

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., March 5, 1997**

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Commissioners and everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Called Meeting of February 24, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

ENTER-PRIZE LOAN FUND

The Director of Community Development submitted information on Glynn County's Enter-Prize Program. The Director of Community Development explained to the Commission that the program is designed to provide financing to economically disadvantaged business owners or potential business owners. The loan proceeds are to be used for the expansion of an existing business or the establishment of a new business in Glynn County. The Director of Community Development stated that the Glynn County Enter-Prize Loan Program is named after the late Ed Pinckney.

The Director of Community Development stated that the program's objective is open doors so all citizens of Glynn County may participate in America's Free Enterprise System. The Director of Community Development discussed the eligibility requirements and the loan program.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he did not mind honoring Ed Pinckney's name, but was concerned about the City financing a County business. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City and County loan program should be separate.

The Director of Community Development stated that the County started the program and the City and County business owners would be allowed to participate in the Ed Pinckney Enter-Prize Loan Program. Loan program funds will be used for businesses located in the City limits. The Director of Community Development stated that nine businesses in the City have received funds for their businesses.

Commissioner MacLeod suggested advertising the loan program recipients in the newspaper. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he has not noticed any advertisement for grants and the recipients of grants.

The Director of Community Development stated that the Enter-Prize Loan Program will be advertised in the newspaper so that citizens could be aware of the loan program.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like information on the recipients of the grants.

Mayor Wilson stated that all loan payments must be made on time. The Director of Community Development stated that the loans made by County business owners failed and

none of the City business owners loans failed.

The Director of Community Development explained that the participation is shared by CADDA, the bank and the City of Brunswick in that order.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns on businesses defaulting on their loans. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the bank will foreclose and the City will not get their fair share because CADDA is first, the bank is second and the City is in third place.

Commissioner Plyman mentioned that the business owners will also have to participate and the owners will also lose their collateral if they default on their loan.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would support the program if the City could implement it without jeopardizing the City and also help citizens.

The Director of Community Development suggested training new business owners. The Small Business Development Center provides training for new business owners.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned why the City would be last when the City shares the same amount of participation. The Director of Community Development explained that the City's interest rate is much lower and the City does not handle any loans or bookkeeping. The City of Brunswick only collects the checks from each business.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like to conduct an initial study on the program. Mayor Wilson stated that the Commission needs time to study the proposal.

The Director of Finance stated that the City is looking at renewing the Worker's Compensation Incentive Plan which has been in effect for two years. The Director of Finance stated that the worker's compensation claims are sent to the company and the City has noticed the frequency go down which saved a lot of money on claims insuring the City of having a safe work environment. The Director of Finance stated that a handout that shows the number of claims for the City since 1992 was given to each Commissioner and the Mayor. In 1995 the City put a plan in place to award prizes for safety in the work place and not having accidents. The Director of Finance stated that claims dropped tremendously since the plan was implemented by the City. The Director of Finance stated that he feels the program is a very effective incentive plan for employees.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City has seen great reductions in the past two years and the program would be in the best interest of the City.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether the City accepted bids for the renewal of the Worker's Compensation Incentive Program. The City Manager stated that is an incentive program not an insurance renewal.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the renewal of the Worker's Compensation Insurance Renewal Program. The motion passed unanimously.

The Director of Finance stated that HRS will implement a new point system which will give City employees a better chance of winning.

CEMETERY FEES

The City Manager submitted a survey conducted by the Public Works Cemetery Department on fees surrounding counties charge for opening and closing graves.

The City Manager stated that this is an issue the Commission discussed on several different occasions and budget hearings. The City Manager stated at the time of the discussions the City did not have all the figures together. The Director of Public Works was asked to research the fees of surrounding counties charge for cemetery grave openings and closing. The City Manager stated that other communities are charging more for grave spaces and opening and closing of graves. An additional fee is also charged for weekends.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City of Brunswick fees seem to be low in comparison with other Cities. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City should not up the fee drastically or double the fee. He pointed out that the City should not be making money off of grave openings.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he opposed any fee increase.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns regarding employees working on the weekends and receiving overtime whenever they work a funeral. Commissioner Lawrence questioned where the overtime came from, pointing out that the City is paying employees to be on the job from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Director of Public Works stated that the City had three funerals on Sunday and fifty on Saturday and estimated two hundred funerals this year. The Director of Finance stated that employees are scheduled to work flexible hours.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended raising the fees for grave openings on weekends fifty dollars.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion increasing the fee for opening and closing of graves on the weekend fifty dollars. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman requested that the fee to install a faucet at the cemetery be increased to \$20.00.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion increasing the fee to install a faucet at the cemetery from \$10.00 to \$20.00. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Commissioner Plyman nominated Ronnie Perry to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion reappointing Ronnie Perry to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion passed unanimously.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Plyman nominated David Tobler to serve on the Recreation Advisory Board. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion appointing David Tobler to serve on the Recreation Advisory Board. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

The City Manager stated that the Hospital Authority's procedure is that the City submits three names for consideration. The City Manager stated that five citizens requested interest in serving on the Hospital Authority Board: Larry Credle, Betty McGregor, Walter McNeely, Clarke Wiggins, Sr and R.D. "Bob" Williams.

Commissioner Plyman nominated Clarke Wiggins, Sr., Commissioner Jennings nominated Walter McNeely and Commissioner MacLeod nominated Betty McGregor. The nominations

was closed. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the three names for consideration for appointment to Hospital Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

CEMETERY DEEDS

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting the following petitions:

- 1) Petitions received from Christa McDowell Scudder to transfer Lot No. 9 Section No. 13-A in Palmetto Cemetery from Mrs. Fred McDowell. Original deed surrendered.
- 2) Petition received from Darwin Boggs, Sr. for deed to Spaces A, B, G & H of Lot No. 47-B, Section No. 2 in Greenwood Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost, but City records verify ownership.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

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

To retail beer and wine for consumption on premises:

Brady Turner at the Royal Cafe, 1618 Newcastle Street;

Shelly D. Reeves at Crab Happy & Co. II, 2037 Gloucester Street;

To retail beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Randy Blackman at Winn-Dixie #60, 1941 Glynn Avenue;

Benny M. Giddens at Bay Service Station #624 L&L Oil Co., Inc., 3227 Norwich Street;

Melinda Grovola at Winn Dixie #79, 4404 Altama Avenue;

To retail beer only for consumption on premises:

Albert White Jr, at A & W Fast Food, 1100 G Street.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner MacLeod presented a petition signed by twenty five business and residents on Union Street to relocate Manna House. Commissioner MacLeod read the petition which states that the Manna House has become a nuisance and danger to businesses and residents in the neighborhood. The petition claims that panhandlers, drug addicts, drunks and vagrant's beg for money and perform sexual acts on each other in public. The petition also claims that the police were called on several occasions. People discard paper plates and cups on the ground and lawns of businesses. The petition claims that employees are afraid to walk to their cars during the lunch hour. The petitioners asked the City to close Manna House or relocate it because the house has become a legal nuisance to the neighborhood. The businesses in the area have seen an increase in break-ins and assaults.

Commissioner MacLeod asked the City Attorney to give the Commission some legal advice on what could be done about the problems.

Commissioner Jennings questioned whether the Chief of Police could verify the arrests for assaults and sexual acts that took place.

The Chief of Police stated that he do not have information together about the alleged attacks. The Chief of Police stated that Manna House does have a problem with littering. Manna House did make a request for a police officer to patrol the area.

Mayor Wilson recalled when Manna House was opened. He stated that there is a problem in the area and something should be done.

The City Attorney stated that if Manna House is a nuisance it can be abated. The City Attorney explained that the City did not have a due process procedure for doing that except with respect to some type of activities through Municipal Court.

The City Attorney stated that the City could do it through the Superior Court if the City feel compelled to abate a nuisance. The City Attorney was instructed to look at the law and make a recommendations.

Commissioner Plyman reported that the Gateway Building should move their dumpster or get an additional dumpster to contain their garbage. Commissioner Plyman stated that garbage is being placed on the ground. The City Manager stated that he will check to find a solution.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the City may have to move the repairs up below Fourth Avenue because it is more than a nuisance having sewage coming in residents bath tubs or their house. He requested that the sewer project be moved to a number 1 priority. Commissioner Plyman requested that the roof on Old City Hall be stabilized. He pointed out that the City voted to repair the building and nothing has been done. Commissioner Plyman asked that Old City Hall be moved to a number two priority.

The City Manager stated that the Old City Hall Restoration Committee discussed repairing the roof on Old City Hall and the committee will meet again to discuss the need to do stabilization work. The committee will meet with the architect to discuss the overall problems and make a recommendation.

Commissioner Plyman offered the motion to instruct the City Manager to hire a roofer to repair the leaks on the roof at Old City Hall. Commissioner Jennings asked Commissioner Plyman to amend the motion to prioritize Old City Hall to a Tier I project. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested bidding out the roof repair of Old City Hall.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he did not object to taking care of the sewer problems, but did object to patching the roof on Old City Hall. Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Old City Hall Restoration Committee should make a recommendation about the roof.

The City Manager explained the planning process for the Renovation of Old City Hall. The City Manager stated that the City must receive the plans and bid out the work. The City Manager stated that once the work is started on Old City Hall it must be completed.

Mayor Wilson recommended finding a solution to stop the leaks on the roof at City Hall.

On call for the question the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the South End project to second priority. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence objected to switching around the SPLOST projects. Commissioner MacLeod recommend starting the project a little earlier instead of jumping over one project

for another.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City paid the contractor for the demolition of the Boone Building. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the contractor did not complete his job. The City Manager stated that he would take care of the problem.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that when he was elected to the Commission the Mayor indicated that every Commissioner have the same rights and same power which is to respected in the same identical way. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he seems to have problems because a request has been made to replace the goals back in Goodyear Park. He stated that when another Commissioner requested that the goals be taken down it was done. Commissioner Lawrence asked if the Commission was prioritizing one request over another.

The City Manager stated that he will follow up with the Recreation Director today to get the goals back up.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the basketball goals were up in Orange Park. The City Manager stated that a request was made at the last meeting for the Recreation Director to bring some recommendations back to the Commission.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he objected to the basketball goals being put back up. Commissioner Plyman asked Commissioner Lawrence to visit the neighborhood and speak to the residents about replacing the goals.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that requests are being made directly to department heads and not through the proper channel the City Manager. Commissioner Lawrence advised the Commission to make requests directly to the City Manager and these request would be brought back to the Commission and discussed. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission expects the City Manager to follow through on all requests presented to his department.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City Code explains that no Commission member should be involved in any day to day operation of City Hall. The Commission has no voice in these operations. Mayor Wilson stated that he will never be guilty of directing any department head unless the situation jeopardizes life, limb or property.

Rev. Lyde stated that the minutes of the meeting of February 19th should acknowledge the fact that he never brought up any name of a City employee and never requested that this employee be fired for the article concerning the use of toxaphene at City Recreation Parks. Rev. Lyde stated that a City employee approached him about the request that was made to the City Commission to fire him. The employee reported that Commissioner Plyman asked that he be fired for the statements that was made in the Georgia Times Union. Rev. Lyde asked the Commission to look into the situation.

Commissioner Plyman stated that Rev. Lyde came to the Commission meeting and asked the City to check on the employee that gave the information to the newspaper.

Rev. Lyde stated that he agreed with Commissioner Jennings that every employee should have the right to free speech.

Rev. Lyde stated that he respects everyone in the community and will appreciate that same respect as a citizen.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the residents in the 3200 Block of Martin Luther King Blvd requested that the City plant shrubbery in the median to block the view on the other side. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the residents are willing to take care of the plants.

The City Attorney requested that the City authorize the Mayor to execute documents for

conveying the property on Union Street to First Baptist Church.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement conveying property on Union Street to First Baptist Church. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jennings asked the status of the member of the Pilot Commission who was charged with five felonies. The City Attorney stated that the City can have him removed through Superior Court. The City Manager stated that the City did not request to have the position advertised. He stated that it was discussed, but a decision was never made.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that all applicants applying for appointments on City Boards should complete an application form at City Hall.

The City Attorney stated that all appointments for City Boards should be advertised listing the qualifications in the newspaper. The City Attorney stated that other counties should be considered for appointment to the Hospital Authority Board. Commissioner Lawrence objected to placing citizens of other counties to the Hospital Authority Board. Commissioner Lawrence stated that citizens of Brunswick and Glynn county would suffer if the Hospital fail to meet their obligations.

The Commission discussed ways to investigate a citizen criminal background and qualifications when applying for positions on the City Boards. The Commission concluded that citizens who are appointed to these positions should be responsible and have a clean background and capable of performing the duties of the Board he or she is appointed to serve on.

Mayor Wilson invited ministers to help with the children in the community. Mayor Wilson stated that the Pastor have more influence over children in the community.

Rev. Lyde presented the idea of putting together a community Police Athletic League to help address problems in the community by introducing community based programs. Rev. Lyde was instructed to meet with the Chief of Police to discuss the program.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk