

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., December 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 Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of December 4, 1996. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING CITY EMPLOYEE

Mayor Wilson recognized retiring Brunswick Fire Department Employee Inspector P.J. Blanchard 34 years of dedicated service to the City of Brunswick.

Mr. Blanchard thanked the Commission for the opportunity of serving the City for 34 years.

PUBLIC HEARING

This being the date, time and place for public hearing on proposal to rezone Lot 10, Block L of Goodyear Park from R-9 One Family Residential District to Limited Medical. The City Manager stated that the zoning application has been advertised and a sign posted for the public hearing. The City Manager stated that the recommendation from the staff of Glynn County Community Development Planning and Zoning Division was to accept the rezoning application.

Commissioner Plyman stressed that he did not like spot rezoning because it takes residential houses away from neighborhoods. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that there is only one house left on the block that is not rezoned limited medical.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he asked earlier for a study of the hospital area to determine the area the hospital will use for expansion and for medical offices. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should have some knowledge of the area to be considered for rezoning. He pointed out that the study gives three factors that do not include optional zoning areas and the City needs to have the optional zoning area.

Mayor Wilson stated that he finds it hard to work a hardship on a person that plans to live in the area the rest of their life. He pointed out that many people do not desire to sell their homes and he finds it hard to continue to encroach on residential homeowners.

Mayor Wilson mentioned that this is the first public hearing on the proposed rezoning.

GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Director of Finance submitted the following recommendation for the City's Group Health Insurance Renewal: TPA - Administrative Claim Service, Inc., Thomasville, GA

Stop	Loss	89,574.36
	Administration	<u>33,475.20</u>
Total fixed cost		123,049.56

The Director of Finance reported that pre-certification costs went up.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether the City would get a reduction in claims and the discounted rate the County enjoys.

The City Manager stated that the City was offered a nine and a half discount from Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center based on payments being made to the Medical Center within 30 days. The City Manager stated that separate contracts will be made between the City and County and the Medical Center.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to see health insurance premiums lowered so that City employees can afford coverage for their whole family. Commissioner Lawrence asked how often the City's Insurance is bid out. The City Manager stated that the insurance is bid out every 3 years. Commissioner Jennings expressed dissatisfaction concerning how the company handled his insurance claim. Commissioner Jennings recommended using Administrative Claim Services for one year and make sure City Employees are getting their money's worth. Commissioner Jennings suggested alerting the insurance company concerning the Commission's dissatisfaction.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the recommendation for insurance renewals as submitted by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to see all future insurance renewals placed on the Agenda the first meeting in December if the insurance expires on the last day of December.

The City Manager stated that the Director of Finance may not receive the quote from the insurance company on time. He suggested that the Director of Finance submit the proposals as soon as he receives all the information.

Commissioner Plyman recommended having a work session to discuss the insurance renewals before they are approved by the Commission.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended questioning each City employee to find out if they are dissatisfied with the company's service.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to participate in Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center nine and one half

percent discount plan. The motion passed unanimously.

DELEGATION

Phil Overton, Executive Director of Economic Development Authority appeared before the Commission to submit the Business Retention and Expansion Process Report for Glynn County. Mr. Overton stated that the report summarizes responses received from firms surveyed concerning Expansion of Business in Glynn County.

Commissioner Jennings stated that citizens are very happy with the cooperation between the City of Brunswick and Glynn County.

Gregory Standley appeared before the Commission to discuss his concerns about the forty dollar a year garbage fee for solid waste pick-up. Mr. Standley stated that his handicapped father pays taxes in the City of Brunswick and have to push the garbage cart to the street on pick-up days. Mr. Standley stated that paying taxes in the City and County is double jeopardy and unconstitutional. Mr. Standley stated that his father should be taken care of and served by the City of Brunswick.

Commissioner Plyman advised Mr. Standley that the City does not charge \$40.00 a year for garbage pick-up. Commissioner Plyman asked Mr. Standley to speak with the City Manager if it was a hardship situation with his father. Commissioner Plyman stated that the City did not contract with a private company for garbage services.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that Mr. Standley meet with the Glynn County Commissioners to echo his concerns.

Steven Belt resident of the City appeared before the Commission to request that the City open up Frederica Park on the South End of Brunswick. Steven Belt stated the city did not want children to play in the park and placed a sign that reads passive park no playing allowed. Steve Belt submitted a petition to return the park to the children of Brunswick with 256 signatures.

A concerned parent told the Commission that kids are our future, and it is important for us to take time and listen and plant a positive seed. The proper thing to do is give the children something to do. He stated that he likes to encourage kids because there are a lot of negative things kids could be doing and the City has a moral obligation and responsibility to these kids.

Frank Vande Linde stated that when Oglethorpe laid out plans it was intended to be a square not a park. These squares were made to beautify and circulate air in the City along with planting greenery. Mr. Vande Linde mentioned his house was built in 1956 and the lot was purchased in 1951. Mr. Vande Linde stated that he adopted this square in 1957, which at that time was a sandlot. The City hauled in dirt and Mr. Vande Linde planted the grass, before all the work was done no one played in the park. Mr. Vande Linde stated that after he landscaped the park children wanted to play in the park. Mr. Vande Linde stated that the children who play in the park curse and use the park as a bathroom, they have no respect for people or

themselves. Bicycles are left over his driveway and windows have been broken. He has already lost 2 bicycles, 1 lawn mower and 2 gas grills.

Mr. Vande Linde stated the recommendation has been made by the Park and Tree Commission to place a passive park sign in the square. Mr. Vande Linde stated that people are saying things about his character. Mr. Vande Linde pointed out that he raised four children and aims to make the South End a better place to live. He stated that people and children should take care of things. Mr. Vande Linde mentioned he did not hate children.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether Frederica was a park or a square and has the Park been dedicated by the City. The City Manager stated that it is a square and the City never dedicated it as a Park.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like the City Attorney to research and find out if Frederica is a Park or Square.

Commissioner Jennings asked the City Attorney whether he could get the information. The City Attorney stated that he did not have enough time to gather the information. Commissioner Jennings stated that according to the constitution everyone is right. Mr. Vande Linde has the right to be left alone and the children have the right to play in the park. The City owns sixty squares and some are passive parks and some are active parks, our forefathers wanted green spaces in the City.

Mrs. Belt stated that she moved into the neighborhood in 1964 and played in Frederica Park along with other kids in the neighborhood. Mrs. Belt stated that her kids are not allowed to ride bikes to the Recreation Department and do not feel that it is right to keep kids from playing in Frederica Park. Mrs. Belt stressed that things have changed and kids are not respectable like they were years ago. The children in the neighborhood play in the streets bouncing balls. Many people who signed the petition live in the neighborhood and want the kids to play in Frederica Park.

A concerned citizen stated that he sympathizes with Mr. Vande Linde. He suggested fencing in the park so that Mr. Vande Linde personal property would not be harmed. He stated that they can find a happy medium.

Commissioner Plyman stated that there is a park on Parkwood Drive where fifty kids play. He stated that they have destroyed the basketball goals and he will not have persons tearing up the park

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Recreation Director should authorize someone to supervise kids who play in the park.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he has listened and gathered that Mrs. Belt played with Mr. Vande Linde's children in Frederica Park. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that the only problem he notices is the children are disrespectful. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City could have a happy medium, if the children change the direction in which they hit baseballs. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the area has already been grandfathered in as a park.

Mr. Belt stated that bikes were also stolen from him and attributes the thefts to people purchasing alcohol from the store in the neighborhood. Mr. Belt suggested addressing issues concerning the thefts with the Police Department. Mr. Belt also suggested placing a fence around the park to prevent baseballs from breaking resident's windows.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City wants to resolve this so everyone could be happy.

The City Attorney stated that he would present the information concerning the park at the second meeting in January.

The City Clerk, along with the City Manager, was instructed to give copies of the minutes to the Commission and the City Attorney concerning placing a passive park sign in Frederica Square.

Mr. Belt stated that children should be allowed to play in the park until the Commission makes a decision.

Commissioner Plyman recommended giving the City Attorney the minutes so that information could be given to Mrs. Belt concerning the Park.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City Manager meet with the Recreation Director and look at legalities of the Park.

Mayor Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The following reports for the month of November were submitted and were filed as information (1) General Fund (2) Water and 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 to accept the monthly reports. The motion passed unanimously.

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 Plyman seconded by Commissioner Lawrence unanimously granted.

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

James Bookout, Jr., at Golden Isles Cruise Lines, 1 St. Andrews Court.

John Roy Collins at Temptations, 4420 Altama Avenue

Nelson Hart at Double Eagle, 1621 Albany Street

Nelson Hart at The Keg, 3101 Johnson Circle.

To retail alcoholic beverages including beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Willie Hill Lewis at Cobra Inn Package, 1408 "G" Street.

Paul Henry, Jr., at The Fountain Package, 2300 Norwich Street.

To retail beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Curtis Gowen at Gowen Investments, 2935 Glynn Avenue.

Milton J. Arras M.D. at Jack's Country Mall, 1001 First Avenue.

To retail beer and wine for consumption on premises:

Nelson Hart at Hart's Restaurant, 1606 "L" Street.

To retail beer for consumption off premises:

JoAnne Boone at In & Out Mart, 1603 "L" Street.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager submitted plans for re-roofing the Police Department. The City Manager stated that Architect John Tuten sketched the drawings for the Police Department. The City Manager stated that the Police Department Building was structurally sound and needed repairs to the roof. Commissioner Jennings stated that a flat roof may cause the roof and walls to leak. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the only option was to use a gabled roof.

Mayor Wilson questioned whether other Architects were contacted to submit drawings for the Police Department's roof. Mr. Tuten stated that he would remove his firm from the project. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion to advertise for designs and bids on a pitch roof for the Police Department. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Plyman suggested appointing five members to the Old City Hall Restoration Committee.

The City Manager recommended placing the ad to request for proposals for Architectural Services for the restoration of Old City Hall.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested using an odd number for the Old City Hall Restoration Committee.

The City Manager reported that the Recycling Center on Lee Street was closed and residents are concerned about where to take recycling items. The City Manager suggested that the City open their own recycling center and apply for a \$100,000.00 grant for the program.

Commissioners MacLeod and Jennings asked the City Manager to get more information on the Recycling grant.

Jeff Chapman stated that he would get information on the cost of picking up recycled items on a year-to-year basis. He pointed out recycling was an alternative to disposal and very expensive.

Commissioner Plyman asked whether residents of the City would be charged for dropping off newspaper on Habersham Street. Mr. Chapman stated that it would be no cost.

The City Attorney reported that changes were made in the cemetery resolution. He stated that a timetable for the appointment of trustees and a date to establish a fund should be considered.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to adopt the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, the statutory laws of the State of Georgia, Official Code of Georgia Annotated Sec. 36-37-1 through Sec. 36-37-5, authorize municipal corporations to accept gifts and donations for public purposes and to act as trustees for public or charitable purposes;

WHEREAS, Official Code of Georgia Annotated Sec. 36-37-5 specifically provides: "Any municipal corporation of this state may act as trustee of any funds donated to any cemetery within the limits of the municipal corporation;

WHEREAS, the City of Brunswick has heretofore provided for the maintenance and upkeep of Greenwood and Palmetto cemeteries from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, there is a serious need to encourage the donation of additional funding to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of said cemeteries in order to honor the memories of deceased citizens therein consigned and for the comfort of their survivors, friends and relatives;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- (1) That is hereby authorized and directed that a fund be created and established which shall be known as "The Cemetery Trust Fund of the City of Brunswick;"
- (2) That the Cemetery Trust Fund and the income therefrom shall constitute a discrete fund which shall be maintained and administered separately from other funds of the City;
- (3) That the Cemetery Trust Fund shall be initiated by payment into said fund of the sum of \$100.00 from reserves maintained in the General Fund;
- (4) That the Cemetery Trust Fund shall be administered by a Board of Trustees which shall consist of five persons who shall be appointed by the Commission annually or for a term of years as the Commission may direct. Two members of the Board of Trustees shall be adult residents of the City. Two additional members shall be representatives from funeral homes

located within Glynn County, and the fifth trustee shall be a member of the City Commission;

(5) The Board of Trustees shall act as the City's financial officer with respect to the Cemetery Trust Fund, and the Finance Director of the City of Brunswick shall be ex_officio treasurer for the Board of Trustees;

(6) That the Finance Director shall pay into the Cemetery Trust Fund all sums received by the City as donations for the maintenance and upkeep of said cemeteries and, after June 30, 1997, all sums received by the City from the sale of any and all cemetery lots in the cemeteries owned by the City.

(7) The City shall disseminate to the public the information that the City will accept for the Cemetery Trust Fund any donations of money, negotiable instruments, stocks and securities and that the City will acknowledge receipt of a donation in writing to the donor and to the family of a deceased person in whose memory the donation is made;

(8) The Board of Trustees shall not use or expend the corpus of the Cemetery Trust Fund for any purpose;

(9) The Board of Trustees shall be authorized and shall have full power, either directly or through agents, to invest and reinvest assets of the fund and to purchase, hold, sell, assign, transfer and dispose of any securities and other investments in which assets of the fund have been invested, any proceeds of any investments and any money belonging to the fund, provided that such power shall be subject to the same terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions imposed by the laws of the State of Georgia upon municipal investments generally;

(10) That the Board of Trustees and the Finance Director shall report at least once annually to the Commission on the status, investments, expenditures and income of the fund and donations to the fund, and the Board shall advise the Commission and the City Manager periodically as to the condition of the cemeteries and the needs of the community concerning the same;

(11) That the income of the Cemetery Trust fund may be paid over to the City according to the discretion of the Board of Trustees and shall not be used for any purpose other than the maintenance and upkeep of the cemeteries or the purchase of additional land as may be needed for cemetery purposes;

(12) That this Resolution and the creation of the Cemetery Trust Fund shall not be construed to provide for "perpetual care" for any lot or lots within the City's cemeteries as that term is defined and used in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Sec.44-3-131 and Sec. 44-5-211.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be implemented as of the 2nd day January, 1997 and that the Cemetery Trust Fund be established and the Board of Trustees be appointed as of said date.

Commissioner Plyman suggested purchasing a front-end loader and back end loader for the cemeteries to use. The City Manager stated that the City could get specifications and bid it out. Commissioner Plyman stated that this equipment would be needed if the City continues to dig graves. If purchased, this would be an appropriate piece of equipment.

Commissioner Jennings suggested that the Administrative Services Director look for a front-end loader and back end loader.

The City Manager recommended that the vault company dig the graves or have some other company dig the graves. The City Manager stated that the Funeral Directors should give some input about this. Mayor Wilson asked the City Manager to get a cost estimate on grave digging.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the City does not have signs identifying subdivisions in the City. He recommended placing signs in College Park, Windsor Park and other subdivisions in the City.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that he received complaints concerning not enough lighting in the 2300 block of Amherst Street. The City Manager stated that he will speak with GA Power concerning the lighting in the 2300 block of Amherst Street.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended having someone come in and inspect the trees in the City of Brunswick to find a method to save the trees.

The City Manager stated that no one is on staff to determine the problem. The City Manager stated that the Park and Tree Commission may have someone who has the knowledge. The City Manager pointed out that other cities hire staff to take care of and inspect trees.

Mayor Wilson recommended that the City recognize Oscar Covington an employee of Georgia Pacific who will retire after 37 years of service. Mayor Wilson recommended giving Mr. Covington a key to the City.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to recognize Oscar Covington at the next Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence thanked Mayor Wilson and the City Manager for attending the NAACP Awards Banquet.

Mayor Wilson reported that the City is in good financial standing and employees have done a good job. Mayor Wilson thanked the Commission for creating a sound government in 1996.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk