

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., March 19, 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 Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Called meeting of February 19, 1997 and Regular meeting of March 5, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Mayor Wilson presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Bob Causey and GBI Special Agent Fred Denson of the Savannah office in recognition of the heroic act of subduing a suspect. Received with appreciation.

ED PINCKNEY ENTER-PRIZE PROGRAM

The Director of Community Development requested that the City participate in the Ed Pinckney Enter-prize program which was discussed at the last Commission meeting. The Director of Community Development stated that the City's position is a shared first and not third.

Mayor Wilson asked the Director of Community Development to give the worst case scenario. The Director of Community Development stated that it could be the loss of a \$25,000.00 loan to a business.

Commissioner Plyman questioned whether a business owner could rent a building and borrow money for the equipment in the building for his business. The Director of Community Development stated that loans would be given to business owners who did not own a building or land. The loan could be used to purchase equipment for their business. Commissioner Plyman expressed his concerns regarding the program not requiring enough equity or collateral to take care of the loan if defaulted.

Brad Brown stated that banks only loan sixty percent to eighty percent to business owners. Business owners will have to put up twenty percent collateral.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned the difference between the Ed Pinckney Enter-prize program and the Jekyll Island Hotel program. The Director of Community Development pointed out that the Enter-prize program is a local program and the Jekyll Island program is a Federal program.

Mayor Wilson stated that had it not been the generosity of previous Council members many businesses were granted extensions in making payments. Mayor Wilson asked whether the City and Banks could be so generous. The Director of Community Development stated that training would be provided for new business owners and a report will be presented to the Commission annually about the program.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion approving the city to participate in the Ed Pinckney Enter-Prize program. The motion passed unanimously.

MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER DAY CARE PROGRAM

The Director of Community Development requested approval of a resolution entering into a contract with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Aging Services to administer services to eligible clients at the Brunswick Multipurpose Center.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion unanimously adopting the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The City of Brunswick desires to administer services specified in the Multi-purpose Center to eligible clients funded by the Georgia Department of Human Resources/Division of Aging Services (GCRC);

WHEREAS: Said agency desires to enter a contractual agreement with the Georgia Department of Human Resources for the provision of said services; be it therefore;

RESOLVED, That the City of Brunswick agrees to enter a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Resources for the provision of said services; be it further;

RESOLVED, That the City of Brunswick agrees to enter a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Aging Services for the provision of service specified in the Brunswick Multi-Purpose Center for July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998; be it further;

RESOLVED, That the Mayor, Homer L. Wilson is authorized to execute said contract on behalf of the City of Brunswick.

DELEGATIONS

Ernie Craft, chairman of the Old City Hall Restoration Committee appeared before the Commission to discuss hiring an architecture firm to make plans for repairing Old City Hall. Mr. Craft thanked the Commission for their support. Mr. Craft named all the members serving on the Old City Hall Restoration Committee and thanked them for doing an excellent job. Mr. Craft stated that the first order of business would be selecting an architecture firm from the top three who submitted information dealing with restoration of Old City Hall. Mr. Craft read the following:

1. John Tuten & Associates
2. Smith & Associates
3. Ledbetter & Associates (Tied)
4. Jennings & Murray (Tied)

Mayor Wilson commended all members of the Old City Hall Restoration Committee. Mayor Wilson told Mr. Craft that he was fortunate to have those kind of dedicated citizens to serve on the committee. Mayor Wilson stated that the City feels the same and is grateful that

citizens have taken this responsibility because this is what really makes the Government work and it is not the Council members it is the volunteers and the people who really do the work in the community.

Mayor Wilson requested a breakdown with a little notation of why the committee chose the architecture firm. He stated that if it was money or if it was the design it should be noted.

Commissioner MacLeod questioned if the committee would set up interviews with the architecture firms.

The City Manager explained that seven proposals was originally received and the Old City Hall Restoration Committee narrowed it down to three firms and they would be invited to make formal presentations to the Commission. The architecture firm would be selected by the Commission after the presentations.

Commisisoner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion accepting the four architecture firms recommended by the Old City Hall Restoration Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Craft stated that the City Commission at the last meeting recommended that the Old City Hall Restoration Committee look at the idea of stopping the leaks at Old City Hall by patching the roof. Mr. Craft emphasized that the leak need to be stopped and the roof is leaking badly. He stated that the committee simply did not want to patch the roof. The Committee want a new roof, however it will take time for the four firms to make a presentation to the City Commission. It will take more time for the Commission to discuss the proposals and negotiate. The Old City Hall Restoration Committee decided to go ahead and have the leak repaired. Mr. Craft stated that the committee made a request to the City Manager to submit a written report with recommendations to stop the leak at Old City Hall.

The City Manager reported that the Purchasing Director Johnny Cason was working with a roof consultant from Savannah to find a solution to repair the roof on Old City Hall. The City Manager stated that a final report was not submitted. He stated that the consultant felt that most of the work could be done in-house and the rest may have to be bided out. The City Manager stated that the City is making progress on getting the roof repaired on a temporary basis.

Commisisoner Jennings pointed out that the County had problems with repairs on the Harold Pate building and the County Commission did not know who approved the repairs. Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City Manager and Purchasing Director issue all work orders and be responsible for all repairs to Old City Hall.

Commissioner Plyman stated that all recommendations for repairs should come before the Commission for approval. Commissioner MacLeod suggested that the City Manager speed up the process of repairing the roof on Old City Hall.

DELEGATIONS FROM GOODYEAR PARK

Betty McGregor appeared before the Commission to discuss removing the basketball goals from Goodyear Park. Mrs. McGregor told the Commission that her house is located one hundred feet from the basketball goals in Goodyear Park. Mrs. McGregor stated that the neighborhood in Goodyear Park is a quiet, peaceful residential neighborhood. She stated that residents in wheel chairs and kids visit the park and never remembering having to call the police. Mrs. McGregor asked the Commission to make a fair decision for residents of Goodyear Park. Mrs. McGregor told Commissioner Lawrence that he was doing something good for the kins in Goodyear Park. She asked Commissioner Lawrence to put the basketball goals somewhere else instead of in Goodyear Park next to residential houses. Mrs. McGregor suggested placing the basketball goals in Lanier Field, Howard Coffin Park and Selden Park. Mrs. McGregor stated that Commissioner Jennings told her that basketball goals will be

placed in Orange Park and hoped that the Recreation Director would make a good recommendation. Mrs. McGregor stated that beer cans and liquor bottles were found in the park and in her yard. Mrs. McGregor asked Commissioner Lawrence and the City Manager if they observed beer cans and liquor bottles in the Park. Commissioner Lawrence did not comment on the issued and told Mrs. McGregor he will wait until she finishes to speak about what he observed. The City Manager stated that he observed litter in the park.

Mrs. McGregor stated that citizens use four letter words in the park all the time. Mrs. McGregor offered to submit a police report that was taken by Officers of the Brunswick Police Department concerning the beer cans and liquor bottles found in the park. Mrs. McGregor stated that the noise in the park is unbearable. The noise from the park can be heard through her windows. Mrs. McGregor stated that Mr. McGregor is retired and have a medical condition. Mrs. McGregor asked the Commission to reason with the neighbors and think about living one hundred feet from a basketball goal. Mrs. McGregor recommended rezoning the area limited medical, pointing out that she would rather see a medical park in the area. Mrs. McGregor believed that property values have reduced by twenty percent because of the noise factor from Goodyear Park.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that the basketball goals was placed in Goodyear Park twenty five years ago. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he visited the park for 45 minutes and observed two beer bottles and three beer cans in a bag, cups and coke cans were seen on the ground. Commissioner Lawrence stated that basketball goals was placed in Goodyear Park before Mrs. McGregor moved in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he lived in Goodyear Park for twenty eight years and recalled only make shift basketball goals in the park. Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the City Manager placed NO DRINKING and NO PLAYING SIGNS in the park. Commissioner Plyman stated that the noise from the park is annoying and the kids that live in the neighborhood never get to play basketball in the park because of the older residents who visit the park from other areas of the City.

Commissioner Jennings mentioned the calls received from residents concerning children playing in the front yard and back yard of residents on Reynolds Street. Commissioner Jennings recommended placing basketball goals in Orange Park for children to play basketball so that residents would be satisfied in Goodyear Park.

The Recreation Director Joey Cason stated that this is a quality of life issue and no matter what the City decide Goodyear Park will always be a high profile park. The Recreation Director recommended placing basketball goals in Orange Park and Howard Coffin Park because the tennis courts could not be used at Howard Coffin Park.

Commissioner MacLeod suggested placing basketball goals in other City parks with supervised play and police patrol in the park after hours. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he is fully aware of the problems because he live next door to Glynn Academy.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed concerns about beer bottles being thrown in the park. He pointed out that beer bottles are thrown in his yard and the issue should be focused on placing basketball goals in the City parks.

Mayor Wilson stated that residents in Orange Park did not want children playing in that park. Mayor Wilson stated that he did not see how all the parks could be closed in the City. Mayor Wilson stated that every council member want to do what is right and be fair minded.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he observed signs are not posted in other City parks warning residents that the park is closed after dark. Commissioner MacLeod stated that supervise play will be in every park in the City of Brunswick.

Rev. Zack Lyde stated that a great number of citizens do not agree with Mrs. McGregor. He stated that economics is the problem and racism plays a part in this situation. Rev. Lyde

pointed out that a solution from a white middle class prospective was used to close down the pool in Orange Park because black children was banned from swimming in Orange Park. Rev. Lyde stated that Howard Coffin park is open at night to accommodate people who want to play ball at the park. He stated that recreation have not met the needs of the Community.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Commission can try other solutions if the recommendation of the Recreation Director fails. Problems are difficult for the City Council to immediately address.

Rev. Lyde stated that the solution is not taking down basketball goals in Goodyear Park.

A resident of Goodyear Park who lives directly across the street from the park stated that she never heard any profanity from residents in the park. She often visit the park with her children and observed nothing wrong taking place in Goodyear Park.

Larry Johnson stated that he sits in the car when visiting the park to observe the children playing in the park. Mr. Johnson stated that he heard a few words of profanity spoken. Mr. Johnson asked the City to be truthful and discuss the real problem.

Commissioner Plyman stated that a request was made to put basketball goals in the park when a couple of young black boys was playing basketball in the street. Commissioner Plyman stated that the race card should have not been mentioned.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that council members make rules that they cannot keep and it has been demonstrated at this table the use of profanity.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to approve the recommendation of the Recreation Director implementing the rules for City parks in 30 days. The motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Lyde questioned whether the same sign would be posted in all City parks, NO PLAYING AFTER DARK. Commissioner MacLeod stated that some parks will not have the same rules applied to them.

Robert Herrington requested that the City do not shift all the children to parks on K and Albany Street and Perry Park. Mr. Herrington stated that the City is not concerned about what happens in these parks.

Mayor Wilson stated that there is a solution to the problem. Mayor Wilson opposed using profanity and throwing beer cans in the park.

David Rouse appeared before the Commission to discuss sewer problems at his residence. He stated that under the alley to the west of his home, in block 35 he believes a 6" diameter terra cotta sewer line, approximately 3-1/2 to 4 feet under the surface. He believed that most of this pipe was replaced approximately 20 years ago. However, he believed that due to the problems with the "droppage" requirements, the last 150 feet of this line, to which his residence connect to at its end was not replaced.

Over the last 7 to 10 years, he have had numerous problems, including backflow (and overflow) into the bathroom of his residence. This has caused substantial damage to the floor of his bathroom.

He planned to obtain a loan in the next year to make improvements to his home, including the bathroom. He is very concerned that the addition of 8 additional units, which will connect to the same line, the bathrooms of which are on the second and third floors causing additional pressure on the line will only make existing problems worse.

He request that Mr. Powell on the City staff make a pressure test of the line and give him facts to assure that he will not have any problems and that if he do, the city will condemn the

new units so that their bathrooms cannot be used until the sewer problems are completely remedied and that he be paid damages to make him whole from damages caused by backflow and the like.

He was concerned about the City's failure to follow its rules regarding square footage minimums for multiple unit housing.

He was also concerned with failure to post or sign off on building permits.

Mr. Rouse stated that his property was surveyed and found that no one is encroaching on anyone's property. Mr. Rouse reported that the Building Inspector does not require building permits to be placed in a conspicuous place. Mr. Rouse stated that he received a lot of resistance from the Building Inspector. Commissioner Jennings asked Mr. Rouse to be patience because the City will start the SPLOST project on the South End.

The Director of Community Development and the City Manager was instructed to find out if the building permits are placed where they are visible to the public.

QUIT CLAIM DEED

Petition received from Jameson Gregg, Attorney for Maurice Billings for quit claim deed in favor of his client, the present owner, to the Southern 45 feet of the Western one-half of Town Commons Lot Number 9 and the Northern 15 feet of the Western one-half of Town Commons Lot No. 10 between Wolfe and Albany Streets, to clear title record on tax deed taken by the City which was subsequently redeemed, but was lost, misplaced or destroyed without being recorded.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the quit claim deed. The motion passed unanimously.

A concerned citizen appeared before the Commission to request the procedure for obtaining a police report on an incident that happened on Glynn Academy campus which resulted in the arrest of her son who have been incarcerated for forty five days without a bond in the Detention Center. She stated that a report was given to her which had information removed or blacked out concerning the incident. She stated that Commissioner Lawrence was contacted because a report could not be obtained from the Police Department with the correct information on it. Captain Butts stated that if this case is still under investigation a police report cannot be issued. Captain Butts stated that the young lady can receive an incident report.

The City Attorney told the Commissioners that the City cannot get involved in an on going investigation.

The City Manager submitted a list of City Streets scheduled for resurfacing under the LARP program.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the LARP agreement to resurface 11 city streets. The motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The following reports for the month of February, 1997 were submitted and were filed as information: (1) General Fund (2) Water & Wastewater (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.

Attorney Bob Cunningham appeared before the Commission to request an easement in favor of his client Roland Radio Station. Attorney Cunningham stated that his client purchased the property and need a similar agreement that WMOG received for the bases located on the property line allowing a 3.2 feet easement. Attorney Cunningham stated that the old WMOG Station will be upgraded.

Commissioner Jennings recommended placing a clause in the agreement reverting the property back to the owners. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion granting the easement. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk