

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., NOVEMBER 03, 1999

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

INVOCATION: Commissioner Jonathan Williams gave the invocation.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of October 20, 1999. The motion carried.

DELEGATIONS: State Representative Rev. E. C. Tillman appeared before the Commission to thank them for doing a good job. He next asked the progress of the Martin Luther King Phase II project. The City Manager stated that the project will start in the year 2001 or 2002. State Representative Rev. E. C. Tillman discussed the former Mayor's of Brunswick. He spoke about the former Mayor Homer L. Wilson who worked for the City of Brunswick for many years before being elected as City Commission, and later Mayor. He thanked the Commission for naming a street after Homer Wilson. He pointed out that some people do it for the dead and others do it for the living. He mentioned that Judge Alaimo was honored with a highway named after him and former County Commissioner Harold Pate was honored with a building named after him. He requested that the Commission have a big day of celebration when naming the street in honor of Homer Wilson. He stated that Mr. Wilson have about 100 people who will be coming to the dedication.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that the City will do some improvements to the street before the dedication. The City Manager stated that the City has not done anything to the road pointing out that the City has so many things going on.

Commissioner Williams stated that the City does not need to determine when the improvements will be done. He pointed out that the City scrapes the road and would like to know if the City is planning on paving the road. He stated that the City should not wait another six months. He suggested that the City get the road crew in and do the street naming dedication as soon as possible along with the Golden Isles Bowl probably on that Friday. The dedication can be done quickly.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the Street sign was up. The City Manager stated that the new street sign is up.

Commissioner Jennings requested that the Engineer look at the road to see what it takes to pave the road. The City Manager stated that he will discuss it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that since Homer L. Wilson is a former Mayor and he did so much for this community, the dedication of the road should be done when the road is paved. The City should finish the road and make it look good.

Commissioner Jennings asked the City Manager what was his vision of the dedication? The City Manager stated that it is how big the Commission wants to make it. Commissioner Jennings stated that it is up to the City Manager to decide what type of dedication to have. This is policy.

Commissioner Williams suggested that the City Manager make the arrangements for the dedication of Homer L. Wilson Boulevard, the date, time and place and type of ceremony and report back to the Commission with details.

Corrine Robinson, President of the Brunswick Chapter of Links, Inc. appeared before the Commission to request help in supporting the performance of the Boy's Choir of Harlem in the amount of \$5,000.00. Ms. Robinson introduced the Links who were present and connecting Links Commissioner Jonathan Williams and City Manager Roosevelt Harris, Jr.

Martha Johnson gave the history of the Links Organization which offers services to the youth and arts. She stated that they would like to expose young people to a better way of life. Mrs. Johnson told the Commission that it cost a lot of money for the Boy's Choir of Harlem to perform in Brunswick. She stated that they would need the support of the community. Many letters were mailed to churches inviting them to bring young people.

Mrs. Johnson asked the Commission to help them sponsor the Boy's Choir of Harlem on November 11, 1999 on Jekyll Island.

Commissioner Williams stated that he was a part of the Links Organization and will excuse himself from voting.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving \$5,000.00 to sponsor the Boy's Choir of Harlem.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the Boy's Choir of Harlem will bring a lot of people to Brunswick to attend the concert. Commissioner Davis asked where the \$5,000.00 come from.

Mayor Brown asked how many tickets will the City have for the concert? The City Manager stated that the City will have fifty tickets.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion to add on an addendum instructing the City Manager to delegate the tickets to children who can relate to the performance. Commissioner Jennings suggested that the City Manager give the tickets to children that live in the Housing Authority Complex. Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion carried by vote of 4 to 1. Commissioner Williams abstaining.

The City Manager submitted the following bids for a eight passenger Mini-Van for Community Development:

Nalley Chevrolet Atlanta, Georgia	\$17,639.00
Nalley, GMC Brunswick, Georgia	\$19,300.00
Dan Vaden Brunswick, Georgia	\$19,818.08
King Colonial Ford Brunswick, Georgia	\$20,554.05
Carl Gregory Brunswick, Georgia	\$20,876.00

The City Manager stated that the primary use of the van will be for the Multipurpose Center.

The City Manager recommended the low bid of Nalley Chevrolet in Atlanta for \$17,639.00

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion accepting the low bid of Nalley Chevrolet in the amount of \$17,639.00. The motion carried.

David Trent representing King and Prince Seafood appeared before the Commission to request permission to build two additional shelters in Overlook Park. He stated that the shelters will be donated to the City in celebration of King and Prince Seafood breeding products in Brunswick for fifty years. Mr. Trent submitted a copy of the blueprints for the shelters. He stated that the shelters would be placed over existing cement slabs conforming with the existing shelters. He stated that the proposal for the shelters was presented to the Park and Tree Commission and received approval through Mr. Vande Linde.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that the City Attorney take a look at the proposed shelters to see if there will be any problems such as a liability risk.

The City Attorney stated that he would look into the liability.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving King & Prince Seafood to place two shelters in Overlook Park, contingent upon the City Attorney looking into the liability. The motion carried.

Dick Newbern, Grants Coordinator for Glynn County Community Development appeared before the Commission to request a letter of endorsement for the Glynn County Community Housing Investment Program. Mr. Newbern stated that sixteen homes are being targeted for the low income elderly population through a \$250,000.00 Grant by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Jennings requested that the City residents receive some funding for the elderly.

Mr. Newbern introduced Mr. Booker and Mr. Scott who will be assisting the County with the program.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to discuss where the grant funds will be spent in the City.

The City Manager asked if the County would identify or target any areas in the City that would benefit from the grant.

Mr. Newbern stated that the County can target areas in the City to strengthen the application process.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the letter of endorsement with a condition that the County consult with the City Manager to make sure that houses in the City are designated for funding under the Community Housing Investment Program grant submitted to the Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Williams stated that the City would have to carefully word the application. It may be called something other than a county application.

The City Manager pointed out that it is a joint City/County application and there is no match associated with the grant.

Mayor Brown suggested that some areas in the City be mentioned in the letter of endorsement.

Commissioner Jennings amended the motion to include sending a letter of endorsement for a joint City/County application. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS

Update on US 17 Project

The City Manager gave an update on U S 17 widening project. The City Manager stated that he met with Mr. Shackelford concerning the Highway 17 widening project. The City Manager referred to a map to explain the changes that was made in the widening project for Highway 17.

SPLOST

The City Manager reported that he will be meeting with Elmo Richardson of Tribble and Richardson to discuss the storm sewer projects. He pointed out that the City has funds that are not obligated.

OVERLOOK PARK

The City Manager reported that he contacted Job Corp concerning the work at Overlook Park. He stated that if Job Corp cannot do the work at Overlook Park in a given time frame the he would have someone else to look at the job.

COLLEGE PARK

The City Manager reported that two cherry trees were removed in College Park and in one month the project will be underway.

Commissioner Williams instructed the City Manager to put a priority on the two projects and to get some kind o action.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion approving the following cemetery deeds:

Transferring Section B-1, Lot No 8, Spaces A and B in Palmetto Cemetery from John A. Vroman to Annette Perkins Spaulding . Original deed returned.

Transferring Catholic Section Lot 85-A Spaces C and D in Palmetto Cemetery from Royce L. Tarrer to John and Shawn Hall Webb. Original deed lost or misplaced but City records verify ownership.

Replacement deed to Lula Capers in lieu of original deed which has been lost, to Section No. 3, Spaces B,C,D,E,F&G in Greenwood Cemetery. City records verify ownership.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that there are problems when people are buried on another person's cemetery lot. The City Clerk explained that the City offers another lot to the owner without any cost.

MAYOR ITEMS

Water Collection Update

The Director of Finance stated that the Water Department have conducted cut-offs on all delinquent water accounts and water meters were locked. The City hired one person to go over all delinquent accounts. He stated that \$51,392.00 worth of accounts were submitted to a collection agency.

The Director of Finance pointed out that the Water Department collected over \$200,009.00 and has paid the General Fund the money they owed.

The City Manager stated that the Water Department has something in place to pay the money back to the General Fund.

Mayor Brown stated that the amount owed to the General Fund is approximately \$400,000.00.

The Director of Finance stated that sanitation fees are being collected and placed in the General Fund. He pointed out that the water meters are being read on time and the checking account is balanced.

The Director of Finance recommended having a cut off every week for delinquent water bills.

Commissioner Jennings suggested that the water bills be more user friendly.

Commissioner Williams expressed his concerns about the water meter readings. He suggested that Notices be placed on doorknobs letting customers know when the water will be cut-off. He stated that he did suggest this before. He mentioned that the average customer needs to know when the water will be turned off.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that the water cut offs bother him a great deal. He expressed his concerns about the County water not being turned off for non-payment.

Commissioner Lawrence asked about the accountability of meter readers and their obligation to report problems. He gave an example of one store at Five Points that have other meters connected and one store was paying for everyone's water bill. He stated that meter readers knew it was a violation and did not report it.

Commissioner Lawrence asked how does the City correct the problem. To him that is an offense and who has direct authority over the meter readers.

The Director of Finance stated that it is the business owners responsibility to get a plumber to untie the lines and a refund can be given.

Commissioner Lawrence mentioned that a resident, Mrs. Williams, in the 1800 block of Martin Luther King Blvd., is continuing to get a water bill for \$1,000.00. She is still being charged for water at this residence and her water was turned off.

The City Manager stated that he would look into the water problems at that resident.

The City Manager recalled that water lines run through Mrs. Williams residence and other houses and there is a problem.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he would like to discuss a Personnel Issue in an Executive Session.

Commissioner Davis reported that Police Patrols have slacken in subdivisions all over neighborhoods on the Southend.

Commissioner Davis reported potholes throughout the City on Sycamore Avenue and Goodyear Avenue. She requested that dirt be placed in the potholes until the City can repair them. She next requested that direction signs be replaced.

Commissioner Lawrence moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. The motion carried.

Following the executive session Commissioner Lawrence made a motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/ Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/ Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk