

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

PRESENT: His Honor Mayor Homer L. Wilson, Commissioners Roosevelt Lawrence, and Harold E. Jennings.

ABSENT: Commissioner Dr. James MacLeod.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Mark Mitchell, City Manager.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Mayor and Commissioners and everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the minutes of the Regular meeting of October 15, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR DIXVILLE PARK

The Recreation Director appeared before the Commission to submit bid recommendation for playground equipment for Dixville Park. He stated that the City received a grant from the State Community Affairs Department in the amount of \$20,000.00, which was secured by Representative Rev. E. C. Tillman. The City also received another grant from the Rotary Club for \$5,000.00. The Recreation Director stated that the cost to the City for equipment is \$3,000.00. He stated that a meeting was held by the Dixville Coalition and input was given concerning the type of playground equipment that would be purchased for Dixville Park.

The City Manager stated that the City have money budgeted for the playground equipment for Dixville Park. The City Manager stated that the Rotary Club would like to submit the funds in memory of the late Ed Pinkney.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to accept the bid recommendation submitted by Staff for playground equipment for Dixville Park in the amount of \$28,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Bradley expressed concerns about the condition of the fence around Dixville Park. Mr. Bradley stressed that the new playground equipment would enhance the park and is an asset to the community.

The Recreation Director stated that the fence around Dixville Park seemed to be in good condition. He stated that the fence would be checked by the Recreation Department.

DELEGATIONS

Beth Boyd representing Benchmark Company appeared before the Commission to request the use of the City's right of way to place benches in the City.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he was opposed to placing benches in the City. He stated that the Commissions were in the process of cleaning the City. He pointed out that the City did not need more clutter.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to deny the request of Benchmark Company to place benches on the City's right of way. The motion passed unanimously.

John Demery, representing the Dixville Coalition requested to construct a school bus stop at the corner of Amherst and Prince Street on the City's right of way.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the request to construct a school bus stop on the City's right of way on Amherst and Prince Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that Mr. Demery meet with Board of Education to see how often the buses stop. Mr. Demery stated that the buses stop Monday thru Friday.

Mr. Demery stated that new playground equipment is a positive thing that people can see to enhance the Community.

Robert Bradley thanked the Commission for the playground equipment for Dixville Park. Mr. Bradley requested that the City clean the alleys and lanes in Dixville because the fire department cannot get their equipment through the alleys.

The Fire Chief stated that a list of the alleys was submitted to the City Manager. He stated that Community Service Workers work on the weekend to clean the alleys.

The City Manager informed Mr. Bradley that the alleys would be cleaned as soon as possible.

Commissioner Jennings instructed the Fire Chief to meet with Mr. Bradley as soon as possible to look at the lanes and alleys in Dixville and determine if they are creating as fire hazards.

This met the general consensus of the Commission.

Mr. Bradley expressed his concerns about the drug problem in Dixville. He requested that the City increase the presence of Police Officers in the area. Mr. Bradley reported that children are selling drugs on the corners and they look like they should be in school. He stated that he would like to see drug dealers off the streets when church services begin on Sunday mornings.

The City Manager was instructed to increase surveillance and security in the Dixville area.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like to have walking Patrol Officers in the area. He pointed out that a request was made two years ago for walking Patrol Officers in the City. Commissioner Jennings pointed out that he would like to see all groups disbursed if this is legal.

The City Attorney stated that the City adopted an ordinance concerning these types of situations.

Lieutenant Bruce was present and stated that the City adopted a campaign call Issues 94 to reduce crime in the City Lieutenant. Bruce stated that the Police Department would start this project again.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that Mr. Bradley use a special code when calling in a drug suspect to the Police Department. Commissioner Lawrence recommended that Mr. Bradley meet with the Police Chief to discuss the use of a special code.

Fred Herzfeld did not appear at this time before the Commission to discuss health conditions of Winn Dixie. Lee Carmical, attorney representing Nightingale, Liles, Dennard and Carmical appeared before the Commission to request that the City abandon the alley to F and Norwich Streets.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that the word abandon not be used. He stated that he did not like the word. He stated that in the past the alleys were deeded to the adjacent property owners.

Mayor Wilson stated that petition for other five-foot alleys has been granted, and it would be proper to give the alley to the law firm.

The City Attorney questioned the owner of parcel number 5 on F and Norwich Streets. He stated that the Legislature passed a local law for the City to dispose of trash alleys. He pointed out that the City should dispose the North and South alley because they are a liability to the City. The City Attorney stated that the alley could be conveyed to the owner of parcel number 8.

Lee Carmical stated that he would be glad to speak to the owners of the parcels to see if they are interested in the alley.

The City Attorney stated that he would like for the City to convey the alley to all interested property owners today if it is possible.

The City Attorney recommended that the Commission adopt a motion authorizing the Mayor to execute a deed to the appropriate adjoining owners of the five-foot alley if the property owner would accept it.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion accepting the recommendation of legal council. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported that item (6) consider approving proposed revisions of Speed Ordinance for the Agenda because it is not ready for an adoption.

Mayor Wilson expressed concerns about the City increasing speed limits, which leads to increase in liability.

The City Manager pointed out that some streets were recommended for speed limits to be reduced.

Commissioner Jennings questioned whether the Department of Transportation has a right to impose speed limits on City Streets.

The City Attorney stated that the Commission set the speed limit for City Streets.

The City Manager stated that the Department of Transportation submitted a request to the City for acquisition of the Right of Way at Glynn Avenue and Talmadge Avenue. The Department of Transportation will make improvements on U.S. 17 at Talmadge Avenue and on Gloucester Street. A traffic signal will be placed at Talmadge Avenue. He stated that the Department of Transportation would like the City to acquire two small pieces of additional right of way that will be needed for the project. The City Manager stated that the Department of Transportation would cover utility relocation.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned why DOT would place a traffic signal on Glynn and Talmadge Avenue and not on Gloucester Street. The City Manager explained that the intersection of Gloucester would be redesigned so that a traffic signal can be placed there in the future.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether the Department of Transportation was looking at placing a traffic signal on R and Altama Avenue. The City Manager stated that the response from DOT have been negative concerning the traffic signal on R and Altama Avenue.

Mayor Wilson informed the Commission that he met with Mr. Shackelford and was told that Highway 17 will be widened whether the City liked it or not. He pointed out that the utilities should be moved because of the widening of Highway 17. He stated that the City received over 400,000.00 and they came out very successful in Atlanta.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract for acquisition of the right of way on Glynn Avenue and Talmadge Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

The following 1998 alcoholic beverage license renewals were submitted 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.

CEMETERY DEED

Petition received to transfer Lot No. 17 Section No. B-5 in Palmetto Cemetery from Jewell Smith to Mary Brumley and Mary Diane Johnson. Original deed surrendered. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion granting petition. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager reported that a replica of the British sailing ship, the Bark Endeavor will make a Port visit in the City of Brunswick. The Tour will be sponsored by the National Geographic Society beginning March 20-30 1998. The City Manager stated that a request was made from the Golden Isles Arts and Humanities for the City to co-sponsor this project with them. The City Manager recommended that the City participate because it would draw people to the Waterfront Park. The cost of participation for the City would cost \$9,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the request to co-sponsor the British sailing ship the Bark Endeavor for \$9,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager reported that the Park and Tree Commission minutes were submitted and a request was made to remove a live oak tree in front of 602

Dartmouth Street because it is cracked open. Another request was also submitted to remove a dying oak tree on the Corner of Prince and Bartow Street. The City Manager pointed out that live oaks will be planted as close as possible to the location where the trees were removed.

Mayor Wilson stated that the residents should be notified about the removal of the trees if the trees are endangering life, limb and property.

Commissioner Jennings questioned the Fire Chief about an article in the news, which stated the City was not concerned about life of citizens in the Community.

The Fire Chief stated that two City Commissioners showed up and spoke after demonstration of the helmets. He stated that business raised funds and people donated money for the purchase of the helmet.

The City Manager stated that 12,500.00 were budgeted for the helmet.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the Department Heads request in writing to the Commission to solicit funds for any City equipment. Commissioner Jennings stated that the first oath of a City Commissioner is to protect the Health and Safety of the Citizens of Brunswick.

The City Manager stated that he was surprised about the editorial because many requests from Departments have been supported by the City Commission.

The Fire Chief stated that the Commission supported the idea of the purchasing a helmet involving citizens in the Community.

The Fire Chief stated that the City needed a helmet to go into burning buildings to save lives. He stated that money was raised to purchase two helmets.

Commissioner Jennings reiterated that Department Heads should obtain a letter from the City Commissions to accept funds for citizens in the Community. Mayor Wilson pointed out that the request to raise funds for the purchase of the helmet should have come from the City Manager.

Commissioner Jennings reports that Community Service Workers are not reporting to work and the City should find a jail to send them if it is in Jesup or somewhere. Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City check to see what the cost would be for housing prisoners in jail.

The City Manager stated that he will speak with the sheriff and get back with the Commission.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that citizens are having problems when bonding a person out of jail an additional \$15.00 administrative fee is charged. Commissioner Lawrence questioned why the fee is being charged.

The City Manager stated that he is not aware that this fee was being charged and he will check on it.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether the cemetery problems have been

taken care of. The City Manager stated that all the problems have been taken care of.

Commissioner Jennings reported that the Cemetery at Oak Grove is looking good after the clean up.

Mayor Wilson reported that the City needs lighting in the area of Talmadge Avenue and Niles Avenue. He stated that a person is operating a small Flee market on Niles Avenue and obstructing two blocks on Niles Avenue.

Brad Brown, candidate for Mayor, stated that it was a good turn out yesterday and he appreciated the people who came out to vote.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Mayor

Attest: _____
City Clerk