

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., SEPTEMBER 1, 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, Director of Finance, Rick Drummond, Water and Wastewater Director William Powell, Assistant Water and Wastewater Director William Francis, Customer Service Supervisor, Edna Holmes, and City Clerk, Georgia E. Marion.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Jonathan Williams gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Williams made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 1999. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Received application to rezone vacant lot on corner of "M" Street and Newcastle street from Local Commercial to Highway Commercial. Property owner is Bob Merrill.

Chuck Taylor Director of Glynn County Community Development submitted application requesting to rezone New Town Lots 500-505 from Local Commercial to Highway Commercial.

Mr. Taylor stated that the proposed use for the property is mini-warehouses. The Glynn County Community Development staff recommended approval of the rezoning to Highway Commercial, subject to the following:

1. No access allowed from Newcastle Street.
2. Access be made from "M" Street only. If an entrance gate is constructed as part of the access drive design, then an off-street waiting area, to accommodate vehicles turning into the development, should be provided and
3. Provide an adequate buffer and fence along all property lines.

Commissioner Williams asked if the recommendations that come from the Glynn County Community Development Staff was satisfactory.

Attorney G. Carroll Palmatary, attorney for the property owner Bob Merrill stated yes, the recommendations are satisfactory.

Attorney Palmatary submitted pictures of surrounding businesses in the area. He pointed out the mini-warehouses would be less intrusive.

Commissioner Williams asked if buffers would be placed around the property.

Mr. Taylor pointed out that there were trees surrounding the property and a copy of the proposed buffers were submitted along with a sketch of the proposed mini-warehouses.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that this is the first public hearing and the second public hearing will be held on September 15, 1999.

RECOGNITIONS:

Proclamation presented to Frances Tyson Jones for years of dedicated service to Root Communications of Southeast Georgia.

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Mrs. Frances Tyson Jones for her outstanding contributions and distinguished service to this community.

Joe Sousa, operations manager for WGIG Roots Communications of Southeast Georgia stated that he was proud to have Fran Jones working with WGIG. He stated that she was a trusted friend and a part of his family.

DELEGATES:

Don McGlamory, Executive Director of the Brunswick Housing Authority presented a check in lieu of taxes in the amount of \$24,322.69.

Mr. McGlamory gave an update on all the moderation construction projects in the City's Housing Complex.

Mr. McGlamory stated that the Housing Authority have a new resident Commissioner who lives in the Housing Complex, Mrs. Mildred Clemons. This is the first time in sixty years a resident have been appointed to serve on the Housing Authority Board.

Mr. McGlamory discussed events scheduled for October 6, 1999 in McIntyre Court Park. He stated that 135 residents participated in computer training classes, some have graduated and gone on to find jobs.

Commissioner Lawrence voiced his concerns about senior citizens being charged for trash that accumulated at their resident. He stated that senior citizens who do not get out of their homes may have not placed trash there. Mr. McGlamory stated that the Housing Authority Policy is not to charge senior citizens and handicap residents for trash.

Mrs. Susan Orlinski did not appear at the meeting to discuss parking a recreational Vehicle at 1615 Bartow street to take care of their mother.

Rick Drummond, Director of Finance appeared before the Commission to give an update on the collection of delinquent water bills.

The Director of Finance stated that the Supervisor of Customer Service, Mrs. Edna Holmes has been doing a good job collecting water bills. Cut-off lists have been

The Director of Finance stated that the Supervisor of Customer Service, Mrs. Edna Holmes has been doing a good job collecting water bills. Cutoff lists have been sent out every month and businesses are being cut off too. The Supervisor is being very aggressive with the cutoffs. Meter Readers are checking dead meters and this will reduce the number of readings that are averaged monthly.

The Director of Finance pointed out that \$800,000.00 is invested in deposits and this will be used to apply to delinquent tax bills. He stated that the Supervisor of Customer Service is using a new system for deposits and working on bad checks. The City Manager will review all hardship cases. The Director of Finance gave a summary of water collections and deposits. He stated that there are still delinquent water bills over ninety days and \$900,000.00 are still outstanding.

Commissioner Jennings asked how aggressive has the City been in collecting the outstanding balances. The Director of Finance stated that the City turned off all customer bills that were over \$100.00.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the City was turning off water for customers who owe \$1,000.00 or more. The Director of Finance stated yes.

The Commission asked a series of questions concerning the procedure used to turn water off.

Mayor Brown pointed out that the City has a million dollars due on delinquent tax bills. He stated that this was not acceptable.

The Director of Finance suggested that a person be hired to cut off water. The Director of Finance suggested that a collection agency collect money owed for water bills which is ninety days old.

The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that his department has not been responsible for billing water customers and his department does not collect money.

The City Manager stated that he is still looking at the budget. He stated that additional people will be brought in to collect money. He stated that everyone has to be more progressive and that will help.

Mayor Brown suggested turning off any customer that is \$1.00 past due. He stated that the City must get aggressive with people who owe money.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission should know who is in charge of the cut off and also the person who will be hired.

The Director of Water and Wastewater stated that he has no problem with keeping the meter readers. He pointed out that one person should be in charge of billing and collecting water bills.

The City Manager stated that these problems did not begin yesterday. He stated that he needed time to look at the situation and straighten out the problem.

Commissioner Williams suggested giving the City Manager, Director of Finance, and the Director of Water and Wastewater 60 days to implement the collections of water bills. After 60 days start replacing people and meters that make the City look bad. He stated that he would like to see a list of active meters. Commissioner Williams stated that the City Manager will be held responsible.

The Director of Finance stated that residents need to pay water bills.

Mayor Brown stated that the City is one team and communication and cooperation is important. The City should cut off and do it very aggressively and get more aggressive with residents who close accounts. He stated that the staff has 60 days to clean up this situation. He stated that in 60 days a list should be submitted with the names of residents whose water bills cannot be collected.

Commissioner Williams asked for Customer Service Supervisor, Edna Holmes to discuss problems she encounter with the water cutoffs.

Edna Holmes told the Commission that she cannot control what goes on after the cut off list is issued to the meter readers. She stated that once the list is received by the meter readers they do not cut off all of the residents listed for non-payment.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that meter readers should not favor who will be turned off, they should follow the list.

Peter Vivenzio appeared before the Commission to request that the Ten Commandments be posted in all City buildings. Mr. Vivenzio stated that everyone should take a stand to help take America back. It seems that the smarter people get the less God they need. He noted that there is no person who can make a law over God. He stated that the Ten Commandments has a lot to do with character and people get their character from God. Mr. Vivenzio told the Commission that he would like to see the Ten Commandments placed in the Commission meeting room.

Mark Hall submitted a framed copy of the Ten Commandments. He stated that he would like to underwrite the cost of the framing and also the hanging of the Ten Commandments in City Buildings. He pointed out that the framed copies of the Ten Commandments would be hung in City buildings after working hours. Mr. Hall stated that everyone will respect the Ten Commandments and this will help build a better society. Mr. Hall stated that ninety percent of the students do not know the Ten Commandments.

Mayor Brown stated that this should be turned over to legal counsel.

The City Attorney stated that he learned of the request to place the Ten Commandments in City buildings last night. He pointed out that this was not on the Agenda.

Commissioner Lawrence went on record supporting placing the Ten Commandments in all City buildings. He stated that he read comments from the Mayor and Commissioner Jennings in the newspaper. He requested that the Ten

Commandments be placed out front in City Hall above the portraits of the Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Davis agreed with Commissioner Lawrence. She stated that she prayed before coming to this meeting and will pray after leaving this meeting.

Commissioner Williams went on record stating that the Ten Commandments is part of his life, that was the first thing he learned. He stated that the Ten Commandments is what everyone needs to base their lives on. He stated that there were no objections from him concerning placing the Ten Commandments in City buildings.

Mayor Brown stated that the City Attorney will look into placing the Ten Commandments in City buildings.

APPROVAL SCADA PROPOSALS:

The Assistant Director of Water and Wastewater requested approval of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Proposals. The Assistant Director of Water and Wastewater stated that a computer is connected to another computer that calls all the wastewater plants. He pointed out that this system is ten years old and not Y2K compatible. He recommended that the City accept the lowest cost proposal:

Certified Electric	\$ 41,602.50
Data Flow Systems	\$ 24,995.00
J.K. Duren	\$108,000.00

Following a discussion Commissioner Williams moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion accepting the proposal of Data Flow Systems in the amount of \$24,995.00. The motion carried.

Jim Benefield, attorney representing Altama Partners appeared before the Commission to present the final subdivision plat for North Park Center and to request forty- five feet of right of way.

Commissioner Davis moved and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion granting forty- five feet of right of way. The motion carried.

INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION:

Emergency Water Restriction

The City Manager stated that the City should have a water restriction plan for the reason that the City exceeded permitted limits. He submitted a copy of the water usage for the month of August 1999. He pointed out that the Water Restriction Plan needs to be fine tuned and ready for next year.

The Assistant Director of Water and Wastewater explained the Water Restriction Plan, Phase I. He stated that the first step is voluntary restrictions such as watering lawns, outdoor plants, washing cars or sidewalks. The next step is mandatory restrictions which is the same as voluntary restrictions. Any citizen who violates mandatory restrictions will be given five days to respond.

For violation of mandatory restrictions the water service may be discontinued and a hearing will be held before the Water and Wastewater Director.

The City Manager stated that the Plan will be used next year.

Carrie, Norman and Warde Streets.

The City Engineer submitted information concerning construction costs for the widening of Highway 17, Carrie Street, Norman Street, and Warde Street.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion authorizing the City Manager to work with the City Engineer to conduct a survey. The motion carried.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS:

Amendments to the Alcoholic Beverage License Ordinance

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion adopting the following amendments to the Alcoholic Beverage License Ordinance. The motion carried.

Amendment to Water /Wastewater Ordinance

The City Attorney reported that he is in the process of revising the Water and Wastewater Ordinance.

Century Communication Franchise Agreement

The City Attorney recommended granting a 14-day extension for Century Communications granting a 14 day extension to Century Communications. Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence the motion. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S ITEM:

Update on the following SPLOST Project and Community Development Block Grant Project:

a) New Fire Station

The City Manager gave an update on the North End Fire Station. He stated that the construction cost \$216,000.00. The City Manager announced that the dedication of the North End Fire Station would be held in October.

Commissioner Williams asked if the City had enough money left to purchase a smoke helmet. Commissioner Williams went on record stating that he was glad the City constructed the Fire Station and got equipment.

The City Manager stated that the SPLOST FUNDS used for construction of the Fire Station and the purchase of a Fire Engine was less than \$560,000.00

b) Multipurpose Center

The City Manager reported that the renovation is 27% completed for the Multipurpose Center and to date only \$60,000.00 has been use for the renovation.

c) City Newsletter

The City Manager reported that the City will begin working on the City's newsletter. He stated that the name will be the City Limits. The newsletter will keep citizens informed on what is going on in the City of Brunswick.

CITY CLERK'S ITEM(S)

Petition received from Attorney William T. Ligon, Jr., as Attorney for Love Milliron for a Quit Claim Deed to NE ¼ of Town Commons Lot No. 51, between Cochran Avenue and Stonewall Street, to clear title record for tax deed taken by the City, which was subsequently redeemed, but was lost, misplaced or destroyed, without being recorded.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion granting the Quit Claim deed. The motion carried.

MAYORS ITEM

Discuss changing Commission meeting date of October 6, 1999 to October 4, 1999 so that Commission may attend the Georgia Municipal Association Conference.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion rescheduling the meeting of October 6, 1999 to October 4, 1999. The motion carried.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S ITEM

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS' ITEM

COMMISSIONER DAVIS' ITEM

COMMISSIONER JENNINGS'ITEM

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/ Bradford S. Brown

Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk