

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., SEPTEMBER 2, 1998**

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Harold E. Jennings.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Commissioner Jonathan Williams.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Called meeting of August 17, 1998 and the Regular meeting of August 19, 1998. The motion carried.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTED TO CASA

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Sandy Keller, Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates, Incorporated. Randy Allen updated the Commission on CASA's program in the State of Georgia. Mr. Allen submitted information on the services provided by CASA.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The City Manager mentioned that Commissioner Jennings was not present and suggested that the appointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board be deferred until the full Commission is present.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to table the appointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ARCHITECT FOR NORTH BRUNSWICK FIRE STATION

The City Manager recommended that the City hire an Architect for the construction of the North Brunswick Fire Station. He stated that the project overseer, Assistant Building Inspector Bennie Garcia, and the Administrative Services Director, Johnny Cason agreed that the City should hire an architect. The reports on the North Brunswick Fire Station to date indicate that the work is well on its way. He further stated that contact has been made with several Architects and he was informed that they did not want to be involved in the project.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned the reason why the Architects felt that way. The City Manager stated that they did not give a reason.

Commissioner Williams questioned whether the City had plans for the construction of the North Brunswick Fire Station. The City Manager pointed out that the City had partial plans for the construction of the Fire Station.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether the City will still save a lot of money by hiring an Architect for the project.

The City Manager pointed out that the City will save money in the long run. He stated that the City will feel comfortable about the construction of the Fire Station with an Architect.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about hiring an Architect. He stated that he felt that the Commission have been hood winked again. Assistant Building Inspector Bennie Garcia stated that an Architect is needed to finish the product.

Mayor Brown stated that the City had the plans at the beginning for the project and the Architect will make sure the project is completely finished.

Commissioner Williams moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to hire an Architect for the construction of the North Brunswick Fire Station. The motion carried.

James Johnson suggested that the City ask an Architect to do the work free since the City is using free semi- skilled laborers.

CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS

The City Manager introduced Artie Jones, III an intern from Valdosta State College who is currently working on his Masters Degree. He stated that Mr. Jones will be with the City until November.

The City Manager reported that House Bill 489 Advisory Committee had several meetings and members have been absent. He stated that the HB489 Committee is an important committee not only because of the actions set out in the Bill are mandated, but results of what comes out of the committee findings could offer up ways of giving the City of Brunswick taxpayers some relief.

He requested that each Commissioner speak with the member he/she appointed and ask them to please attend the meetings and participate in discussions.

The City Manager reported that Commissioner Wayne Shackelford of the Department of Transportation signed the contract for Phase II of the Martin Luther King, Jr., project on August 18, 1998. The City will be notified when the work gets underway.

The City Manager stated that the City Attorney reviewed the L and N Streets drainage project contract and the City may proceed with getting the contract signed. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the contract for the L and N Streets drainage project. The motion carried.

The Director of Finance reported that the Joint City/County Auction will be held in October. He requested that all departments submit surplus items and the Commission declare all items surplus.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that a lot of Pick Up Trucks are located at the compost plant. He recommended adding the trucks to the surplus list or sell them to a metal company. The Director of Finance stated that the list would be presented at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing the Director of Finance to get a list of items from all Departments so that they may be declared surplus. The motion carried.

Commissioner Davis suggested that Public Works send a worker out to pick up paper before the grass is cut so that the paper will not be scattered on the street.

Commissioner Williams reported that cut outs are on K Street and Franklin Avenue. He recommended that the cutouts be repaired on the above-mentioned streets.

Commissioner Williams stated that he observed Sunday clean up on Altama Avenue and was happy to see this being done.

The City Manager stated that City workers were working for the reason that it is a problem getting the work done during the week in certain areas of the City.

Commissioner Williams recommended arranging a work schedule to have employees work on Sundays and be off on Mondays. Commissioner Williams suggested hiring more workers instead of paying overtime. The City Manager stated that he is working on rescheduling workers. Commissioner Williams commended the City Manager for making the City look better.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the area surrounding Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard needs cleaning. Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether the City own property along with the railroad.

The City Manager mentioned that he met with citizens in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard and the residents would like to clean up the area in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard. The City Manager stated that he will address the problem concerning the property near the railroad.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that some churches in Brunswick do not have access to baptism pools and wished to have use of the pool at Howard Coffin Park for baptisms. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he did not see anything wrong with the use of the pool if it is not drained. He stated that his Pastor requested the use of the pool for baptisms. Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that Selden Park was allowing baptisms in the pool. He asked what step should be taken to use the pool at Howard Coffin Park.

The City Manager stated that he need some guidance on the use on the pool for baptisms at Howard Coffin Park. He stated that if this is a policy he did not mind doing what the Commission authorize him to do.

Commissioner Lawrence reiterated that he did not see any problem if the pool was not being used on Sunday. He pointed out that it would be a problem if the pool have been drained.

The City Attorney stated that he would like to look at this carefully before a policy is put in place.

Commissioner Williams stated that he has one concern. He asked if the City Attorney can look at the liability. He pointed out someone may get into trouble during the baptism and the same problem that occurred in Atlanta's water park may happen and someone may get sick. He stated that the City certainly wants to help churches and schools, however the City have to make sure that it is not opening up claims for liability.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion directing the City Attorney to check into having baptisms on Sunday by Churches in the swimming pool at Howard Coffin Park. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended adding Cleburne Street to the LARP resurfacing list.

The City Manager stated that a list of streets are submitted to the Department of Transportation and they decide what streets will be resurfaced. He pointed out that problems of sink holes needs to be addressed before resurfacing the streets. These streets will be included in the 1999 LARP street resurfacing list.

Commissioner Williams recommended that Perry Park in its entirety be resurfaced.

Commissioner Davis questioned when the 2600 block of Amherst Street will be resurfaced. She pointed out that the street was torn up because of water and utility problems.

The City Manager stated that all utility companies will be contacted before the City begins resurfacing.

Commissioner Williams questioned whether the company the City hired completed the installation of water lines.

The Assistant Director of Water and Wastewater stated that the installation of the two inch water lines is an ongoing project and it is not completed.

Mayor Brown reiterated that Public Works is doing a good job and the employees have to be reeducated about picking up trash before cutting the grass.

Mayor Brown stated that the City will hold a work session to discuss the Water and Wastewater budget after the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to see funds allotted for the construction of sidewalks on Tara Lane.

The City Manager stated that SPLOST funds have been set aside for the construction of sidewalks.

Commissioner Williams recommended that the Commission appoint members to conduct research on where sidewalks should be placed in the City.

Commissioner Williams stated that the City should have some way of notifying the public about what the City is doing.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/ Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk