

The Director of Finance told the Commission that the request for reimbursement was made informally.

Mayor Wilson recommended that the City go to each bank to get the best rates for their funds. The City should do what is best for their citizens and employees. The City has to work with each bank.

It met the general consensus of the Commission to authorize the City Manager, the City Attorney and the Director of Finance to meet with the Banks to negotiate the reimbursement of funds to the City of Brunswick.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., October 15, 1997

PRESENT: His Honor Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Roosevelt Lawrence, Dr. James MacLeod, 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 Mayor and Commissioners and everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion approving the minutes of the Regular meeting of October 1, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THEFT OF CITY CHECKS

Commissioner Jennings led the discussion on the theft of the payroll checks from City Hall. Commissioner Jennings reported that he was sitting home watching the news and found out that \$66,000.00 worth of checks was stolen and cashed by Community Service workers. Commissioner Jennings stated that he was appalled that Mayor Wilson did not notify the Commission concerning the situation. Commissioner Jennings told Mayor Wilson that he owes the public for not telling them about the stolen checks. Commissioner Jennings further stated that the Mayor owes the public an apology.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that this is the third time that the checks have come up. The City Manager was instructed to gather information and bring it back to the Commission. Commissioner Lawrence suggested that the Commission discuss the checks in an Executive Session.

Commissioner Jennings pointed out that the public needs to know almost \$66,000.00 is missing from taxpayer's money. Commissioner Jennings stated that an article in the Brunswick News quoted that the stolen checks amount was less than \$100.00. Commissioner Jennings informed the Commission that he had copies of the checks. Commissioner Jennings recommended that the Director of Finance negotiate with the banks.

Mayor Wilson stated that he received information about the stolen checks from members of the City's staff and also read about it in the Newspaper. Mayor Wilson mentioned that he was sure the City was insured and it was up to the banks to reimburse the City for the cost of the checks.

The Director of Finance stated that an affidavit was signed confirming the amount to be \$59,000.00. This information was given to the City Manager and the Police Chief.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss the matter. The motion passed unanimously.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

The following 1997 alcoholic beverage license renewals were submitted and approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager. On motion of Commissioner Lawrence seconded by Commissioner Jennings the following petitions were unanimously granted:

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

Angie M. Smith at Hide Away Lounge, 1709 1/2 Gloucester Street;

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

Peter J. Nermoe at Bottle Time Liquors, 1900 First Street;

Phillip E. Bluestein at The Grog Shoppe, 1701 Norwich Street;

To retail beer and wine for consumption on premises:

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

To retail beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Peter J. Nermoe at Beer and Wine Depot, 1900 First Street;

Henry Sowell at Bunky's Foods, 2803 Glynn Avenue;

Jerry L. Adams at Conoco #10051, 3879 Altama Avenue;

Isaac Davis at Five Points Supermarket, 2802 Altama Avenue;

To retail beer for consumption on premises:

Keith M. Middleton at Pizza Inn of Brunswick, 3461 Cypress Mill Road;

To retail beer for consumption off premises:

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

DELEGATIONS

Beth Boyd appeared before the Commission to request the use of the City's right of way to place benches in the area. Ms. Boyd stated that Tillman Insurance Company would insure the benches for one million dollars per year, per bench. Bench Mark will maintenance of the benches. Ms. Boyd stated that the City will have use of a bench.

Commissioner MacLeod questioned whether the City heard from the Park and Tree Board on placing the benches in a City Park. Commissioner MacLeod recommended hearing from the Park and Tree Board before a decision is made.

Ms. Boyd pointed out that the City Council could approve placing the benches on the City's right of way.

Mayor Wilson told Mrs. Boyd that a decision would be made at the next City Commission meeting.

Elaine Knight did not appear before the Commission to discuss purchasing two small streets joining properties of Bay Street.

SMALL CITIES GRANT

The Director of Community Development submitted plans for the Expansion of the Multipurpose Center. The Director of Community Development stated that the construction cost would be \$518,000.00 and the amount of the grant would be \$396,000.00 and the City would have to cash-match \$121,500.00. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion adopting the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Brunswick it hereby commits Community Development funds in the amount of \$121,500 to be used a cash-match, for the proposed Small Cities, Public Facilities Block Grant Application of \$396,900.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Community Development is hereby authorized to file the Application for the said Program with the State Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that some of the construction work has deteriorated on the homes that the City renovated. The work that the contractors completed was not very good. These houses should have the work redone.

The Director of Community Development stated that the City could design a program for \$500,000.00 to repair some of the houses. He stated that some contractors performed good work and some contractor's work was not so good.

The Director of Community Development explained that the renovated housed was granted about \$4,000.00 for repairs. He stated that more money should have been spent on the renovation of these homes. The City tried to address the heating problems because most homes had space heaters, which have been outlawed.

RENEWAL OF INSURANCE POLICIES

The Director of Finance submitted insurance renewals recommendations for General Liability, Law Enforcement, Public Officials Liability and workers compensation. He recommended General Liability in the amount of \$42,271 from American Southern. Law Enforcement in the amount of \$21,348 from Royal. Public Officials in the amount of \$5,611 from Royal. Workers Compensation in the amount of \$39,689 from HRH St. Simons/Savannah Georgia.

The Director of Finance recommended coverage for eight months from November 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998 so that the City could have all major insurance policies including property and fleet insurance renewals become effective on a common anniversary date.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the recommendation of Staff. The motion passed unanimously.

CEMETERY DEEDS

On motion of Commissioner Lawrence seconded by Commissioner Jennings were unanimously granted:

1. Petition received to transfer Lot No. 5 N-2/3, Spaces A & B, Section No. 151 in Palmetto Cemetery from H.E. Owens to H. E. Owens, Jr. Petitioner to retain Lot No. 5 N-2/3, Spaces C & D of Section No. 151. Original deed surrendered.

2. Petition received to transfer Lot No. 1 Section No. 122, in Palmetto Cemetery from Mrs. Louise Head to Elzey and Judy Head. Original deed lost, but City records verify ownership.

3. Petition received to transfer Lot No. 1 Section No. 198, in Palmetto Cemetery from Carroll Lane to Kathy Martin. Original deed Surrender.

4. Petition of Charles King for deed to Lot No. 4, Section No., 148, in Palmetto Cemetery in lieu of original deed which has been lost, misplaced or destroyed, but City records verify ownership.

5. Petition received to transfer Lot No. 18, Section No. 70 in Greenwood Cemetery from Mrs. Janie McMullen to Mrs. Janice Baldwin Roberts.

6. Petition of Janice Baldwin Roberts for deed to Lot No. 1, Section No. 69 in Greenwood Cemetery in lieu of Original deed which has been lost, misplaced or destroyed, but City records verify ownership.

REDEMPTION DEED

Petition received from Bob Cunningham as Attorney for Dr. Milton J. Arras for a redemption deed in favor of his client to Old Town Lot 356 property acquired at Tax Sale. All taxes, interest and cost in the amount of \$887.69 for the year 198 have been paid and account is clear. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the redemption deed. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager reported that 1:00 P.M. Friday the Fire Department will have a demonstration of the infrared imaging helmets. One group has come forward to lead and effort to hold fund raising for the purchase of the helmet.

The City Manager announced that the City/County Auction would be held

Saturday at the Public Works Compound on Norwich Street.

Commissioner Jennings mentioned that some cities have a people's budget and Department Heads meet to set goals for ten years to establish accountability. Commissioner Jennings stated that he would discuss this at a later date.

Commissioner MacLeod reported that Rev. Garris is interested in the spirit of patriotism. He stated that Rev. Garris is now serving on a committee, and he will bring back the details.

The City Attorney reported that the Sapphire Club's case was dismissed on certain conditions. The Sapphire Club also waived claims on receiving a refund for the purchase of an alcoholic beverage license fee and business license.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that many elderly persons' homes are being foreclosed on because they cannot pay their taxes. Commissioner Lawrence stated that many elderly people suffer from Alzheimer's. He stated that the elderly people in the City should be protected. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he objected to persons purchasing elderly people property because they could not remember to pay their County taxes.

The City Manager reported that Mayor Wilson and Commissioner MacLeod accompanied him to Atlanta to meet with Mr. Shackelford. He stated that Mr. Shackelford was very gracious and agreed to contribute the bulk of the funds to pave Coral Park Drive. The City Manager stated that Mr. Shackelford also agreed to fund utility modification of lines when construction begins to widen Highway 17.

The Commission held an Executive Session to discuss the theft of checks. Following the Executive Session Mayor Wilson stated that it would be in the best interest of the City to authorize the City Attorney to look into the matter and meet with the Banking Institutions.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the City needs a police officer at the intersection of R and Altama Avenue before and after school. The Chief of Police stated that school crossing guards are stationed at the intersection every morning. Commissioner Lawrence recommended placing a police officer there everyday. Commissioner Lawrence recommended that the phones be placed in another location on Altama & R Street.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest _____
City Clerk