

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**8:30 A. M., May 7, 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 Lawrence seconded the motion approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16 and called Meeting of April 24 and called Meeting of April 29, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES**

The following alcoholic beverage petition for 1997 license was submitted having been approved by the Chief of Police and City Manager. On motion of Commissioner Plyman seconded by Commissioner Lawrence the motion passed unanimously.

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

Gary S. Lankford, Saphire Club Bar and Buffet, 1942 Glynn Avenue.

The City Manager stated that Deputy Marshall Jimmy Dickerson recommended denying the beer and wine license of Oak Tree Restaurant located at 1402 Reynolds street because of the minimum distance requirement of 100 yards between a business and church building. The City Manager stated that State Law mandates that the distance is at least 100 yards from a church or church building. The First Baptist Church Student Educational Building is located 212 feet from the Oak Tree Restaurant.

The City Attorney requested to review the statue and the Ordinance to determine the distance required for a business to sell beer and wine.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended contacting First Baptist Church to get their feelings about the issuance of a beer license to Oak Tree Restaurant.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commission Lawrence seconded the motion to table issuing an alcoholic beverage license until the City Attorney can determine the distance requirements established by State Law. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned what happens to a business that serves alcoholic beverages when a church moves next door. The City Attorney stated that restrictions do not apply to those businesses.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

Mickey Reeves, representing Coastal EMS appeared before the Commission to request that the City oppose a resolution that was passed by the Glynn County Commission.

Mickey Reeves stated that the Glynn County Commission passed a Resolution on April 17, 1997 approving the Glynn County Fire Department EMS Division as being the only licensed provider of the 911 Emergency Medical services to Citizens of Glynn County including the City of Brunswick and excluding Jekyll Island Mr. Reeves stated he was not present at the meeting in April when the resolution was passed by Glynn County.

The resolution was submitted to the Region 9 Council and Coastal EMS must close its doors. Mr. Reeves stated that Coastal EMS has served the citizens in Brunswick, and Glynn County for 2 years and many will lose their jobs if Coastal forced to close because of this. Mr. Reeves requested that the City of Brunswick respond to The Resolution adopted by the Glynn County Commission.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he attended the Region 9 meeting last year with Mr. Reeves. Commissioner Plyman questioned why the citizens of Brunswick were left without any Emergency Service. Commissioner Plyman stated that the County should feel comfortable by having Coastal EMS in the City of Brunswick. Commissioner Plyman stressed that the City Council has a responsibility to provide fire services to the citizens of Brunswick.

Commissioner Plyman recommended that the City adopt a resolution condemning the Resolution approved by the Glynn County Commission in meeting of April 17, 1997.

Commissioner Jennings questioned whether Glynn County could close a business such as Coastal EMS. The City Attorney stated that under State Law a private business has the right to operate within the City of Brunswick.

Commissioner Jennings questioned how many calls per day did Coastal EMS receive for services. Mr. Reeves stated that Coastal EMS receive eight calls per day.

Mr. Reeves stated that Coastal EMS does not have contracts to transport citizens to other hospitals. Coastal EMS had to discontinue many services.

Commissioner Plyman recommended passing a resolution to support Coastal EMS. Commissioner Plyman suggested that the City Attorney meet with the County Attorney to determine what the law is so that Coastal EMS will not lose their business.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that this will be studied under the Georgia Future Strategy Law. The City Manager stated that the City and County will review all services to see if there is an alternative to offering these services. The County will have to look at their Emergency Medical Service to see if the service is being provided in the most effective and efficient way. The City Manager pointed out if Coastal EMS meets the requirements of State Law their service should be included.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City should not take it lightly about the well being of our citizens. Commissioner Lawrence stated the City attended a joint meeting with the County and they never mentioned the resolution.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about offering services to citizens who are not covered by medical insurance. Commissioner Lawrence stated that many citizens will not have an opportunity to be served. Mr. Reeves stated that many accounts are written off if citizens are unable to pay.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion adopting a resolution in support of Coastal EMS. The motion passed unanimously.

Kay Shiver, Main Street Director appeared before the Commission to discuss the Downtown Parking Committee recommendations for Parking in the City's downtown area. Mrs. Shiver introduced the twelve members of the parking committee. Mrs. Shiver stated that the City had inadequate parking downtown. Mrs. Shiver told the Commission that \$700,000.00 was allocated for one dozen projects in the downtown area and there are other projects in the downtown area that did not take advantage of the loan pool funds. Mrs. Shiver stated that the need for parking in the City's downtown area was conducted by the Community Development Department of Glynn County. Mrs. Shiver submitted a packet to each Commissioner and the Mayor with low interest rate information for businesses who wish to take advantage of the loan pool.

Commissioner Plyman asked a series of specific questions. What areas are considered in the Downtown Brunswick District? How many other projects does the Downtown Development Association have outside of the Downtown Business District? How many businesses on "G" and Albany Street, "L" and Albany Street have participated in using the loan pool. Mrs. Shiver stated that there are a number of business that applied for the loan pool funds. Mrs. Shiver stated that many areas in downtown were improved before the loan pool grants were established by the Downtown Development Authority.

Commissioner Plyman asked whether the Downtown Development Association

members visited these business owners to let them know that loan pool funds are available to help with their business. Commissioner Plyman asked whether the Downtown Business District could be extended to First Street. He stated that all businesses in the City should be included in the Downtown Business District.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that there are areas in which some businesses are being turned down for business loans. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that Mr. Boone was denied access to the loan pool funds when he needed funds.

Mayor Wilson recommended adding businesses up to "L" Street to the Downtown Business District and then go a little further with the boundaries.

The City Attorney stated that a Supreme Court ruling would not include arterial corridors that lead into the downtown area. Most residential areas are included within the business area.

Commissioner Jennings asked what areas did DDA work in to establish the Waterfront Park? Commissioner Jennings asked Mrs. Shiver what has she done personally as the Main Street Director to enhance the Waterfront Park. Mrs. Shiver stated that DDA actually did the preliminary work for the Mary Ross Park.

Andy Grzynski, Downtown Parking Committee Chairman stated that the Parking Committee came to discuss parking in the downtown area first and would be glad to discuss the boundary of the Downtown Business District.

Mayor Wilson stated that people are lazy and do not want to walk. Mayor Wilson pointed out that the City does not have enough space for parking in the Downtown area. Mayor Wilson commended the Downtown Development Authority for doing a fantastic job.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that there is no safe ingress and egress to park on Gloucester Street.

The City Manager stated that the initial plan was to approach the Department of Transportation about placing a traffic light on Bay Street.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to make a request to DOT for a traffic light on Bay Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Andy Grzynski discuss the parking study for the Downtown area. Mr. Grzynski stated that a survey was given to employees in the downtown area and a total of 40 surveys was returned. Mr. Grzynski stated that Downtown parking would be expensive to handle and he was not quite sure who would pay the expenses.

Bill Cullens submitted a copy of the Downtown Brunswick Parking Committee report to the Commissioners and Mayor. Mr. Cullens stated that the Downtown businesses have to compete with the malls by adding to inventory and improving what is in the Downtown area. Mr. Cullens asked the Commission to consider the following recommendations suggested by the Downtown

Brunswick Parking Committee.

- 1) Clean and maintain sidewalks, streets and alleys Newcastle, ie Grant, Richmond, Reynolds, Union, Monck and G Streets.
- 2) Paint parking space stripes throughout study area.
- 3) Inventory and improve "no parking" signage.
- 3) Install appropriate parking directional signage.
- 4) Consider development of city-owned parking areas.
- 6) Increase security through downtown.

Mr. Cullens requested that the City also consider locating a parking lot area and designate it for City employees and customers. Mr. Cullens next requested that the Downtown Brunswick Parking Committee be allowed to work with the City Manager and staff to make more specific request to the Commission to authorize the City Manager and staff to study the recommendations requested by the Downtown Business Parking Committee.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion utilizing the four-block area on the East side of Bay Street for parking. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager recommended that between Gloucester and F Street the area should not be blocked and should be protected allowing businesses to park there.

Greg Stanley appeared before the Commission to discuss the fees charged to use the Recreation facilities in Glynn County. Mr. Stanley commended the City for the many improvements made throughout the year. Mr. Stanley told the Commission that in 1975 the use of the park was free to play basketball and no fee was charged. Mr. Stanley stated that private businesses are operating the parks. Citizens are not allowed to cook in public parks and must rent a building to play basketball. Mr. Stanley asked who owned Selden Park and Howard Coffin Park and questioned whether the parks were private businesses.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the City owns Howard Coffin Park and questioned the fees Mr. Stanley was speaking of.

Mr. Stanley told Commissioner Plyman that it cost \$125.00 for 5 hours and \$25.00 per additional hours to rent the recreational building. Softball fields \$75.00 for 1 unlit field per day. Also \$90.00 for more than 1 unlit field per day and \$112.00 for 1 or more fields with lights. Mr. Stanley told the Commission that he felt it was not right to charge these outrageous fees.

The City Manager stated that the City charges for renting the recreation building after hours and this does not prevent people from coming out to use the facilities at Howard Coffin Park.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the City has a choice either raise taxes or charge fees for the use of Recreation facilities.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that there should be a place for the general public to use.

Commissioner Plyman instructed the City Manager to meet with Mr. Stanley and to submit the policy fee to the City Commission.

Norman McDonald appeared before the Commission to speak about car stereo noise in the City limits. Mr. McDonald stated that the City has decimated on teenagers who turn up their stereos by giving them Community Service. Mr. McDonald stated that young people love their music and it is their favorite past time. Mr. McDonald pointed out that stereos can be played with the car windows up. The City is under zero tolerance for playing stereos. It is the kind of music that is being played on these stereos that is unacceptable because some music offends citizens and to others it is pleasant sound. Mr. McDonald stated that young people need to learn etiquette. He asked the Commission be a little tolerant with the teenagers.

Commissioner Plyman stated that he has no sympathy for teenagers who abuse stereos. He stated that citizens should not be subjected to noise at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the average stereo system cost \$2,000.00. Mr. McDonald stated that Commissioner Plyman was exaggerating on the cost of stereos. The cost is \$500.00 to \$700.00. Mr. McDonald expressed his concerns and suggested that people deal with the situation. He stated that a \$300.00 fire and Community service is too steep for playing a stereo too loud.

Commissioner Jennings expressed his concerns about the complaints of loud music late at night and early in the morning.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that teenagers should roll up their windows and have the doors closed so that people cannot hear the music. Commissioner Lawrence recommended using zero tolerance from 9:30 pm to 6:30 am. He stated that these are our children and the City should think about it.

Mr. McDonald stated that he would make suggestions to installers in Brunswick about the decibel levels that should be used. He asked the Commission to be careful and not over react.

The meeting was recessed for five minutes.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:20 A.M.

Jymie Herrington appeared before the Commission to discuss placing a fence in front of Greenwood Cemetery. Ms. Herrington stated that the grass is cut periodically in Greenwood Cemetery and the fence is rotted and torn down and the cemetery is in deplorable condition. Ms. Herrington mentioned that Commissioner Jennings recommended placing a fence at the Cemetery. Ms. Herrington stated that respect should be given to the people that have gone on. She asked the Commission to help Commissioner Jennings get something done at Greenwood Cemetery. Ms. Herrington mentioned that some graves are standing open and persons employed by the City should keep up the cemetery.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he has been working on getting a fence since January. Commissioner Jennings asked Mr. Cason how many companies have been contacted concerning the fence at Greenwood Cemetery because 17 months have passed. The City Manager stated that he spoke with many companies concerning the price of the fence and he is in the process of receiving quotes for the fence. Mr. Cason stated that he has not been involved in the project. The City Manager stated that the Director of Public Works is in the process of dealing with the open graves.

Commissioner Jennings asked the City Manager to get three proposals from fence companies and bring back to the next Commission meeting.

Rev. Remi Adeyemi, representing the World Evangelical Faith Ministry appeared before the Commission to request the use of any City owned property for a homeless shelter. Rev. Adeyemi stated that his ministry has been working with alcoholic and drug addicts in the City.

Mayor Wilson stated that he sees the need and does not know if the City has a building available because the building on Bartow Street and the Old Red Cross building is in use.

Rev. Adeyemi reported that people are sleeping in the streets and drug dealers are befriending these people and converting them to drug addicts.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the Director of Community Development look at the condemned houses in the City. Commissioner Jennings warned that there is a separation of Church and State under the United States Constitution.

The City Attorney stated that any facility would have to be used by everyone.

Jymie Herrington stated that she is on call twenty-four hours a day to assist people from home. People came from all over to Brunswick, and local churches give support along with the Salvation Army. People housed at the Salvation Army must leave at 6:00 in the morning. Ms. Herrington requested the use of the kitchen at the Friendship House. She stated that there are sister cities that are willing to help with the homeless problems. Ms. Herrington asked the City to help find a place to feed the homeless people in the City of Brunswick.

Mayor Wilson reiterated that there is a need in the Community and the Commission do not know what the City can do about the homeless situation.

#### **BIDS**

The following bids were submitted for the Police Department roof:

**Beacon Contracting Group, Inc.** Jacksonville, Fl 32211  
Phone: 904-743-9770



The City Manager stated that the Commission asked for the price of a Garbage Truck Body and Chasis. The City Manager reported that a complete Garbage Truck cost \$97,400.00 and the body only cost \$41,00.00.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the purchase of a new garbage truck with an extended warranty. The motion passed unanimously.

**VISITORS BUREAU BOARD**

Commissioner Plyman moved and upon relinquishing his chair Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion re-appointing Commissioner Jennings to serve on the Visitor's Bureau Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner MacLeod nominated Hubert W. Lang, Jr. to serve on the Downtown Development Authority. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion appointing Hubert W. Lang to serve on the Downtown Development Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner MacLeod nominated Harold Hicks to serve on the Downtown Development Authority. Commissioner Plyman nominated Patrick Reynolds to serve on the Downtown Development. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Harold Hicks received 4 votes. Patrick Reynolds received 1 vote. Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion appointing Harold Hicks to serve on the Downtown Development Authority.

The motion passed unanimously.

**PARK AND TREE BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Plyman nominated Nancy Elliot to serve on the Park and Tree Commission. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion appointing Nancy Elliot to serve on the Park and Tree Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

**REDEMPTION DEEDS**

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute redemption deeds. The motion passed unanimously.

- 1) Redemption requested in the name of the present owner Phillip Cross to E-102.5' of New Town Lots 2519, 2520 and 2521 for \$53.65 for the year 1985.  
All taxes, interest and cost have been paid and account is

clear.

2) Redemption requested in the name of the present owner Phillip Cross to E-102.5' of New Town Lots 2519, 2520 and 2521 for \$201.16 for the year 1988.  
All taxes, interest and cost have been paid and account is clear.

3) Redemption requested in the name of the present owner Phillip Cross to E-102.5' of New Town Lots 2519, 2520 and 2521 for \$212.13 for the year 1989.  
All taxes, interest and cost have been paid and account is clear.

**OTHER CITY BUSINESS**

Commission Jennings announced that the City will host the Unity Breakfast on Tuesday, May 27th at King & Prince.

The City Attorney was authorized to write a registered letter to the Railroad Company concerning the train noise and the railroad tracks.

Mayor Wilson mentioned that citizens who volunteer in the City should be commended.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Mayor

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