

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., JULY 1, 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.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 1998. The motion carried.

Recogniton of Paul Woodard

Mayor Brown presented a plaque to Paul Woodard, Sanitation Supervisor in recognition of winning the title of No. 1 Body Builder in the State of Georgia.

Mr. Woodard thanked God for giving him the strength to compete as a body builder. He also thanked his trainers.

COMPLETION OF STREETScape

Mayor Brown stated each Commissioner received a copy of a letter from the Downtown Development Authority outlining the desire to complete the Streetscape Project because they have roughly \$100,000.00 still in the Streetscape account.

Charles Scott, chairman of the Downtown Development Authority appeared before the Commission to request that the City complete the Streetscape project as designed or use the funds for another Streetscape project in the downtown area.

Mayor Brown pointed out that the letter stated the Downtown Development's original and first design was to complete the block in the front of the library and across the street from City Hall.

Mr. Scott stated that the block between Union and Reynolds Street across from City Hall has never been completed and the DDA is looking forward to either getting the Streetscape completed or changing the venue on where to spend the money.

The City Manager followed up on what Mr. Scott was saying. He stated that the original streetscape plan did call for improvements in the block across the street from City Hall and in front of the Library. When the work was originally being done for the Streetscape project, the block in front of the Library was taken out and not started at that time. The City was not sure at that point what the library was going to do as it relates to the expansion and how the impact would effect the sidewalks. The decision was made to take that block out and wait to see how the improvements at the library would impact the Streetscape project. The Commission at that time also made the decision not to do the block across the street from City Hall because of the parking concerns of the owner of the building. The Streetscape would take up the block where the tenants at that building park. The City Manager stated that those were the reasons the two blocks were taken out and was not completed. There are some funds left approximately \$100,000.00 still

remaining in that account to finish the Streetscape project. The City Manager stated the DDA requested to complete those two blocks or use an alternate plan for the Streetscape project. The funds for the Streetscape project come from the last Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax not the current SPLOST Tax.

Kay Shiver, Director of Mainstreet stated that the Main Street Design Team developed a plan for improvements of Queen's Square and that is how the suggestion to use the Streetscape project funds got started. The Commission is aware of the planned renovation of Old City Hall and the increase in traffic of both the residential and downtown district in that area. The suggestions for extending the Streetscape down Newcastle Street came and grew out of the plan which was presented to the Park and Tree Commission and was approved yesterday. She stated that Jerry Spencer the designer of the plan is present if the Commission would like to know more about the alternate suggestion for the use of Streetscape funds. Mayor Brown asked Mr. Spencer to show the Commission what was presented to the Park and Tree Commission.

Jerry Spencer the designer of the plan stated that the design team of the Downtown Development Authority has been working for a while on this and other design projects. Queens Square seems to have so much potential and the imminent restoration of Old City Hall kind of brings this to the forefront of his attention. Mr. Spencer submitted the plans and explained what would take place on Newcastle and Mansfield Street.

Commissioner Jennings recommended making the median smaller cutting off one foot in front of Old City Hall.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the SLOST funds was voted on to enhance the project Mary Ross Park on Gloucester Street.

The City Manager stated that the County turned over the funds for the Streetscape plan to the City.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that the City fulfill the first plan of tying the streetscape into Mary Ross Park. He felt that the Library and Mary Ross Park should be completed.

The City Manager stated that Downtown Development Authority's first preference is to complete the Streetscape plan in front of the library.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to complete the first phase of the Streetscape as planned in front of the library and across the street in front of City Hall.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he is against the original plan. He stated first of all the library asked for three million dollars to expand and the Commission really does not know what they are going to do with the two million dollars they will receive to expand the library. He stated that the Commission needs to listen to the citizens. The gentleman who owns the property across the street from City Hall is totally against the Streetscape project. He stated that the Streetscape would be a complement to Old City Hall because of the renovation. He pointed out that across the street from City Hall also looks good and there are plenty of parking spaces. If the Commission goes with the first option there will be no parking across the street in front of City Hall.

Commissioner Williams pointed out that the Library will change the main entrance to Bay Street. He asked how much of a reduction will be in the cost of the Streetscape project in front of the library.

The City Manager stated that the construction of the Streetscape project will remain the same.

Commissioner Davis stated that she had an opportunity to review the new library plans and it will not affect the Streetscape plans. Commissioner Williams questioned the cost of the Streetscape plan.

The City Manager stated that it will cost \$100,00.00, but it will be more because of inflation.

On call for the vote the motion carried by vote of 4 to 1. Commissioner Jennings voting no.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Petition received from Joe Navarro to retail alcoholic beverages including beer and wine for consumption on premises at Outlaw's Country Dance Club, 4410 B Coral Park Road. The Chief of Police and City Manager approved location.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion granting the petition. The motion carried.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR BUDGET 1998-99

Mayor Brown stated that the Fiscal Year General Fund Budget in the amount of \$12,682,530.00 and Community Development Budget in the amount of \$1,286,464.00 have been submitted for approval. Mayor Brown questioned when the Water and Wastewater Budget will be completed. The City Manager stated that the figures for the Water and Wastewater budget will be ready in about 3 weeks. The Budget includes 3% across the board raises to full time employees and 5% across the board raises to the Fire Department this does not include part time employees.

Commissioner Jennings offered the motion to decrease the Budget by 2%. There was no second to the motion. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City needs to grow and be a model City. The City needs proper service and equipment to keep up with everything in the future.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to adopt the FY Budget 1998-99. The motion carried.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the City will have to be conservative with tax payers money. He pointed out that the City needs funds set aside for a catastrophe.

Commissioner Davis stated that each Department submitted a good budget and every department scrutinized their budgets. She stated that the Commission cannot make a motion to predict the budget for next year.

Commissioner Williams pointed out that the City cannot overlook the fact that Brunswick will be booming and he sees prosperity in the future of Brunswick.

When the City gets to this point next year then we may be able to reduce the budget 2% or 3% next year. He stated that he is quite satisfied with the new budget.

Mayor Brown stated that all City services will be operated efficiently. He stated that growth comes with more spending and more income.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he will not put an increase on the City's mileage rate. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that City has not had an increase in the mileage rate for 8 or 9 years. Commissioner Jennings stated that he will make a recommendation to adopt a budget resolution and send it to State Representatives and Senators to cap ad valorem taxes at 3%.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner Jennings stated that a Cemetery Trust Find meeting was held and Arlie McNeil was appointed Chairman, Bernice Palmer, Co-Chairman and Rick Drummond, Treasurer.

Commissioner Jennings stated that no funds will be handled by anyone except the Director of Finance, Rick Drummond. He will handle all funds.

Commissioner Jennings challenged all High School Alumni's to donate funds to the Cemetery Trust Fund for perpetual up keep of the cemetery.

Commissioner Jennings questioned when the Southend project will begin. The City Manager stated that it will get started soon.

Commissioner Jennings asked the City Attorney to look up rules and regulations or the use of the city credit card. The City Attorney stated that there are no guidelines or rules in effect concerning the use of credit cards.

Commissioner Jennings questioned the condition and pressure of the fire hydrants in the City. The Fire Chief stated that the hydrants are examined once a week. Commissioner Jennings stated that he did not want what happened on St. Simons to happen in Brunswick. He recommended that the City have an inventory of parts for everything that will break down.

The City Manager stated that the City may have to request voluntary usage of water if the water level falls.

Commissioner Davis requested that each City Board appear before the Commission to give an update on their Board.

Commissioner Davis stated that questions came up during their Town Hall meeting about trash cans being removed from residents.

Commissioner Davis asked if any Council member received a notice about placing a mail box in front of their residence. Commissioner Jennings pointed out that new residents must place a mail box in front of their house. Commissioner Williams stated that the mail box policy is not mandatory.

Commissioner Williams stated that he will meet with persons to discuss moving the model liberty ship. He stated that the meeting will be scheduled for next week.

Commissioner Williams stated that he attended the Georgia Municipal Association Convention in Savannah. He stated that he learned a lot about what he can do to make the City much better.

He pointed out that flags were presented and the City of Brunswick's flag did not show up. Other cities participated in giving door prizes, the City of Brunswick did not. He stated that the City of Brunswick should participate if they are going to be a member of GMA. The City should form a committee and get started to participate next year in the flag ceremonies and door prizes. The City Manager stated that is a good idea and the City should get started real early.

Commissioner Williams stated that Martin Luther King Boulevard has no flowers or anything to enhance the beautification on the median. He recommended that the City plant azalea's or some type of flower in the median.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that there was an organization willing to beautify Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that Johnson and Q Street has a hole in the street and it has been there for a long time. Commissioner Lawrence reported that citizens have been complaining about not being able to locate church programs for Sunday in the Brunswick News. He pointed out that this is important.

The City Attorney stated that he would like to discuss pending litigation. Mayor Brown stated that he attended GMA and brought back a lot of good information. He stated that is was learning experience for everyone. Mayor Brown expressed sympathy on the passing of Commissioner Lawrence's brother.

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.

/s/ Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk