

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M., MAY 21, 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 Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of May 7, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

**RECOGNITION OF CURTIS, BALLARD, JR.:** Mayor Wilson presented a Resolution to Curtis Ballard, Jr., in recognition of the courageous and heroic action shown in performing the Heimlich Maneuver on his best friend Marcus Wesley. Commissioner Jennings presented Curtis Ballard, Jr., a key to the City.

Commissioner MacLeod commended Curtis Ballard, Jr. for his character, motivation and heroism.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he knows that Curtis' father is proud of him and recited a scripture. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he has known Curtis and his father for many years.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** This being the date, time and place for Public Hearing to rezone an existing lot located on the corner of old Cypress Mill Road and Community Road from R-9 Residential to HC Highway Commercial.

The City Manager stated that the structure was once used as a dentist office and has not been used as nonconforming use within one year. Since the commercial activity on the property has been discontinued for over one year it no

longer falls within the non-conforming status. In order to open a business, a zoning change would be required.

Mayor Wilson stated that this is the first Public Hearing and the second public Hearing is scheduled for June 4, 1997 at 8:30 A.M. No action taken.

**DETENTION MANAGEMENT SERVICE FOR MUNICIPAL:** The Director of Finance stated that Municipal Court received an increase in collection of outstanding fines by Detention Management Services.

Commissioner MacLeod recommended bidding out the annual contract. The Director of Finance stated that the city did not normally bid out these services.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City should delay bidding out these services until Mr. Joel Arline addresses the Commission about his services.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City should listen to Mr. Arline before a decision is made concerning the Detention Management Services.

Mayor Wilson asked why Judge Ligon was not present to discuss the Management Services. The Director of Finance stated that the renewal of the contract for Detention Management was discussed with Judge Ligon and he approved.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion granting Detention Management an extension of 60 days. The motion passed unanimously.

**DELEGATIONS:** Rev. Elliot Foss, Chairman of the Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles appeared before the Commission to request changing the name of Highway Spur 25 to Veteran's Memorial Highway. Rev. Foss stated that the request was made to the Glynn County Commissioners. Rev. Foss mentioned that the Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles sponsored the Vietnam Moving Wall. The wall will be in Brunswick in July.

Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion adopting the following resolution supporting the Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles to change the name of the Highway Spur 25 to Veteran's Memorial Highway

#### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** the Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles is a newly formed Veteran's Group, attempting to assist all Veteran's organizations in the area by being the liaison between them and being a clearinghouse for Veteran's calendars and activities; and

**WHEREAS,** the Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles, as their first official act, is seeking to have the name of State Highway Spur 25, presently known as "Golden Isles Parkway" changed to "Veteran's Memorial Highway" in honor of the many veterans in the Golden Isles who have given so much to their Country; and

**WHEREAS,** July 4, 1997 through July 10, 1997, the Vietnam Moving Wall will be brought to the Golden Isles and will be located on property just off of Spur 25.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City of Brunswick Board of Commissioners, at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 21, 1997, voted to support the Veteran's Council of the Golden Isles' request to petition the Georgia Department of Transportation to have the name of Georgia Highway Spur 25 changed to "Veteran's Memorial Highway."

Mayor Wilson invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day Service scheduled for Monday. Commissioner Plyman stated that he would like to see the Courtyard full of Veterans at the Memorial service.

**STRUCTURAL FITNESS BOARD RECOMMENDATION:** Mary Morris appeared before the commission to request that the City amend the ordinance on Demolition of Unfit Buildings to include repairing and cleaning up of property.

The City Attorney stated that on a number of occasions the City could not take any action against a property owner because of aesthetic reasons. The property must be dilapidated or unrepairable.

Commissioner MacLeod asked what will the City have to do in order for buildings to be torn down. Commissioner Jennings mentioned that he has been trying for seventeen months to do something about the Hotel on Glynn Avenue and the Ice House.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that abandoned houses windows are boarded up and homeowners do not repair their property for 6 or 7 months.

Mrs. Morris pointed out that property owners keep going back to court and nothing is being done about the houses that are boarded up. These houses are eyesores in the City. The Clean and Beautiful Committee want to clean up the City. Mrs. Morris stated that she felt ashamed of the condition of the City. Mrs. Morris questioned whether this was under the direct decision of the Municipal Judge.

The City Attorney stated that the Judge can fashion the remedy to meet the circumstance.

Mrs. Morris suggested that studies be conducted on other cities to see who accomplished this and submit the findings to the Commission.

Commissioner Plyman suggested that the City Manager and City Attorney get together and come up with a solution.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that the City should clean up the alleys and streets before starting any program.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that the City will not have anywhere to store trash once the landfill is closed. Commissioner Plyman stated that the City should start looking for some place to put construction and demolition materials.

Mrs. Morris stated that the City should pull together to remove trash from the streets. Mrs. Morris pointed out that the City Inspector will participate in the clean up.

Mayor Wilson suggested that the City Attorney, City Manager and Municipal Court Judge Ligon come up with recommendations for trash.

Dr. Richard Stobaeus, D.V.M., appeared before the Commission to discuss the number of people living in multi-family homes on the Southend of Brunswick. Dr. Stobaeus stated that a large number of people are packed in houses and housing is a problem for these people who were hired to work at King and Prince Seafood. Dr. Stobaeus stated that this is a direct violation of the zoning ordinance for multi family houses.

Dr. Stobaeus mentioned that some of the residents have communicable diseases.

Mayor Wilson questioned the location of this property. Dr. Stobaeus stated that the property is located on Fourth Avenue and Albany Street. Mayor Wilson mentioned that the City did not allow clinics in this area for 180 years. Mayor Wilson stated that the clinic is located two blocks from a residential area.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the zoning ordinance allows up to 16 people in a 1400 square foot house. Commissioner Jennings asked Dr. Stobaeus if more than 16 people were living in these houses. Dr. Stobaeus stated that it was less than sixteen people living the house. Commissioner Jennings stated that this matter should be addressed to the Health Department.

Mayor Wilson stated that he do not understand what the problem is because the City did not receive complaints from any other residents on the Southend.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that there were fifteen people in his family. His mother, father and thirteen children.

The City Manager recommended setting up workshops with landlords to explain the zoning in the City.

Mayor Wilson asked Dr. Stobaeus to speak with the Health Department about the communicable diseases.

Jerry Kennedy stated that Mexicans are tenants and if there are any problems or complaints he contacts King and Prince Seafood Company and they have interpreters to speak with the tenants about the problems.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that King and Prince Seafood Co. has interpreters and a health clinic for their employees.

David Trent, representing King and Prince Seafood appeared before the Commission to discuss the Housing of employees who work for King and Prince Seafood. Mr. Trent stated that if these were White Anglo Saxons there would have never been any discussion, but since they are decedents of Hispanics it is serious discrimination. Mr. Trent stated that they have been looking for people to work at King and Prince Seafood these people applied for the jobs. Mr. Trent stated that

500 people are employed by King & Prince Seafood and Company and a human resource person is on staff who speaks English and Spanish. Mr. Trent stated that they help the Utility Companies because of the communication problems and they also help them relocate. Mr. Trent told the Commission that the School Superintendent David Mosely said there are no problems with students. It is a smooth transition. Mr. Trent pointed out that they are excellent employees and not running the streets at night. They are using these houses to raise their families. Mr. Trent stated that he asked Dr. Stobaeus to identify the person with the communicable disease and Dr. Stobaeus refused. Mr. Trent asked Dr. Stobaeus not to threat these people like second-class citizens.

Commissioner Plyman stated that the employees are welcome in the City of Brunswick and he has no problem with them being here. Commissioner Plyman asked that they abide by the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Trent asked what is a family dwelling, a single dwelling or is it who lives in these houses?

Commissioner Plyman stated that in a 1400 square foot house sixteen people are allowed to live in the dwelling.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that cities like Milledgeville have had these problems because of the influx of people being employed at the hospital. Commissioner MacLeod asked the City Manager to contact the City Manager of Milledgeville to find out how they handled the problems.

Commissioner Jennings questioned whether crime has increased on the Southend. Lt. Bruce stated that there was no increase in crime rates on the Southend. Commissioner Jennings asked Mr. Trent to give Dr. Stobaeus his business card so that he may call him if there are any problems. Mr. Trent stated that Dr. Stobaeus already has his business card.

Meeting recessed for 10 minutes.

Meeting Reconvened.

Don Skeens, representing the Glynn County Board of Education appeared before the Commission to request that 3.9 acres on Fourth Street next to the stadium be converted to a soccer

field and that the City relinquish their one-third interest to the Board of Education. Mr. Skeens stated that a 4.5 acre borrow pit was once used for a landfill and the fill dirt was used to construct the stadium. Mr. Skeens pointed out that the Board of Education was trying to use fill dirt to close the borrow pit. Mr. Skeens stated that the Corps of Engineers requested that they create another wetland.

Commissioner Plyman requested that Mr. Skeens submit his request in writing.

Mayor Wilson stated that he is familiar with the property. He stated that the Board of Education should make sure that the ditch is drained properly so that the water does not lie in residential areas. Mayor Wilson stated that he did not object.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City exchange the property for 1.1 acres of land. Mayor Wilson stated that the City would be receptive to taking back Lanier Field.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that he was not prepared to give away any land tonight. He pointed out that he was not familiar with the land. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would at least want to see the land before a decision is made by the Commission.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE:** Petition received from Janice M. Van Gundy to retail beer and wine for consumption on premises at Oak Tree Restaurant, 1402 Reynolds Street. The Chief of Police and the City Manager approved the petition. Commissioner MacLeod stated that he would like for the City Attorney to define the location 100 yards from a church.

The City Attorney stated that State Law reads that nothing shall prohibit consumption of alcoholic beverage on the premises of a business. It does allow City and County to adopt ordinances for distance requirements for businesses that allow consumption off premises.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the City in the past have over used the policy of General State Law to determine the distance of 100 yards to allow businesses to retail alcoholic beverages in the City. Commissioner MacLeod stated that State Law allows businesses to retail beer and wine for consumption on premises within 100 yards of a church. Commissioner MacLeod recommended that the City amend

the Alcoholic Beverage license so that it is clear on who can purchase an alcoholic beverage license.

The City Attorney read item (b) Nothing contained in this Code shall prohibit the licensing of the sale or distribution. (3) Licenses for retail sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises only who shall be subject to regulation as to distances from churches, school, and colleges by counties and municipalities.

Corporal Dickerson stated that the last 23 years it was the informal tradition of the City to measure from property line to property line. The City used the State Law as a decision making tool.

Commissioner Plyman pointed out that it would be would be a violation of State Law to deny this application.

Commissioner Lawrence recalled that the City used the 100-yard rule to grant many alcoholics beverage licenses measuring from front door to front door.

The City Attorney stated that when the Exxon Station moved across from the school on Parkwood and Glynn Avenue the Department of Revenue advised the Commission that the business could be measured from the front door down the side walks along the chain fence to the front door of the school building. The City Attorney stated that there is a specific requirement set forth in the ordinance about the procedure of issuing alcoholic beverage licenses to businesses. The City Attorney stated that he would be very reluctant to advise the City to use State Law.

Commissioner MacLeod pointed out that the City of Brunswick was issuing beer and wine licenses for consumption on premises and there is nothing in the City Ordinance that requires the 100-yard distance.

Attorney Joe Hamill representing the owner of Oak Tree Restaurant stated that the Church was not opposed to Mrs. Van Gundy opening up the Restaurant.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that if the church has no reservations there is not a problem.

On call for the question the motion passed unanimously.

**CEMETERY DEEDS:** On motion of Commissioner Plyman seconded by Commissioner Lawrence the following Cemetery petitions were unanimously granted:

- 1) Petition received transfer space C, D, E, & F of Lot No. 13, Section No. 104 in Palmetto Cemetery from Kim Baggerly to Kim Smith. Original deed lost, but City record verify ownership.
- 2) Petition received from Leon Sparre to exchange Spaces A & B of Lot NO. 28 in Palmetto Cemetery. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.
- 3) Petition of C.K. Green for deed to Lot No. 9, Section No. 136 in Palmetto Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost, misplaced or destroyed, but City records verify ownership.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** The following reports for the month of April were submitted and were as information: (1) General Fund (2) Water/Wastewater (3) Community Development (4) Municipal Court (5) Metro Squad and (6) Uncollectible Water accounts.

**OTHER CITY BUSINESS:** The City Manager stated that Ken Tollison requested that Coral Park Drive be extended to tie into Cypress Mill Road. Mr. Tollison offered to pay 2/3 of the paving for the existing road. The City Manager stated that it would cost the City \$20,000.00 or less to pave 1/3 of the road. The funds have been allocated through the Local Option Sales Tax for road paving.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed that he would like to see construction begin before paving the road. Commissioner Plyman invited Mr. Tollison to attend the next meeting to discuss his plans or to a work session. Commissioner Jennings stated that he spoke with Commissioner Tollison about his plans to place town houses in the area.

Commissioner Jennings announced that the City will host the Unity Breakfast at King & Prince Hotel. Speakers will be the Mayor, City Manager and Director of Finance.

Commissioner Jennings questioned why tents were being put up at the Farmer's Market. The City Manager stated that a gospel benefit was held over the weekend.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City and County form a joint authority to handle permits and franchise agreement. Commissioner Plyman recommended discussing this at a joint City/County meeting.

It met the consensus of the Commission to reschedule the meeting of June 18, 1997 to 8:30 A.M. so that the Commission may attend the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner.

Commissioner MacLeod reported that the HarborFest was a great success.

Commissioner Plyman reported that K Street to Albany Street has collapsed about two feet. Commissioner Plyman recommended closing off K Street to Albany Street to prevent problems. The City Manager stated that the Director of Public Works will look at the problem.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that a Patrol Officer is needed on Altama and R Street to patrol the school traffic. The City Manager stated that an officer will be present at that location in the morning.

The City Manager announced that the City will hold a joint City/County meeting at City Hall on June 9th.

Mayor Wilson suggested that the Commission look at the City's financial statements to find out what Departments are running over their budget. Commissioner Plyman moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Mayor

Attest: -----  
City Clerk