

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., JULY 21, 1999**

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager, Roosevelt Harris, Jr., City Attorney, M. Lynn Frey, III, City Clerk, Georgia E. Marion and Police Chief T. C. Cowan, and Personnel Director, Bonnie Dvorak.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Jonathan Williams gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE: Recited by everyone in attendance.

MINUTES

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of July 7, 1999. The motion carried.

DELEGATES

Bryan Thompson, Manager of the Ritz Theatre and Mary Ross Waterfront Park appeared before the Commission to give an update on the Musical Playscape at Mary Ross Waterfront Park. He stated that Friday, July, 23rd the final plans for deck and instruments to arrive from designer Bond Anderson. Monday, August 2nd – Friday, August 13th construction of the musical playscape deck will begin by the public works crew. Sunday, August 15th – Friday, August 20th Team Rich-Sea Pak Associates, with assistance from Brunswick High School students and faculty will cut and form materials, construct and install musical instruments onto the deck. Saturday, August 28th, 6:00-9:30 P.M. Ribbon cutting for the musical playscape, hosted by Rich-Sea Pak, as part of their 50th Anniversary Celebration. Received as information.

Gwendolyn Muchison appeared before the Commission to request that the City close a large ditch in the Magnolia Park subdivision behind homes in the 2500 block of Woodland Way. Mrs. Muchison submitted copies of petitions signed by 22 residents in favor of closing the ditch. She told the Commission that small alligators, large snapping turtles and numerous water moccasins during a period of time emerged from that ditch and found their way near back doors of homes in that block. Mrs. Muchison stated that homeowners used snake away to keep snakes from crawling in their yards.

The City Manager stated that the Engineer is getting figures together for closing of the ditch.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that cleaning the ditch would help with the problem. Commissioner Lawrence instructed the City Manager to have a public

works crew clean the ditch. Commissioner Jennings agreed that this should be taken care of.

Commissioner Williams requested that a tentative schedule be set on what will be done at a certain time and send a crew to take care of the ditch. The City Manager stated that he would give an update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Davis asked if the other ditch on Woodway would be cleaned. The City Manager pointed out that all ditches are being cleaned on a regular basis.

SPLOST FUNDS BUDGET CHANGE IN WATER AND WASTEWATER

The City Manager reported that the information concerning the change was incomplete. Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to defer the budget change until the next meeting. The motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The following reports for the month of June were submitted and were filed as information:

1. General Fund
2. Water and Wastewater Fund
3. Community Development
4. Municipal Court
- 5.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to accept the monthly reports. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Downtown Development Authority Board. The following names were submitted for consideration for appointment to the Downtown Development Authority Board:

1. Mrs. Sandy Dean
2. Mr. Juan Goodman
3. Mrs. Sharon Smith Henderson
4. Mr. Jeffrey M. Homans
5. Mr. Ronald E. Sadowski

Commissioner Davis nominated Jeffrey Homans and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, the nomination was closed.

On nomination duly made and seconded Jeffrey Homans was unanimously appointed to serve on the Downtown Development Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Jonathan Williams until June 20, 2001.

Mayor Brown explained that the Downtown Development Authority Board received funding from the City of Brunswick, for that reason a Commissioner cannot serve on the Board.

CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS

City Police Chief T. C. Cowan, Citizens Observer Program

City Police Chief T. C. Cowan appeared before the Commission to request that Commission approve the Citizens Observer Program to allow citizens to participate as community volunteers helping police maintain liveable neighborhoods by reducing crime. He stated that members will serve as additional "eyes and ears" of the Brunswick Police Department. The C.O.P. members will perform crime watch duties, alert the police department of hazards and unlawful behavior. C.O.P. will be visible in special marked vehicles and personal identifications.

Chief Cowan stated that 32 hours of training would be given and persons will not get involved, they will observe and report criminal activity.

Commissioner Lawrence felt like the program is very good. He stated that citizens want to report crimes and have to answer questions from police officers. What citizens tell police officers will be repeated to the person who is committing the crime. Citizens do not like to get involved in that type of situation.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion to approve the Citizens Observer Program. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jennings questioned why the vehicle would be marked. He asked if the citizens working in the Observer program would be safe. The Chief of Police stated that the cars would be clearly marked.

Commissioner Jennings questioned how liable will the City be for the citizens serving in the program. The City Attorney stated that the citizens voluntarily assume the risk.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he disagreed with the special marked vehicles, he felt that they should be eliminated. The Chief of Police felt that the Citizens Observer Program should be advertised on the car.

Commissioner Williams stated that the reason why crime is where it is today, citizens do not step forward and the crime element takes over.

Mayor Brown stated that the Citizens Observer Program is a good step in the right direction, it will give an extra hand and give the Police Department extra eyes.

Commissioner Lawrence asked if this was a method to get new police officers. The Chief of Police told Commissioner Lawrence no it is not. He pointed out that one person who completed the Citizens Police Academy made it as a police officer out of 87 people who went through the Citizens Police Academy.

On call for the vote, the motion carried.

FOUR WAY STOP SIGNS

Police Chief Cowan requested that the City receive applications for installation of four-way stop signs from residents. Chief Cowan stated that the Manual for Uniform Traffic Devices recommends that stop signs should not be used for speed control. He pointed out if they are used for speed control they should be placed everywhere.

Chief Cowan submitted the following suggestions for processing requests from citizens regarding four-way stops:

1. Intersections under consideration cannot be considered on thoroughfare streets. (A definition must be established as to what will be considered a thoroughfare street, such as 1000, 1200, 1500 vehicles per eight hours, 10 hours or 12 hours)
2. If the justification for the multi-way stop is a speeding problem, the citizen(s) must be able to offer proof of a speeding problem or make a request through the police department to perform a traffic analysis of the street in question.
3. Multi-way stop intersections must be a minimum of 1000 feet from another multi-way stop unless warrants of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) are met.
4. If all other criteria is satisfied, then a petition is to be circulated to obtain support for at least 75% (or whatever percentage is determined reasonable by the commission) of the citizens in the neighborhood.
5. The last step would be form a committee consisting of the Public Works Director, Police Chief, Traffic Officer Supervisor, and City Manager to consider the request and make a recommendation to the City Manager to consider the request and make a recommendation to the City Commission. When considering these requests, the committee must evaluate the impact of diverting the traffic flow onto other parallel streets.
6. A Traffic Engineer is needed to provide a professional assessment.

The City Manager recommended contacting the Georgia Municipal Association concerning four way stops and maybe get studies done. Commissioner Williams recommended that the City use a University that has a Department of Public Safety where students conduct studies at no cost. Commissioner Jennings suggested using the Carl Vinson Institute at the University of Georgia.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion instructing the City Manager to have an engineer study conducted for traffic. The motion carried.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to form a committee consisting of the Public Works Director, Police Chief, Traffic Officer and City Manager to consider the request of four-way stop signs and make a recommendation to the City Commission. When considering these requests, the Committee must evaluate the impact of diverting the traffic flow onto other parallel streets. The motion carried.

The City Manager announced that the Municipal Court may have the availability of the Jury Assembly room at the Courthouse. He pointed out that this has already been approved by the County Commission and if the City wants to proceed they may have the use of the facility at no charge.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ITEM

The City Attorney submitted the amended alcoholic beverage license. He discussed changing the yards from 200 yards to 100 yards. No action taken.

CITY CLERK'S ITEMS

Petition received from Joyce Mericle McClain to transfer Section No. 6, Spaces A, B, C, & D in East Palmetto Cemetery to Alma Leonia Rauber. Original deed returned. Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion approving the petition. The motion carried.

The City Clerk asked the Mayor and each Commissioner to appoint at least four persons to serve on the Complete Count Committee for Census 2000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Williams made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter. The motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/ Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk