

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., SEPTEMBER 6, 2000

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

INVOCATION: Commissioner Harold E. Jennings 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 Davis seconded the motion approving the minutes of the Called meeting of August 2, 2000 and the Regular meeting of August 16, 2000 with the necessary corrections. The motion passed.

RECOGNITIONS:

Proclamation presented to the Rape Crisis Center for National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Charles Wilson in recognition of September as Rape Crisis Center National Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Commission for their support. He stated that the Rape Crisis Center is doing all they can to help with problems in the Community.

Hispanic Resource Center to present Mayor Brown an award for participating in the Hispanic Annual Festival

Terry Eason representing the Hispanic Resource Center presented Mayor Brown with a plaque of appreciation for participating in the annual Hispanic Festival.

Mr. Eason told the Commission that he married a Hispanic who was a ship pilot. He stated that they work together privately with the Latino's in the Community and with the school system. He pointed out that thirty kids were enrolled in Headstart and some kids in Public School. He stated that Latino's were being taken advantage of and charged outrageous fees for translation service.

Mr. Eason gave gifts of trinkets to the City Council. He submitted a letter to the City Manager in regards to next year's festival. Mr. Eason thanked the Mayor for attending the annual Hispanic Festival. He next extended an invitation to the City Council and City Manager to attend next year's Hispanic Festival.

Commissioner Jennings asked for information about the Hispanic Resource Center.

Mr. Eason stated that the Hispanic Resource Center helps Latino's find jobs and offer language classes. The Center also offers immigration and legal services

because Latino's do not have an immigration attorney. Mr. Eason pointed out that there are a lot of illegal immigrants in this community. The Center also teaches Latino's how to be self-sufficient. The Center funds itself by helping people and they may be requesting funds later from the City.

Commissioner Lawrence asked Mr. Eason if the Hispanic Resource worked together with other Hispanic groups in the community. Mr. Eason pointed out that other groups are more public and the Hispanic Resource Center work to help the same people and maybe they will get together with other groups in the community in the near future.

Commissioner Jennings mentioned that the Hispanic community is growing in Georgia. It was stated that the population of Hispanics in Brunswick is approximately 3,500.

APPROVALS:

Surplus List for Joint City/County Auction

The Director of Finance submitted a surplus list of items to be sold at the Joint City/County Auction on October 14th.

Mayor Brown stated that two and three wheel motorcycles were stored at the Glynn Peyton Building and they could not be located for the auction.

The City Manger stated that the motorcycles may have already been sold at another auction.

Mayor Brown asked the Director of Finance to research the auction records to verify when the motorcycles were sold.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the surplus list of items for the October 14th Joint City/County Auction. The motion passed.

Bid Recommendation for Streetscape Phase II Revision 1

Jerry Spencer submitted the following bids for Streetscape Phase II Revision 1:

Bidder	Base Bid	Alternate No. 1
Sittle Construction Co.	\$98,826.00	93,001.00
Popwell-Eller, Inc.	No Bid	116,289.29
Spotted Dog Landscape	No Bid	No Bid

Mr. Spencer recommended awarding the project to Sittle Construction Company in the amount of \$98,826.00.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion accepting the low bid of Sittle Construction Company in the amount of \$98,826.00. The motion passed.

Revision to Travel Policy

The Human Resources Director submitted the revisions to the City's Travel Policy.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the revision to the Travel Policy. The motion passed.

Specifications for Bidding Centralized Banking

The Director of Finance submitted a Request for Proposal on Centralized Banking Services.

Commissioner Lawrence asked about the pro's and con's of the banking services.

The Director of Finance stated that the pro's outweigh the con's because of reduced fees and returns on investments. The proposal would allow for centralized banking.

Commissioner Jennings expressed his concerns about interest rates and moving funds around.

Mayor Brown pointed out that the City has the latitude to move funds to collect a higher interest rate.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that everything must be in order before the City grants approval.

Following a series of questions concerning the banking proposal, Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion to table the request for proposals until further investigation and the presence of the City Attorney.

Commissioner Williams stated that it was not made clear what will be investigated.

Commissioner Jennings amended his motion to authorize the Director of Finance to speak with the banks about the proposal and the specifications and bring the information back in thirty days. Commissioner Lawrence seconded the amended motion.

On call for the vote the motion passed by vote of 3 to 1 to 0. Commissioner Williams opposed and Mayor Brown abstained.

DISCUSSION:

Sanitation

The City Manager reported that several weeks ago Southland Waste did a presentation about the construction of a transfer station and a governmental contract between the City of Brunswick and Wayne County Authority. The City discussed a ten year term extension by mutual consent and that the City will

furnish three to four acres for the site. The City also discussed construction of a transfer station, which could save up to seventy five thousand dollars a year.

The City Manager stated that he spoke with the City Attorney and they felt that more dialogs is needed and more discussion about the charges in the Sanitation division as part of the City's Chart of Accounts. The Sanitation Department would become an Enterprise fund. The City needs to look at the Commercial accounts and at the transfer station. Rate changes should be looked at and a whole number of things that relate to Sanitation.

The City Manager pointed out that two representatives are present today from Southland Waste and a company out of Albany Georgia. The City Manager stated that the City needs to get involved with the different companies to decide what to do and what would be the best route for the City in the future.

Mary Lee representing Southland Waste thanked the City Council for addressing the issue and pointed out it is an opportunity for the City to look at cost savings. She encouraged the City to look at the options that are available.

Gary Shular representing Carlton Company in Savannah and Albany stated that he appreciated the opportunity to maybe serve the City of Brunswick.

Commissioner Jennings asked if the Whitlock Street landfill was already closed. The City Manager stated that the Whitlock Street landfill has closed.

The City Manager stated that one of the problems the City is having now is paying for loads by the ton and that makes a big difference.

The City Manager reiterated about the Sanitation Division becoming an Enterprise fund just like the Water and Sewer Department.

The City Manager mentioned that the City needs to look into trashcan distribution charges. The City charges eight dollars for the first trashcan and one dollar for each additional trash can. He mentioned that commercial accounts have fifteen trashcans and pay eight fifty for the first trashcan and one dollar for each additional trashcan. He mentioned if there was a dumpster at that location it would take one truck and one man to pick up that dumpster and with trash cans it takes one truck and three men and a lot of time spent on just that one site emptying those cans. He pointed out that the City would have to look at its best interest for the future in providing this service to City customers.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested that a work session be held to discuss the needs of the City and invite companies to submit information about their service. Commissioner Lawrence stated that the Commission needs to make sure that the City does what is best for the citizens and not create a hardship on them.

The City Manager stated that he agreed with Commissioner Lawrence and when the City gets a good system and a good quality program senior citizens may get some real assistance so that their needs could be addressed.

Mayor Brown recalled that the Commission has been speaking about this for a year and a half and no action has been taken yet. The City is losing half a million dollars a year in lost revenues from the sanitation area because of excess tipping fees and not charging enough for additional trash cans. Mayor Brown asked the City Manager when action would be taken because he keeps hearing about a need to investigate.

The City Manager stated that the process has already begun.

Mayor Brown recalled that he received a memo, which stated that these issues particularly the commercial accounts that pay one dollar for each additional trash can which has resulted in a tremendous revenue loss for the City. Mayor Brown stated that the City does not have a contract right now and unless the City bid out the process the City will continue to get stuck with high tipping charges and action should be taken immediately.

The City Manager stated that he would again take responsibility for what has not been done. He assured the Commission that it would not take another year and a half before the sanitation needs are addressed.

Mayor Brown requested a time frame from the City Manager.

The City Manager stated that he would not be able to resolve certain things, but offered to come back and update the City Council on a quarterly basis with the first report in December 2000.

Commissioner Lawrence asked if the City was looking at privatizing the sanitation department. Mayor Brown answered no.

Following a brief discussion the City Manager was instructed to make a quarterly report and work on gathering information for use of a transfer station for the City.

Cemetery Board

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commission Lawrence seconded the motion appointing Alice Collins to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board. The motion passed.

Commissioner Davis questioned what did Ken Plyman mean when he stated that he could attend Cemetery Trust Fund Board meetings as long as the meetings were not held at the City Hall Complex. She asked how would he attend the board meetings?

Commissioner Jennings stated that Ken Plyman mentioned as long as the board meetings are held at the City Hall Complex he will not attend those meetings.

Commissioner Lawrence recalled that Ken Plyman was placed on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board as an ex-officio non-voting member.

Commissioner Jennings suggested that all Cemetery Trust Fund Board members be re-appointed for a one-year term.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to reappoint Commissioner Harold E. Jennings, Arlie McNeill and L. E. Lewis to serve on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board for one year. On call for the vote the motion passed by vote of 4 to 0. Commissioner Jennings abstained.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion to remove Ken Plyman as an ex-officio member of the Cemetery Trust Fund Board for not attending the board meetings. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On call for the vote the motion passed by vote of 4 to 0. Commissioner Jennings abstained.

Mayor Brown instructed the City Clerk to advertise for an appointment on the Cemetery Trust Fund Board.

Judge Pro-Tem

Mayor Brown instructed the City Clerk to advertise for the appointment of a Municipal Judge Pro-Tem to assist Municipal Court Judge William Ligon.

Sign Ordinance and Rezoning of General Residential District

Mayor Brown recommended that the Sign Ordinance and Rezoning of General Residential District be heard at another meeting in the absence of the City Attorney.

CITY CLERK'S ITEMS

On motion of Commissioner Lawrence seconded by Commissioner Jennings the following Cemetery Petitions were unanimously granted:

1. Transferring Section B12, Lot No. 1 in Palmetto Cemetery from Mrs. M. A. Johnson to Daniel Peacock. Original deed surrendered.
2. Transferring Section 145, Lot 11 in Palmetto Cemetery from W. D. Cox to Robert Cox. Original deed lost or misplaced, but City records verify ownership.
3. Transferring Section 18, Lots 1 and 2 in East Palmetto Cemetery from John Goodbread to Gary and Paula Corey. Original deed lost or misplaced, but City records verify ownership.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk