1996, a motion was made and duly seconded that the Commission agree to the terms of the contract for a state grant between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the City of Brunswick for a grant of financial assistance to the City of Brunswick for recreation improvements at Goodyear Park and to authorize the Mayor to execute said contract in the amount of \$10,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of

the City of Brunswick, Georgia, that the terms and conditions of the contract between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the City of Brunswick are hereby agreed to, that the Mayor is authorized and empowered to execute said contract and any subsequent amendments thereto on behalf of the City of Brunswick, and the grant provided for in said contract in the amount of \$10,000.00 is hereby accepted to be used under the terms and conditions of said contract, and that sufficient funds have been designated to assure the acquisition and/or development, operation and maintenance of the facilities and/or delivery of services as identified in said contract.

Read and unanimously adopted in the Regular Meeting

of the Commission of the City of Brunswick held on the 7th day of August, 1996.

Commissioner Plyman stated at the last meeting he inquired about starting a perpetual care fund for the cemeteries. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion authorizing the City to start a perpetual care fund for Cemeteries in the City of Brunswick. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Wilson suggested opening City Hall to persons in need of shelter from the hurricane. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to open up City Hall to persons in need of a Shelter. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk