

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**7:00 P. M., October 16, 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 and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to approving the minutes of the meeting of October 2, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF GOLDEN ISLES ARTS AND HUMANITIES PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Wilson presented a proclamation to SiSi Wooldridge proclaiming October as Arts and Humanities Month in the City of Brunswick.

**PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO RECREATION DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL**

Mayor Wilson presented a plaque to Recreation Employees Vanessa Booker and Thomas Hall in honor of being selected as the District Award recipient for promoting recreation in the City of Brunswick.

The Recreation Director Joey Cason stated that the Recreation Department has made great strides with recreation in the City of Brunswick. There are programs for almost 500 kids including an after school program. Project Dance will be sponsored by Glynn County Commission on Youth and Children. The Recreation Department has a walking Club for senior citizens.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the City should think about programs to help high risk kids and work with churches to help keep kids off the streets.

The Recreation Director stated that the Glynn County Commission on Children and Youth will be working with the Chief of Police.

Mayor Wilson stated that a Shuffle Board Court and Crocheting Club is needed for senior citizens in the City of Brunswick.

Florence Dees, Glynn County Tax Commissioner appeared before the Commission to discuss the duties of the Tax Commissioner's Office. Mrs. Dees stated that a statement was made about the Tax Commissioners Office being above the law and the values of the 1993 tax digest should be rolled back. Mrs. Dees stated that she was concerned about the statement made on a radio talk show by a City Commission.

Commissioner Plyman stated that Glynn County was not mandated to reevaluate property in 1995. Mrs. Dees pointed out that Glynn County was ordered by

State law to reevaluate property and the County has to comply with State law.

Commissioner Plyman stated that citizens protested the 1995 tax digest. He pointed out that the 1995 and 1996 tax digest has not been approved by the State. Commissioner Plyman stated that he had to wait one year for an appeal hearing and the day the County scheduled the appeal he participated in a clean up of Palmetto Cemetery and the County refused to reschedule his appeal hearing.

Commissioner Plyman stated he will speak with State Legislature concerning the County Tax Commissioner running to a Superior Court Judge to get permission to collect County taxes.

Mrs. Dees stated that one class action suit was filed against Glynn County in 1974. Mrs. Dees suggested that Commissioner Plyman speak with Chief Tax Appraiser Joe Williams about the concerns of the Tax Assessors Office.

Commissioner Jennings questioned whether the State law requires tax assessors every three years to look at houses to lower the taxes and not raise the taxes.

The City Attorney stated that the City is mandated by State law to use the assessed values. The City Attorney stated that he is not updated on the law of Assessment by fair market value. The City Attorney pointed out that houses are appraised according to sales in the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Jennings stated that millions of tax payer's money was spent and the tax Assessors did not do their job.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

Duane Harris, Director of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division appeared before the Commission to discuss the Coastal Zone Management Program. Mr. Harris stated that the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 was passed to protect Coastal Areas. The Coastal Management Act was a voluntary program for Coastal Counties to participate in. He stated that it would be Georgia's best interest to join the Coastal Management Zone. Mr. Harris stated that a decision should be made by December by passing a resolution in favor of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Mr. Harris stated that the legislation once it is approved will authorize DNR to receive federal funds and a citizens advisory committee will be appointed by the Governor.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to study the information concerning the Coastal Zone Management.

Mayor Wilson pointed out that he owned property and could not use the land because of the Coastal Marshland Protection Act.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City residents have not been able to launch boats in the area near the Department of Natural Resources Building. Mayor Wilson stated that the relocation of the Coast Guard would allow the City to place a boat ramp on the property.

Commissioner Plyman questioned why Georgia did not join the Coastal Management Program along with other states. Mr. Harris stated that it was a downside and states would have had to work harder to develop flexible management plans for the eleven counties in the Coastal Zone.

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Peeples owners of P & C Deli, 3015 Norwich Street appeared before the Commission to discuss the rerouting of drainage lines to the City's sewer lines.

The City Manager stated that a new sewer line was installed and as a result the Peeples had to have a lot of plumbing work done. The Peeples are requesting reimbursement of \$5,000 from the City.

Mayor Wilson stated that it seems like the water staff and the Engineer would have known where the sewer lines were located.

Commissioner Plyman stated that someone in the Water and Wastewater Department should have known where to find the sewer tap. The City Manager pointed out that no one knows exactly where the tap is located.

The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that the City had a sewer line collapse on Ellis Street and Hill Place and the sewer line was replaced. P & C Deli line runs on Ellis Street. The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that his staff advised the owners of the deli about the sewer line replacement.

Mr. Peeples submitted drawings of the sewer lines and explained how the City failed to tie the deli into the new sewer line.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that in the future the City should have a form completed by the resident. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City Manager should take care of the problem.

#### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS**

The following alcoholic beverage petitions for 1997 license renewals were submitted, having been approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager, were on motion of Commissioner Lawrence seconded by Commissioner Plyman was unanimously granted:

To retail alcoholic beverages including beers and wine for consumption on premises:

Sandra L. Webb at Bamboo Lounge, 2717R Glynn Avenue;

Alfredo Jaime at El Potro Mexican Restaurant, 3460 Cypress Mill Rd;

Angie Smith at Hideaway Lounge, 17091/2 Gloucester Street;

Paul L. Marshall at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2588, 2120 Davis Street;

To retail beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Henry A. Sowell at Bunky's Foods, 2834 Glynn Avenue;

Robert Cooke at Kroger 4980 Altama Avenue;

William D. Clark III at Happy Mart #35 Piedmont Petroleum Corp., 3319 Glynn Avenue;

To retail beer for consumption on premises:

R.P. Brubaker at King & Prince Seafood Corp., 100 Lanier Blvd;

Sidney L. Cottingham at Pizza Hut #621085, 4441 Altama Avenue;

Keith M. Middleton at Pizza Inn 2803 Cypress Mill Road;

To wholesale beer and wine for consumption off premises:

David Moody at National Distributing Co.; 1725 T Street;

Gary F. Sheffield at Sheffield Distributing Co., 2129 Line Street;

**RECOMMENDATION FOR INSURANCE RENEWALS**

The Director of Finance submitted the following Insurance Renewal recommendations:

General Liability American Southern	\$54,206
United National	\$10,500
Law Enforcement	\$37,486
Diamond States Public Officials	\$8,399
Workers Compensation HRH	\$75,500

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the recommendation of staff. The motion passed unanimously.

**BID RECOMMENDATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO ACADEMY CREEK TREATMENT PLANT**

Elmo Richardson, representing Tribble and Richardson submitted recommendation of award contract for construction Improvements of the Academy Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Richardson stated seal bids were opened 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 16, 1996 at City Hall. After examining the bids for specifications it was determined that Allen Graham, Inc. was the lowest bidder in the amount of \$2,095,468.39.

Mr. Richardson recommended that the City accept the low bid of Allen & Graham, Inc.

Commissioner Plyman asked if the City could rebid the project at a later date, pointing out that the bid exceeded \$200,000.00 from the estimates given last year.

Mr. Richardson stated that estimates were over \$285,000.00 because of the new sulfur dioxide storage building for the new chloration system and dechloration system. Mr. Richardson stated that the work and repairs have

to be done.

The City Manager stated that the City should move quickly because the City could have a failure in the sewer system.

Mayor Wilson went on record to state that he will not consent to any change order and that he was against any overrun or change order.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion accepting the low bid of Allen & Graham in the amount of \$2,095,468.39.

Mr. Richardson stated that he understood Mayor Wilson's position on change orders. Mr. Richardson stated that he would meet with Allen & Graham, Inc. to negotiate and try and get the bid price down.

The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that he estimated the prices for the sewer project and did the best he could do to estimate the price of the sewer projects.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he objects to how much the project was under estimated and desired to have the project rebid or negotiate with contractors to bring the bid lower.

On call for the question the motion passed unanimously.

#### **QUEEN'S SQUARE**

The City Manager stated that he received a request from the Down Merchants Association for the use of Queen's Square to hold a Pumpkin Carving Contest for Halloween. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting the request for use of Queen's Square. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **QUIT CLAIM DEED**

Petition received from Jim Benefield as Attorney for Alex Hall in favor of his client on N-15' of Lot No. 89 in New Town to clear title record of tax deed taken by the City which was subsequently redeemed, but was lost without being recorded. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion granting the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

The following reports for the month of September were submitted and filed as information: (1) General Fund (2) Water and Wastewater (3) Metro Squad (4) Community Development (5) Municipal Court and (6) Uncollectible Water Accounts. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to accept the monthly reports. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION OF WRECKER ORDINANCE**

The City Manager stated that Commissioner Plyman was concerned about the current rate wrecker companies are charging for towing fees. The City

Manager stated that the current ordinance was adopted in 1986.

Commissioner Plyman suggested revising the wrecker ordinance and bring towing fees up to date.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would like the wrecker ordinance towing fees brought up.

The City Manager stated that he would be happy to set up a meeting with Chief Cowan and wrecker companies and bring information back to the Commission.

The Commission discussed holding a work session on Tuesday night.

#### **OTHER CITY BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilson welcomed Joe Jaudon candidate, for State Representative, District 173.

The City Manager reported that Bid documents are being prepared for architects for Restoration of Old City Hall.

It met the consensus of the Commission to make temporary patches to the roof of Old City Hall to stop further deterioration.

Commission Jennings stated that he would like for contractors and roofers to be notified to bid on the temporary roof job.

The City Manager reported that the City should designate passive parks. The City Manager stated that he needed guidance to proceed with the issue because it has been a conflict with neighbors.

The City Attorney stated that the Commission has the authority to prohibit certain activities in the park.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended setting the rules and activities in the park. The City Manager stated that passive park signs are posted in the parks and no games are allowed.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended advertising for a Public Hearing and having the Director of Recreation address the issue.

Mayor Wilson stated that the neighborhood must be kept orderly and the City Ordinance states that Police Officers can enforce peace and quiet in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Jennings announced that the Unity Breakfast will be held at the Island Club on November 12th. He stated that the breakfast would be financed by Sea Island and the Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center.

Commissioner MacLeod reported that Adopt-a- Park rules have drawn up by the Park and Tree Board and citizens should be made aware of these rules. Commissioner Plyman reported that the building in Greenwood Cemetery will be completed. Commissioner Plyman recommended purchasing a new mower for

Greenwood Cemetery. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the purchase of a lawn mower subject to staff getting bids. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager submitted a list of streets for the LARP Resurfacing project.

Commissioner Plyman questioned when Parkwood Drive would be resurfaced. The City Manager stated that repair work needs to be done on Parkwood Drive before it could be resurfaced.

Commissioner Jennings reported Reynolds Street on the south end needs resurfacing.

The City Manager stated that the list of streets for resurfacing could be added to or taken away.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commission seconded the motion approving the list for the LARP Resurfacing project submitted by the City Manager. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Police Department refuse to answer calls on L Street to R Street and on Stonewall Street to Cleburne Street. Commissioner Lawrence stated that a shooting happened on O and Gordon Street around 2:00 a.m. and no one responded to the call.

Sergeant Bruce stated that a resident called and did not want the Police to come to her house. Sergeant Bruce stated that a police officer was sent and no one was found.

The City Manager stated that he will meet with Chief Cowan to go over the 911 calls after the meeting and discuss the problems.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that residents are being charged for sewer in the County and are not connected to sewer lines. The City Manager stated that he will have the water accounts pulled up to check to see if residents are being charged for sewer.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the street sweeper does not sweep streets in the City anymore. The City Manager stated that he would check to see why the street sweeper is not sweeping streets.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that churches use Coffin Park for banquets and the City stopped setting up tables for these banquets. Commissioner Lawrence stated he would like to know when the policy changed.

The City Attorney reported that the City closed a portion of Old Cypress Mill Road and the deed should be executed by the Mayor. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the deed closing a portion of Old Cypress Mill Road. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute a quit claim deed to Sandra Martin upon

verification of taxes being paid. The motion passed unanimously.  
Mayor Wilson asked Police Chief Cowan to handle drug problems in the City.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Mayor

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk