

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING  
8:30 A.M., MAY 19, 1999**

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

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Williams gave the invocation.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the minutes of the Called Meeting of April 21, 1999 meeting of May 5, 1999. The motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEE**

Mayor Brown presented a plaque and gift to Deputy Chief Jerry Allen for 22 years of dedicated service to the City of Brunswick Fire Department.

**APPOINTMENTS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Mayor Brown stated that sixteen names have been submitted to be considered for appointments to the Brunswick Historic Preservation Committee.

Mayor Brown recommended the removal of names of county residents who applied to serve on the Brunswick Historic Preservation Board, Denise White Fields, 144 Belle Point Parkway and Darien Harper, 218 Brentwood Circle.

Commissioner Lawrence stated his objections for making appointments to the Brunswick Historic Board. He pointed out when the two names were removed from the list that eliminated the only minority who applied for appointment to the Board.

Mayor Brown pointed out that the Upcoming Appointments to the Brunswick Historic Preservation Board was advertised for a month and that was enough time for all residents to apply.

Commissioner Jennings stated that several residents called to let him know they were interested in serving on the Brunswick Historic Preservation Board.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion postponing appointments to the Brunswick Historic Preservation Board and re-advertising the upcoming appointments for the next meeting. On call for the vote, the motion carried by vote of 4 to 1. Mayor Brown voting No.

**DELEGATIONS**

Rev. LaRon Bennett, Pastor of Christ's Church for the End Times representing Rev. Paul S. McKenzie, Rev. Bruce Arnold and Rev. Sallie Jones appeared before the Commission to request that the Alcoholic Beverage License Ordinance be amended to set a minimum distance for the location of establishments that sell, manufacture or distribute alcoholic beverages, from church buildings, school buildings, educational buildings, colleges and their grounds.

He further requested that the Commission consider the following as an amendment to its alcoholic beverage code:

1. No sale, manufacture or distribution of any distilled spirits, wines or malt beverages within 200 yards of any church building, church grounds, school building, school grounds, college campus, or residential area shall be allowed.
2. Measurements should be measured from the property line of the church, school, college campus, or residential area, to the property line of the alcoholic beverage retailer, manufacturer or distributor.
3. Measurements shall be measured as a straight line from one point to the other and not as a line running along the nearest sidewalk route.
4. In areas that are zoned commercial, within which a church, school or college campus has been located within the commercial area, and the church, school or college campus has been in the same location three or more years; no sale, manufacture or distribution of any distilled spirit, wines or malt beverages within 200 yards of the church building, church grounds, school building, school grounds, or college campus shall be allowed.
5. In areas that are zoned commercial, within which a church, school or college campus has been located within the commercial area, and in the same location less than three years; no sale, manufacture or distribution of any distilled spirits, wines or malt beverages within 100 yards of any church building, church grounds, school building, school grounds, or college campus shall be allowed.
6. The above shall apply, even if the alcoholic beverages shall be consumed on premises, or otherwise.

Items one through four will allow an average two block separation between churches, schools and college campuses and the sellers, manufactures or distributors of distilled spirits, wines or malt beverages.

Items five will allow an average one block separation between churches, schools and college campuses and the sellers, manufactures or distributors of distilled spirits, wines or malt beverages.

Rev. Bennett pointed out that there really isn't anything presently in the City code that sets the minimum distance for establishments. The State of Georgia left it up to cities and counties to set the minimum distance.

The City Attorney stated that the code needs to be changed pointing out that there is nothing in the code that sets the minimum distance.

Rev. Bennett further stated that there is no protection in the ordinance for schools, churches and residents. By establishing a minimum distance, this will help churches know about the regulations and set guidelines.

Rev. Bennett discussed the State law.

Commissioner Jennings asked the City Attorney if he had an opportunity to look at the request that Rev. Bennett submitted to the Commission.

The City Attorney stated that he did not have time to review Rev. Bennett's request, but it is good.

Commissioner Jennings asked whether businesses would be grandfathered in. He asked what were the requirements for a business to be considered under the grandfather clause.

The City Attorney stated that the new distance requirements can be applied to new businesses.

Commissioner Lawrence asked what will happen if a church purchases property within one hundred feet of an establishment.

The City Attorney stated that on new businesses minimum distance can be established. He pointed out that this needs to be addressed in the ordinance.

Commissioner Williams stated that he agrees with some of the things that Rev. Bennett discussed. He pointed out that the Geographic location in Brunswick will make it impossible to locate establishments within the 100 yard range.

Rev. Bennett stated that 200 yards is not unreasonable.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that property will automatically be rezoned to commercial. He stated that more property needs to be rezoned residential because they are in a residential area.

Rev. Bennett suggested that the City consider public planning for rezoning districts in the City of Brunswick. He suggested separating the residential area from the business area.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to review Rev. Bennett's request and bring back a decision in one month. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lawrence asked Rev. Bennett to support the amendments to the Code pointing out all Pastors do not see things the same way.

Bryan Thompson, Manager of the Ritz Theater and Mary Ross Waterfront Park was present to request that the City consider placing a Musical playscape in Mary Ross Waterfront Park.

Mrs. Jean Alden representing Rich Sea Pak stated that their company will be celebrating fifty years of service in the Glynn County area with over 1,000 employees. Mrs. Alden stated that Rich Sea Pak would like to do something for the community that would reach children and stimulate creativity.

Mrs. Alden stated that Bond Anderson built the musical playscape. She requested that the City prepare the site at Mary Ross Waterfront Park and maintain the site. Rich Sea Pak will fund the building of the musical playscape.

Mrs. Alden stated the musical playscape will be complete in August and Rich Sea Pak will have a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary community celebration with local bands.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the City does not take the musical playscape, will it be offered to the County?

Mrs. Alden stated that they will present the request to the County Commission on Thursday night. She pointed out that the associates at Rich Sea Pak will decide where the musical playscape will be placed. It would be placed at Mary Ross Waterfront park or Neptune Park on St. Simons Island.

Commissioner Jennings recommended that Commissioner Williams work with Rich Sea Pak and Jean Alden on the site preparation for the musical playscape at Mary Ross Waterfront Park.

Bryan Thompson stated that the musical playscapes will be placed at the central entrance and in the back of the gazebo on the left side of the three palm trees.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested placing the musical playscapes at Howard Coffin Park so that it may get full use. He stated that would be the best place.

Jean Alden stated that Rich Sea Pak was looking for a park that children visit on Sunday, a park where schools take children on field trips.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to have attractions to get people to come downtown. The City cannot compete with beaches.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the site that the City will maintain at Mary Ross Waterfront Park for the musical playscape, and authorizing Commissioner Williams to work with Rich Sea Pak to prepare the site. The motion carried.

The City Manager submitted request from St. Mark's for additional reserved parking spaces for church members. The City Manager stated that St. Mark's Church requested an additional handicap parking space.

Mayor Brown pointed out that the City will set a bad precedent to reserve parking spaces.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving one handicap parking space for St. Mark's Church. The motion carried.

#### **MEDIAN CUT ON ALTAMA AVENUE**

Attorney Jim Benefield representing the owners of property located at 4725 Altama Avenue submitted a request to remove existing curb and gutter to accommodate large trucks for egress and ingress in the area by cutting thirty feet out of the eight foot median on Altama Avenue.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the removal of the existing curb and gutter about thirty feet to modify the median. The motion carried.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS**

Commissioner Jennings suggested that the City raise the requirements to tear down buildings in the City to two years. He stated that Savannah Historical Board requires one year.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that House Bill 489 Committee may send proposals to the State to get approval. Commissioner Lawrence asked whether the House Bill 489 Committee can release their findings to anyone.

The City Attorney stated that House Bill 489 must have the stamp of approval from the City Commission. He stated that they may have a right to communicate their findings.

Mayor Brown stated that they can address this at the next Joint City/County meeting.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mayor Brown recommended that they City make a decision on TSG Holding Company and Hercules non-contract cooling water system.

Commissioner Jennings moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion rejecting the offer from TSG to sell water.

On call for the vote the motion passed by vote of 3 to 1 to 0.

Mayor Brown voting No and Commissioner Williams abstaining.

The City Attorney stated that he would like to discuss pending litigation in an Executive session.

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

### **CEMETERY DEEDS**

Petition received from Paul M. Varnedoe, Jr. to return Lot 25, Section C-11 four spaces in Palmetto Cemetery in exchange for Section Block 105, spaces 82, 83, 84 and 85. Original deed surrendered.

Petition received from Sandra Stanfield Dixon to transfer ownership of property. Lot 4, Section C-7 in Palmetto Cemetery to Richard Stanfield, original deed was lost, but City records verify ownership.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to grant the cemetery petitions. The motion carried.

Matthew Permar stated that he attended the Brunswick Citizens Academy and the City has a very good Police Department that they should be proud of. The Instructors were prepared and did an excellent job. He invited the Mayor and Commissioners to attend the graduation at 7:00 p. m. at the Ritz.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

/s/ Bradford S. Brown

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk