

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., September 18, 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 to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 4, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

SOLID WASTE PLAN

The Director of Community Development submitted the Solid Waste Management Plan for approval. The Director of Community Development stated that the plan was approved by the State Department of Community Affairs in August, 1996.

Commissioner Plyman questioned where the City would dispose of Solid Waste when Poppell Eller Landfill is full. The City Manager stated that he discussed the disposal of Solid Waste with the Director of Public Works. Commissioner Plyman questioned whether the City submitted plans for a landfill area in the solid Waste Management Plan. The Director of Community Development stated that a letter was submitted indicating that the City did have an area to dispose of Solid Waste. He stated that Mr. Mike Fairman of Glynn Iron & Steel was willing to pick up refrigerators and other household items in the City.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like for the Director of Public Works to meet with business owners such as Mr. Fairman and set up a schedule for the collection of white goods, mattresses, couches and other household appliances.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion adopting the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Commissioner Plyman went on record stating that the City should start immediately looking for another area to store items in the City.

Mayor Wilson stated that most people do not have trucks to haul trash and they leave items on the side of the street. Mayor Wilson stated that the Council will have to address this.

On call for the question the motion passed unanimously.

JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB/RADDISON HOTEL

The Director of Community Development reported that he received a letter from owners of the Jekyll Island Hotel, Leon Weiner and Associates, requesting that the City subordinate its two million dollar Urban Development Action Grant Agreement Loan in order to expand the Jekyll Island Club Hotel and to stabilize financing.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that after careful research he found out that it was not a risk for the City to go from second mortgage holder to third mortgage holder.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether the hotel had enough equity to take care of the debt if the hotel closed today or tomorrow.

The Director of Community Development stated that the loan payments were paid on time and to his understanding there have not been any problems with Jekyll Island Club Hotel paying their loan.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion approving the request to subordinate the Jekyll Island Club Hotel Urban Development Action Grant Loan of two million dollars. The motion passed unanimously.

SMALL CITIES GRANT

The Director of Community Development reported that a Small Cities Grant was submitted by the City of Brunswick for drainage on Albany Street. He requested that the City submit a Storm Sewage Grant Application and a Home Fund Grant Application to help home owners purchase a home within the City with an additional \$10,000.00. The Director of Community Development stated that a house on Stonewall Street could be repaired and sold to someone who needs a home. He stated that he would like to submit plans for renovation of the Roxy theater.

Commissioner Lawrence asked whether Community Crafters will be able to change the renovation plans of the Roxy Theater without the approval of the City of Brunswick. The Director of Community Development stated that all changes in plans must be approved by the City.

Mayor Wilson questioned where the storm lines would be placed. The City Manager stated that the City Engineer already looked at the area and recommended that the lines run into the H Street lines.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the following Resolution which was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Brunswick that it hereby approves the Small Cities Program for Street Drainage, Neighborhood Training Center Renovation and Home Funds in the amount of \$935,450.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Community Development is hereby authorized to file the Application with the State Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Plyman commended the Director of Community Development for the work on the Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Director of Community Development thanked the members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Chairman Brad Brown and Co-chairman Zack Lyde.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PAY PLAN

The Chief of Police submitted information regarding a pay increase for City Police Officers. The Chief of Police stated that 72 Police Officers accepted employment with other Governmental bodies and the cost of training an officer for six months cost the City \$844,344.00. These officers averaged three and a half years of employment with the City before leaving. The Chief of Police stated that he conducted a survey and found that 75% of the Officers left because of money. The Chief of Police requested that the City consider implementing a pay increase for Entry Level Officers starting with \$18,241.00 and upon completion of certification

the officers salary will be increased to \$19,156.00.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would love to raise the entry of level in all 10 departments, however most people are concerned with crime.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the most dangerous thing in the world is an inexperienced Police Officer. He stated that he was very concerned about this community being patrolled by Rookies, pointing out that crime could be stopped if officers stay with the Police Department.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Commission must face the fact that the City of Brunswick is the lowest paying Department in Southeast Georgia, besides Kingsland, Georgia. Commissioner MacLeod suggested doing something about this because Brunswick was at the bottom.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether the Police Officers were asked if they would stay if their salary was increased. The Chief of Police stated that the question was never asked in the survey, but officers he spoke with did say they would stay with the City if the salary was increased.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City should work toward a solution if the Police Officers are willing to work with the City.

The Director of Finance stated that he worked with the Chief of Police and was in support of the pay plan. He pointed out that the City does have the money to support the pay plan.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to increase the Police Officer's entry level salary to \$18,241.00 and upon completion of certification increase the amount of \$19,156.00. The motion passed unanimously.

RETIREMENT PLAN

The Director of Finance submitted information regarding the City's Retirement Plan. The Director of Finance stated that the City has an administrator for the Pension fund and the City also has investments.

Commissioner Jennings questioned how many employees would retire in five years. The City Manager stated that a small percentage would retire in five years.

Mayor Wilson stated that the Commission would like to study the Retirement Plan.

Mayor Wilson asked the Director of Finance which plan would he recommend. The Director of Finance recommended the 2% plan.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to have two major funds and have another company to invest for the City. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to have the information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jennings suggested calling a bonding company to get some investing ideas concerning the pension.

CEMETERY DEEDS

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

1. Petition received from Mrs. Exer A. Lively to transfer Lot No. 1, Section No. 114 in Palmetto Cemetery to Mrs. Exer A. Lively and Mrs. Celesta A. Pittman. Original

deed surrendered.

2. Petition received to return for resale Spaces A, B and C of Lot No. 17, Section No. 103 in Greenwood Cemetery from Faye Stevens. Original deed lost, but City Cemetery records verify ownership.

REDEMPTION DEED

Redemption requested in the name of the present owner Andrew Canion on Town Commons between Cochran and Stonewall Streets N-3/5 of S-2/3 of E-1/2 of Lot No. 39. Property acquired at City Tax Sale. All taxes interest and costs in the amount of \$132.28 have been paid. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute Redemption deed. The motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The following reports for the month of August, 1996 were received and filed as information: (1) General Fund (2) Water & Wastewater Fund (3) Community Development (4) Metro Squad (5) Municipal Court and (6) Uncollectible Water Accounts. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the monthly reports. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like information on how much it would cost to borrow one million dollars to start immediately restoring Old City Hall. Commissioner Plyman instructed the City Manager to get architecture plans and estimates on stabilizing the roof.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to start immediately on plans to restore Old City Hall.

Commissioner Jennings commended Mayor Wilson and County Commissioner Lynn for working on passing SPLOST.

Commissioner Jennings stated he would like to receive the first check from the county to stabilize the roof at Old City Hall and clean up the area where pigeons dropped feces. He instructed the Director of Finance to look for funding.

Commissioner Plyman suggested borrowing two million dollars from a local lender for a short term at a low interest.

The City Manager stated that the City should try to get local funding to start on projects. The City Attorney stated that the City should borrow money consistent with the law.

On call for the question the motion passed unanimously.

The Director of Finance submitted a Surplus List of Equipment for the City/County Auction scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 1996.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting approval of the Surplus List. The motion passed unanimously.

Elmo Richardson representing Tribble and Richardson appeared before the Commission to discuss plans for the improvements to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr.

Richardson stated that the job would be completed in 240 calendar days. Mr. Richardson recommended that the City start advertising immediately to award the bid on the 16th day of October with December 1, 1996 being the projected date for construction, and payment being made to the contractor beginning January 1, 1997.

Mr. Richardson stated that he was confident that the Environmental Protection Division will grant the City an extension.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commisisoner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the City to advertise bids for capital improvements of the Water and Wastewater Plant. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Attorney stated that he will check to see if any other projects could be included as priority projects in the bond issue.

The City Manager reported that bids were received for a Recreational Vehicle for the Recreation Department:

<u>Nalley</u>	<u>Colonial Ford</u>
1997 GMC Jimmy - \$20,000	1997 Ford Explorer - \$21,550.70

<u>Dan Vaden</u>	<u>Clint Brannen</u>
1996 Chevy Blazer - \$22,297	1996 Ford Explorer - \$22,529.00
	1997 Chevy Blazer - \$23,398.00

He recommended accepting the low bid of \$20,000.00 from Nalley Honda, Jeep, GMC for a 1997 GMC Jimmy.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion accepting the low bid of Nalley in the amount of \$20,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jennings reported that he received four phone calls concerning speeders coming from King and Prince Seafood. The City Manager stated that the Director of Public Works will place four way stop signs in the area of Third Avenue.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Traffic Engineer should be consulted and the Police Department should observe speeders in the area.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to thank persons for contributing labor at Palmetto Cemetery.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing the City to place an ad in the paper thanking persons for contributing labor at Palmetto Cemetery.

The motion passed unanimously.

The City Attorney reported that a draft of the Resolution establishing a Cemetery Fund will be submitted and stated he did not find any City Ordinance regulating Cemetery Trust Funds.

Mayor Wilson reported that he attended the Board of Health meeting and discussed persons moving in the Harper Joy Apartments. Mayor Wilson stated that he felt that the City should monitor the apartments because many people from Chatham County will transfer to Brunswick to live in the apartments and if there is any problems the citizens of Brunswick will do everything they can to have them removed.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk