

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., JUNE 3, 1998

PRESENT: His Honor Mayor Bradford S. Brown, Commissioners Roosevelt Lawrence, Harold E. Jennings, Jonathan Williams and Doris A. Davis.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner Harold E. Jennings, Jonathan Williams and Doris A. Davis.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner Harold E. Jennings.

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

Mayor Brown introduced the new City Manager, Roosevelt Harris, Jr.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Regular Rescheduled meeting on May 27th and Called meeting on May 27th was deferred until the next meeting.

DELEGATIONS

Marcia Smith, representing the Brunswick-Golden Isles Clean and Beautiful Committee appeared before the Commission to request that the City accept the contract for education and public awareness services in the City of Brunswick. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion authorizing the City Attorney to review the contract. The motion carried.

Mrs. Elaine Knight appeared before the Commission to request that the City close off the foot of Albermarle and London Streets to prevent trash dumping and drug trafficking at night.

Mayor Brown suggested placing a fence around the end of Albermarle and London Streets, pointing out that the City have water and sewer easements in the area.

Commissioner Lawrence recalled at a previous meeting that the Commission would allow the property owners to fence off the foot of Albermarle and London Streets because of the utilities and owners would also have to give a key to the fence to the City.

Mayor Brown stated that it is not in the best interest of the City to sell the property because of the water and sewer easements.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to allow the business owners to fence off Albermarle and London Streets and submit a key for the gate to the Police Chief and the City Manager. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE CEMETERY TRUST FUND BOARD

The City Manager submitted the following names for consideration for appointment to the Cemetery Trust Fund Board:

Two Citizens

Mr. Joe Whittle, Sr. and Mrs. Bernice Palmer
Funeral Directors

Mr. L. E. Lewis, Mr. Robert Cummings and Mr. Arlie McNeill.

Commissioner Lawrence submitted the name of Ken Plyman to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that Ken Plyman has put a lot of work into the cemetery.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion appointing Mr. Joe Whittle, Sr., Mrs. Bernice Palmer, Mr. L. E. Lewis, Mr. Robert Cummings to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board.

On call for the vote the motion carried by vote of 4 to 1. Commissioner Lawrence voted against.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that Ken Plyman should be appointed to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board as a citizen representative.

Commissioner Lawrence further stated that he knows the class of 1941 worked diligently to contribute to the Cemetery Trust Fund. Ken Plyman also contributed a lot to Palmetto Cemetery and should be appointed to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board.

Mayor Brown recommended that Ken Plyman be appointed as an ex-officio member. Commissioner Williams suggested amending the motion to add more citizens to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board. Commissioner Davis suggested amending the Resolution establishing the Cemetery Trust Fund Board to appoint 3 Funeral Directors, 3 citizens and 1 council member to serve on the Board.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to amend the Resolution to add 1 more citizen, and 1 more Funeral Director to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Plyman seconded the motion appointing Ken Plyman as a citizen and Arlie McNeill as a Funeral Director to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board. The motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF THIRD FIRE STATION

Lee Stewart, City Fire Chief appeared before the Commission to recommend construction of a third Fire Station in the Northern Part of the City. Chief Stewart pointed out that the response time would be quicker with a Fire Station on the Northend of the City.

Chief Stewart told the Commission that SPLOST funds would be used to construct the Fire Station on the Northend of the City. He stated that non-violent prison laborers could do the construction.

Commissioner Jennings pointed out that jobs would be taken from citizens in the community if prisoners construct the facility.

Following a discussion it was recommended that a Public Hearing be held at a work session at the next meeting to hear concerns and to get input from citizens who live in the area. No action was taken.

James Johnson a local laborer expressed his concerns about using prison laborers to construct the Fire Station. Mr. Johnson stated that he opposed using prison laborers to construct the Fire facility.

Roosevelt Harris, the newly appointed interim City Manager commended Chief Stewart of his work in helping the City obtain one of the lowest ISO ratings.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

The City Manager submitted the following for paving of Coral Park Road:

Poppell Eller Inc.	\$ 68,416.00
Seaboard Construction	\$ 77,037.50

The City Manager recommended that the bid from Seaboard Construction be accepted. He recommended that the bid of Poppell Eller be rejected for the reason that a 10% bid bond was not included with the bid.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to accept the bid from Seaboard Construction Company in the amount of \$77,037.50 to pave Coral Park Road. The motion carried.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that the City keep the budget stationary at 20 million dollars. He asked that budget items be reduced by 2% for 1998-1999, 4% for 1999-2000, 5% for 2000-2001.

Commissioner Jennings announced that the first Town Hall meeting was a success.

Commissioner Jennings reported that the trash from the dumpster at the Dollar Store on Altama Avenue is spilling over to a resident's yard. The City Manager stated that the owner was contacted about the problem.

Commissioner Jennings reported that water is left running in Hanover Park for 4 or 5 days.

Commissioner Jennings stressed that he would like to have the budget completed by July 1st.

Budget Hearings were scheduled for:

Monday	June	8th	4:00 P.M.
Tuesday	June	9th	4:00 P.M.
Friday	June	12th	2:00 P.M.

A Joint City/County meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 11th at 4:00 P.M. at City Hall.

A Bond Hearing was scheduled for Wednesday June 10th - 10:00 A.M. at City Hall.

Commissioner Jennings commended Roosevelt Harris for being appointed the new City Manager.

Commissioner Davis asked what kind of Health Insurance does the City have for employees. The City Manager told the Commission that the Claims Office moved to New York and The City has someone on staff that can help file claims for employees.

Commissioner Davis mentioned that employees have been told that their insurance has been cancelled. The City Manager stated that he have not heard this from anyone. The City Manager told the Commission that he would look into this. Commissioner Davis next reported that some insurance cards have expired and some cards have not been issued.

Commissioner Davis reported that she received several calls from residents concerning a house that was converted into a beauty shop and no one is living in that house in the 1400 Block of Sycamore Avenue.

Commissioner Davis questioned when the City put new carpet downstairs. The City Manager told the Commission that the City put carpet in some the offices downstairs.

Commissioner Williams commended the City Manager and his staff for placing the signs up on J. F. Mann Way the next day.

Commissioner Williams asked for an update on compost sales. The City Manager reported that the sales are steady and the City is modifying the process to make it easier for citizens to purchase tickets. Commissioner Williams stated that the City would look at the compost sales in six months.

Commissioner Williams stated that he received a letter from a child requesting to fish in the lake on Lanier Blvd. Commissioner Williams stated that the lake should be cleaned out.

Commissioner Williams mentioned that a request was made to place partitions in the Water Department. The City Manager stated that he did look at some partitions and has not been able to get a price for them. He stated that Mr. Cason is working on getting a price for the partitions.

Commissioner Williams mentioned that citizens who live on the northend of Brunswick do not have sewage. Commissioner Williams stated that sewer lines could be placed in the alley. He stated that these citizens should have sewer in their neighborhood. Commissioner Lawrence stated whatever it takes the City should place sewer in these areas and something should be done immediately.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that businesses in the downtown area customers are being fined for parking especially at the beauty shop. Commissioner Lawrence stated that these businesses and citizens should be given some consideration.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the City Manager was asked to give reasons why City employees was given raises. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he did not receive an explanation for the salary increases. He only received a list of employees who receive raises.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to cut back raises that the City Manager gave to employees that exceeded fifteen percent back to fifteen percent immediately.

Commissioner Williams stated that the Commission needs to be more specific about the employees who received raises. Mayor Brown agreed.

Commissioner Davis stated that employees who received raises on December 31, 1997 salaries will be cut back to fifteen percent. She further stated that a reason was not given why these employees received raises.

Commissioner Jennings mentioned that the City Manager is authorized to give a five percent increase to employees without the consent of the Commission.

The City Attorney stated that the Commission could raise salaries or lower salaries.

On call for the vote the motion carried by vote of 4 to 1. Mayor Brown voted No.

The City Attorney requested that an Executive Session be held to discuss pending litigation.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. The motion carried.

Following the Executive Session the meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk