

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**7:00 P. M., November 19, 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.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable Judge Orion Douglas stated that one of the most pleasant aspects of his job is to participate in administering the oath of office to new officials for the County and City Government. Judge Douglas further stated that this is a real, real special occasion because the honor he shares tonight is with a friend who has been a friend for 22 years. Judge Douglas said everyone knows Coach Williams and knows that he is tried, he is tested and he is proven true to his commitment to all citizens of Brunswick and he is honored to have been asked to do this.

The Honorable Judge Orion Douglas administered the oath of office to Commissioner-Elect of the North Ward Jonathan Williams.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 1997. The motion passed unanimously.

**BID RECOMMENDATION FOR VAN**

The City Manager submitted bid recommendation for Van for the Recreation Department:

<b>VAN VADEN</b>	<b>\$23,963.00</b>
<b>Clint Brannen</b>	<b>\$21,430.00</b>
<b>King's Colonial Ford *</b>	<b>\$21,200.00*</b>
<b>Enterprise Rent-A-Car     1997-Dodge</b>	<b>\$21,246.00</b>

**\*Recommended Low-Bid**

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to accept the low bid of King's Colonial Ford in the amount of \$21,200.00. The motion passed unanimously.

**BID RECOMMENDATION FOR POLICE CARS**

The City Manager submitted bid recommendations for recondition cars for the Police Dept with a 3-year warranty:

<b>Blue Streak Motors*</b>	<b>\$12,795.00 each (5) 1996</b>	<b>\$63,975.00</b>
<b>Pursuit Unlimited</b>	<b>\$14,500.00 each</b>	<b>\$72,500.00</b>
<b>Cruiser Unlimited</b>	<b>\$13,995.00 each (3) 96 Ford</b>	<b>\$63,975.00</b>
	<b>\$10,995.00 each (2) 95 Ford</b>	

**\*Recommended Bid**

The City Manager stated that the 1996 reconditioned cars will be purchased with grant money the City received for Police Equipment. He further stated that the vehicles will be used for the take home program and police officers that live in the City will qualify for the program.

Commissioner MacLeod moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion accepting the low bid of Blue Streak Motors in the amount of \$63,975.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Wilson recognized Brad Brown-Mayor Elect. Mr. Brown thanked everyone for their support. Mr. Brown told the Mayor and Commissioners that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

**ADOPTION OF SPEED ORDINANCE**

The City Attorney submitted the Ordinance to regulate speed limits in the City of Brunswick.

Mayor Wilson stated that there was on objections to the City Commission changing the obsessive speed limits.

The City Attorney stated that the City does not wish to change the speed limits established by the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that the City study the speed limits for the intercity streets.

The City Attorney stated that the speed limits will not be changed on intercity streets.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the Commission table and study the speed limits.

Mayor Wilson stated that Commissioner-Elect Williams should have an opportunity to study the speed limits.

This met the general consensus of the Commission.

#### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS**

The following 1998 alcoholic beverage license renewals were submitted and approved by the Chief of Police and City Manager. On motion of Commissioner Jennings, the following petitions were unanimously granted:

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

Eddie L. West at club 87/Package Store, 1604 Fourth;

Alfredo Jaime at El Potro Mexican Restaurant, 3460 Cypress Mill Road;

Robert P. Redden at Pablo's Mexican Restaurant, 3384 Cypress Mill Road.

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

Lorraine M. Lawrence at Dixville Package Store, 1509 1/2

London Street;

James L. Gibson, Jr., at Gibson Beverage Center, 3304 Glynn Avenue;

To retail beer and wine for consumption on premises:

Jeanne Robertson at Grapevine Cafe, 1519 Newcastle Street;

To retail beer and wine for consumption on premises:

Elmer C. Keefee at Harvey's, 4980 Altama Avenue;

James L. Gibson, Jr., at J.P. Spirits & Wine, 3304 1/2 Glynn Avenue;

Larry L. Felts at Lil' Champ Food #326, 2401 Gloucester St;

Larry L. Felts at Lil' Champ Food #323, 2408 Newcastle St;

Fred Stregles as Lil' Champ Food #379, 3001 Altama Avenue;

Valerie McClane at Lil' Champ Food #337, 3320 Glynn Avenue;

Larry L. Felts at Lil' Champ Food #381, 1008 Bay Street;

Larry L. Felts at Lil' Champ Food #390, 1910 Newcastle St;

Larry L. Felts at Lil' Champ Food #371, 1409 Gloucester St;

To retail beer only for consumption on premises:

Henry Ferndes at Brunswick Yacht Club, 1200 Glynn Avenue;

To retail beer for consumption off premises:

Mike D. Mulkey at Revco Discount Drug #4246, 1709 Gloucester St.

#### **GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION RETURNS**

The City Clerk read into the minutes the following Municipal Election returns for the November 2, 1997 Election.

For Mayor James H. Brooks received 205 votes. Brad Brown received 1152 votes. James "Doc" MacLeod received 305 votes.

David Moreland received 136 votes. Ken Plyman received 705 votes.

For City Commissioners, Southward Doris Atkinson Davis received 834 votes. Noel "Bo" Green received 414 votes. Otis Herrington received 421 votes. Ronald E. Sadowski received 182 votes. Homer L. Wilson received 581 votes.

For City Commissioner, Northward Roosevelt Lawrence received 1585 votes.

Special Election for unexpired term of Ken Plyman for City Commissioner, Northward J. Wray Avera, II received 596 votes. Guy Payne received 490 votes. Jonathan L. Williams received 1204 votes.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner MacLeod seconded the motion to accept the Election returns of the November 4, 1997 Municipal Election.

#### **OTHER CITY BUSINESS**

The City Manager reported that a request was made to place a median cut on Altama Avenue, which will allow residents and members of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness member's access to Suburban Drive. The City Manager pointed out that curb cuts are allowed in the ordinance to reduce traffic and make traffic safer.

Mayor Wilson stated that the curb cut will work out fine for residents in the area and Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness members. He further stated that residents should give input about the curb cut.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the traffic will be congested. Commissioner Jennings pointed out that the curb cut may cause a traffic accident in front of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness church.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City should hear input from residents and church members. Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City contact Elders of the church and get signatures from residents and invite them to attend the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City Staff get together and submit a budget on time. He suggested a people's budget for the 1998 budget year. Commissioner Jennings stated that other Cities submit a people's budget to accomplish goals for the Commission. Commissioner Jennings stated that he will bring it back up in January.

Commissioner MacLeod stated that the Commission should discuss the raises for the Fire Department. He instructed the City Manager to get the information back to the Commission.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about police officers driving cars home and doing personal work on another job. He stated that the City should not allow vehicles to be driven home by police officers and other departments.

Mayor Wilson stated that Commissioner Lawrence certainly has a valid reason. Mayor Wilson pointed out that police officers that carry vehicles home deter crime. Mayor Wilson stated that he is opposed to employees who move on Post Road and expects the City to furnish a car for them to drive home. He stated that if the employee is not on call then there is no reason to give them a car to drive home.

The City Attorney requested that the Commission hold an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

Mayor Wilson informed the Commission that the City will have to raise money to relocate the utilities on Highway 17. Mayor Wilson stated that the cost will be \$600,000.00. The City Manager stated that the Department of Transportation is willing to cover all of the cost over \$400,000.00.

Mayor Wilson mentioned that the City promised the residents on the Southend that the drainage problems will be alleviated around Greer Drive and Fifth Avenue. Mayor Wilson stated that he is in very much in favor of the work being done because it has been a universal problem for years. Mayor Wilson explained that a lot of the drainage problems were caused when buildings was never capped off after World War II. He stated that the residents will soon expect action.

The City Manager stated that the Commission would be updated on the finalization of the construction project. He stated that the project would be bid out next month. The City Attorney is working with the Georgia Ports Authority and Georgia Pacific to secure some easements that the City needs in the area. The easements must be in place before the City begins any work in the area. The construction for the project will begin sometime after the first of the year.

Mayor Wilson questioned whether the chlorination at the treatment plant funds was available to begin the project.

The City Manager stated that the SPLOST funds are continuing to come in and the only project that the City is working on right now is the Police Department's roof, which is progressing well. He stated that by the time the project is bided and construction begins the City will receive the first check probably in March and the funds will certainly be there to allow

construction.

Commissioner Jennings questioned when the County would receive their two checks. The City Manager stated that the County would receive their checks in January or February. Commissioner Jennings stated that the City did not have to borrow two million dollars. Commissioner Jennings stated that it was his idea to go to the County and ask them to give the City the first and second SPLOST checks and the City would give them the 11th and 12th SLOST checks. This saved the City from having to go to New York to borrow money and paying 4 to 6 percent interest on two million dollars. Commissioner Jennings stated that the sewer plant went forward based on not borrowing any money. This innovated idea saved the City from borrowing two million dollars.

The City Manager stated that it is very possible that because the first check that came in was so much less than the City anticipated, it would not take two full checks to pay the County back the amount the City owes. The City will not lose two full months of tax payments.

Mayor Wilson asked the City Manager whether he has seen the plans to alleviate the problems on the Southend.

The City Manager stated that he checked the plans from time to time and the Engineer is finishing them up. He stated that he has not seen the plans in the last week or so.

Mayor Wilson went on record stating that the Commission had to wrestle with whether to build a retention pond. Mayor Wilson stated that the Commission did not plunge into building the pond because it would have cost \$50,000.00 to build. Mayor Wilson instructed the City Manager to take the Council members out and explain what he proposes to do to alleviate the problems.

The City Manager stated that he will get the City Engineer and actually take a trip to the sight and show what the City is proposing to do.

Mayor Wilson reported that a hump is in the road on Kay Avenue. The City Manager stated that he will meet with the Public Works Director. Mayor Wilson next reported the sewer problems in the 1800 Block of Kay Avenue.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he visited cemeteries that place the vault in the ground and the slab is beneath the ground. It may be in the City's best interest to place vault slabs at least 16 inches below the ground. Mayor Wilson agreed with Commissioner Lawrence. He stated that the City would be liable for caskets that raised up during abnormal rainfalls. He further stated that it should be something to ensure that this will not happen.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission should discuss adopting an ordinance that requires a vault slab to be placed sixteen inches below the ground. The City Attorney stated that the City would need to adopt an ordinance if the City intends to regulate it. Commissioner Lawrence recommended that the City meet with the Funeral Directors and tell them what the City plans to do.

The City Manger stated that the City can notify the Funeral Directors and let them know that the Commission is considering adopting an ordinance that would require the vault to be completely covered. This would eliminate the problem and also receive feed back from them.

Commissioner Williams questioned why the vault would be placed sixteen inches. He asked if there has been any type of study that recommends sixteen inches would be suffice. He asked how the Commission came up with that particular measurement.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the vault needs to be at least 12 inches below the ground so that the City can make sure the casket won't come up. He stated if the City looks at 4 or 5 inches the caskets won't come up at 16 inches in the ground.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he heard a story concerning the burial of a dog in the cemetery and questioned if this was allowed. The City Manager stated some people bury their pets next to them.

Robert Herrington stated that he is involved with burials and Memory Gardens does not allow graves to come to the surface. He suggested that adding four feet would eliminate the problem.

Mayor Wilson stated people are complaining about paying \$1,300.00 for a tapping fee and meter box. Mayor Wilson pointed out that the City still does not make money charging \$1,300.00. The City Manager stated that a majority of revenues come from meters and water and sewer customers. The City Manager pointed out that the current rate does not allow the City to set aside money.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he spoke with the Director of Finance and was told that the City owes 43 million dollars.

Mayor Wilson stated that the City had no choice because of the mandates.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City should create a payment plan for people to pay for water installation at \$500.00 a month.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Following the Executive Session, Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to demand payment in full for the checks from SunTrust Bank. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

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