

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A. M., JANUARY 6, 1999**

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Mayor, Commissioners and everyone recited the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 1998 and December 16, 1998. The motion carried.

APOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Commissioner Jennings nominated Commissioner Roosevelt Lawrence to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion appointing Commissioner Roosevelt Lawrence to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion carried. Commissioner Roosevelt Lawrence was appointed to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for 1999.

APPOINTMENT TO PILOT COMMISSION

Commissioner Jennings nominated William (Bill) Brown to serve on the Pilot Commission. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion re-appointing William (Bill) Brown to serve on the Pilot Commission Board for seven years. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO PARK AND TREE BOARD

Commissioner Davis nominated Frank Vande Linde to serve on the Park and Tree Board. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion re-appointing Frank Vande Linde to serve on the Park and Tree Board for five years. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO LIBRARY BOARD

Commissioner Jennings nominated Commissioner Doris A. Davis to serve on the Library Board. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion re-appointing Commissioner Doris A. Davis to serve on the Library Board for two years. The motion carried.

Commissioner Davis nominated Evelyn Gray to serve on the Library Board to fill the expired term of Hattie Coleman. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion appointing Evelyn Gray to serve on the Library Board for two years. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

Commissioner Davis nominated Charles Nesmith to serve on the Downtown Development Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of the late Hubert Lang. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed. Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion appointing Charles Nesmith to serve on the Downtown Development Authority Board until May 2006. The motion carried.

VARIANCE REQUEST

David Newton, Architect appeared before the Commission to request a variance to FEMA regulations for construction of Shiloh Baptist Church. Joe Navarro, Building Inspector stated that the Commission may grant a variance to Shiloh Baptist Church.

Commissioner Lawrence questioned whether any repercussion could occur concerning the granting of this variance to Shiloh Baptist Church. The City Attorney informed the Commission that there would be no repercussion. Commissioner Williams pointed out that Shiloh Baptist Church representatives know the problems that will occur with flooding.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion granting a variance to FEMA regulations to Shiloh Baptist Church with the stipulation that no repercussion will fall on the City Commission. The motion carried.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWALS

The following 1999 alcoholic beverage license renewals were submitted and approved by the Chief of Police and the City Manager. Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the following license renewals:

To retail liquor including beer and wine for consumption on premises:

John Ray Collins, Rumors
4420 Altama Avenue;

George Warwick, Spanky's
1200 Glynn Avenue;

To retail beer and wine for consumption off premises:

Melinda Grovola, Winn Dixie Stores, Inc.,
4402 Glynn Avenue;

Richard M. Farnell, Winn Dixie Stores, Inc.,
1941 Glynn Avenue;

Edis J. Gonzales, Minani Japanese Express,
3520 Cypress Mill Road.

To retail beer only for consumption off premises:

Charles L. Barnard, C & T Bay Station,
3227 Norwich Street;

PALMETTO CEMETERY FENCE

Mayor Brown stated that the Commission would like to discuss completion of the fence around Palmetto Cemetery and removal of the fence.

Ken Plyman stated that the cemetery fence project was started three years ago. Mr. Plyman stated that he spoke with the City Manager about placing the fence around Palmetto Cemetery and was told by the City Manager that he will help out in any way. Mr. Plyman further stated that he requested that Public Works assist him with removal of the fence at Palmetto Cemetery and they participated. Mr. Plyman pointed out that he did get permission from the previous Commission to install the fence around Palmetto Cemetery.

Mayor Brown stated records were researched and there was nothing placed in writing about installing the cemetery fence. Mayor Brown stated that the fence on the front of the cemetery on Newcastle Street is almost completed. He stated that Mr. Plyman must get permission from the Commission to remove the fence. He further stated that the Commission must give approval on anything that takes place within the City.

Ken Plyman stated that the installation of the cemetery fence was discussed with the Cemetery Trust Board. Commissioner Lawrence recalled that Ken Plyman stopped the installation of the cemetery fence because he ran out of funds. Commissioner Lawrence stated that he did not recall the discussion of replacing the cemetery fence on 7th Street. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission did not object to completing the cemetery fence on Newcastle Street; however there are objections to completing the 7th street side of the cemetery. The Commission did not know about the installation of the fence on 7th street.

Mayor Brown stated that the Commission will authorize Mr. Plyman to complete the installation of the cemetery fence on Newcastle Street and 7th Street. He requested that Mr. Plyman submit plans for the cemetery fence to the Commission.

Ken Plyman reported that he stopped installation of the cemetery fence because of a culvert and a baby cemetery. He requested that the pipe be removed.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the Commission could legally stop a taxpayer from going onto City property and spending money on a project.

The City Attorney stated if the Commission do not authorize it then it is an interference with Government property.

Commissioner Jennings applauded Mr. Plyman for spending \$40,000.00 out of his pocket on the Cemetery fence project. He pointed out that no one ever spent that kind of money on a City project.

Commissioner Williams questioned how long will it take to complete the Cemetery fence project. Ken Plyman stated that the project is one-third completed and it will take one month and a half to be completed.

Commissioner Williams suggested that the City join Mr. Plyman in his effort and give funding to finish the project. Commissioner Jennings stated that the City would pay for the concrete.

Commissioner Lawrence pointed out that there are two cemeteries and work needs to be completed in Greenwood Cemetery also. He stated that the cemeteries should be treated the same. He mentioned that the road in Greenwood have not been completed in four years.

Commissioner Davis pointed out that the City cannot place a time frame on the project because there will be many obstacles.

Commissioner Lawrence recommended that Mr. Plyman be reimbursed for some of the work done at the cemetery.

Commissioner Plyman stated that residents should be given an opportunity to purchase a section of the cemetery for recognition of loved ones. He pointed out that in order to use interest generated from the Cemetery Trust Fund it would take a million dollars.

Commissioner Williams pointed out that Mr. Plyman plans to raise money and the Commission must approve this. He pointed out that the City must join Mr. Plyman to get the project finished.

Mr. Plyman reported that Walmart donated paint. Max Emery donated an airless paint gun. Mr. Plyman stated that the City must have some type of maintenance to keep up the fence.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing Mr. Plyman and City employees to finish the fence fronting Newcastle Street. The City Manager was instructed to get with Mr. Plyman and give recommendations on what is needed to finish the cemetery fence. The motion carried.

Marsha Smith representing Keep Golden Isles Beautiful submitted information about Scrap Tire Enforcement/Education Grant program. Mrs. Smith explained that the grant program requires no cash match for the first year. The grant amount for the first year would be \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about funding the program after the grant money runs out. Mrs. Smith explained that the first year operations would be set up with computers, office supplies and a car.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving a resolution letter for the grant program.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Brunswick supports Glynn County's application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for funding a Scrap Tire Enforcement/Education Program for the benefit of all County residents; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Brunswick supports the mission of Keep Brunswick and the Golden Isles Beautiful (KBGIB) to educate the public on the dangers of littering and the advantages of a clean community;

WHEREAS, the City of Brunswick is interested in becoming a partner with Glynn County in cleaning up the scrap tires that sully the public image of our community; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Brunswick intends to benefit from, and participate in, the Glynn County Scrap Tire Enforcement/Education Program once the grant monies are awarded by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commissioners of the City of Brunswick, Georgia, do hereby endorse Glynn County's application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for funding assistance from the Scrap tire Enforcement Program for the establishment of an enforcement/education program in Glynn County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Brunswick endorses the continued funding for such a program.

Adopted this 6th January, 1999.

Bradford S. Brown, Mayor
City of Brunswick, Georgia

ATTEST: Georgia E. Marion
City of Brunswick, Georgia

Commissioner Lawrence requested that the City Attorney take a look at the program. He pointed out that a resolution was requested for the grant program. He instructed the City Attorney to advise the Commission on what they are getting into.

On call for the vote the motion carried.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS

The City Manager reported that the Department of Transportation informed the City that they must maintain Coral Park Road.

The City Manager reported that Mayor's Day will be held in Atlanta beginning January 22, 1999.

The City Manager reported that City Hall lost heat after Christmas. He pointed out that it is not in the City's best interest to continue this. The repairman stated that the heater would last about 3 to 4 months. He stated that the architect would be informed about the heating problems and the steeple problems.

The City Manager reported that an alternate exit would be used on the weekends at the cemeteries. When funerals take place on the weekend it is difficult for traffic at both cemeteries to exit.

The City Attorney stated that he would like to hold an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the Government will start lowering taxes and he will take a trip to Atlanta. He stated that it is okay to lower taxes, but it will hurt Municipalities like the City of Brunswick.

Commissioner Davis reported that she was approached about the removal of a Stop sign at Stonewall and G Street. She stated that the Stop sign was removed because it was too close to the signal light.

Mayor Brown suggested placing a Stop sign further East on G Street. He requested that a Traffic Officer look at this.

Commissioner Davis reported that she received calls concerning cancelled checks that have not been processed by the City for taxes.

The City Manager stated that staff was out and another person was on vacation. He stated that this matter is being addressed.

Commissioner Williams stated that a request was made to rename the street after Leonard Dawson. He stated that he would like to get back and name the street. He pointed out that Coastal Georgia does not have a street name.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to see neighborhood signs in College Park and Magnolia Park. The City Manager reported that he is looking into placing signs in the City.

Commissioner Williams stated that he was approached about several street signs that are missing in the City. The City Manager stated that he spoke with the Public Works Director about color-coding Street signs.

Commissioner Williams reported that the Liberty Ship meeting had great response from citizens. Concrete will be poured at Mary Ross Waterfront Park for the installation of the Ship and the project is looking good. A lot of people are still giving donations. He stated that all citizens will be proud of the Liberty Ship in Mary Ross Waterfront Park.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission appointed committees and members think they can do anything without input from the Commission. Commissioner Lawrence requested that all persons submit information to the City Manager and it will be given to the City Attorney for review before a decision is made.

The City Manager stated that he enclosed a packet and made recommendations. He stated that he wanted the Commission to have enough time before the grant application was due. He stated that he did speak with Mrs. Smith about concerns.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he have a Personnel matter to discuss in an Executive Session.

Mayor Brown stated that a marker for Sidney Lanier has been located and it will be repaired at no cost. A new post has to be purchased. He stated that he received a good response from the article in the newspaper.

Mayor Brown commended every Department that helped with First Night. He reported that there were no catastrophes. He thanked Commissioner Davis for volunteering. He thanked the Community for coming out to First Night.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he received calls from Senior citizens concerning discounts for taxes. He pointed out that the County gives the elderly tax exemptions. He requested that the City look into this.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he received calls concerning two water bills for the month of December. He asked the City Manager to check into this.

Mayor Brown announced that the University of Georgia will hold a meeting at the Ritz Theatre.

Mayor Brown announced that the Downtown Development Authority Long Range Planning Committee will hold a meeting at City Hall on Thursday at 8:00 A. M.

Mayor Brown stated that he received complaints that a vehicle was parked at Overlook Park for one month. He recommended placing NO Overnight Parking signs in Overlook Park.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discussion pending litigation and a Personnel matter and a work session following the meeting.

Following the Executive Session Mayor Brown announced that the Commission covered numerous Personnel Items. He stated that the City Manager will advertise for a Recreation Director.

Mayor Brown stated that the work session scheduled after the meeting was cancelled due to legal issues. The work session will be held on November 20, at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Commission meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/ Bradford S. Brown

Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion

City Clerk