

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P. M., OCTOBER 18, 2000**

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 Davis made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the minutes of the meeting of October 4, 2000. The motion passed.

RECOGNITION: Proclamation being presented to Carol Harris, President of YWCA on behalf of National Week Without Violence beginning October 15, 2000.

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Carol Harris, President of the YWCA proclaiming October 15th thru October 21st as Week without Violence in the City of Brunswick. Mrs. Harris thanked the Commission for their support.

Proclamation being presented to Heather Heath, Golden Isles Arts and Humanities, for National Arts and Humanities Month.

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Heather Heath in recognition of October as National Arts and Humanities Month. Mrs. Heath thanked the Commission for their continued support of Golden Isles Arts and Humanities.

Proclamation being presented to Allen Cox, President of Glynn Teachers Federal Credit Union, in recognition of October 19, 2000 being International Credit Union Day.

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Allen Cox in recognition of International Credit Union Day on October 19, 2000. Mr. Cox thanked the Commission for their continued support of Credit Unions.

DELEGATIONS: Janice Watkins, Temple of Truth School, requesting City to deed abandoned 5-foot alleyway to Temple of Truth School.

Janice Watkins representing Temple of Truth School was not present at the meeting. No action taken.

Bishop James H. Brooks, Executive Director Anquilla Freedom Project, requesting a section of "L" Street be renamed Marion Geneva Lyde Drive.

Bishop James H. Brooks, Executive Director of Anquilla Freedom Project appeared before the Commission to request on behalf of the Lyde Family that "F" street starting at Newcastle Street to Goodyear Avenue be renamed Marion Geneva Lyde Drive. Bishop Brooks stated that the late Marion Geneva Lyde was recognized at Local, State and Federal levels for her outstanding accomplishments and community involvement.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that everyone knows all the contributions made by the late Marion Geneva Lyde on National and Local levels. He pointed out that the Lyde Family was not present and suggested that the Commission wait until more information was obtained from the family before making a decision concerning the renaming "F" Street. He recommended that the street naming be tabled at this time.

Commissioner Jennings stated that he would like to do something great for the late Marion Geneva Lyde mother of Civil Rights. He stated that the family members should make that decision concerning a memorial.

Mayor Brown suggested placing a historical marker in memory of Marion Geneva Lyde giving the history of her life and contributions. He next suggested planting a large oak in memory or using the home she grew up in as a memorial. Mayor Brown stated that the family of the late Marion Geneva Lyde should make the decision on what type of memorial that should be used in memory of the late Marion Geneva Lyde.

Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion tabling the renaming of "F" street to Marion Geneva Lyde Drive until the Lyde family makes a decision concerning what type of memorial should be used for the late Marion Geneva Lyde. The motion passed.

Commissioner Williams recommended that the NAACP and other organizations consult with the Lyde family concerning the type of memorial for the late Mrs. Lyde.

Update on Business Licenses.

The Director of Finance submitted a Business License Analysis Follow-up. He explained that the current number of employees using the gross receipt method is 751, which generated \$235,719.00. The average license cost would be \$313.00. He stated that the same 751 accounts using the number of employee's method would produce an estimated \$70,905.00; the average license cost would be \$94.00. He pointed out that the estimated reduction in revenues for occupational fees would be (\$164,814).

The Director of Finance explained that professional fees generate an estimated \$58,000.00 per year averaging 4281.00 per account. The number of employees method, estimated revenues would be \$34,640.00 averaging 480 per account and the estimated reduction would be (\$23,360).

The Director of Finance reported that the total estimated reduction in revenue would be (\$188,174.00) based on the final analysis.

Commissioner Jennings asked the Director of Finance how would the City make up the \$188,000.00 next year.

The Director of Finance stated that the economy is doing well at the moment and the L.O.S.T. taxes are continuing to go up each year, hopefully the City will have some money a couple of hundred thousand in this years budget. If the economy stays at the rate it is going. He recalled in a meeting that the Commission discussed ways that would encourage visitors to shop downtown which would increase the sales tax and the license structure to get more businesses in that area. He suggested cutting back in some areas especially expenditures such as capital equipment. He recommended deferring purchases or buying at an auction rather than buying a new item.

Mayor Brown pointed out that the Commission would discuss later on an item on the agenda concerning the millage rate.

Mayor Brown explained what the Director of Finance is proposing would be an increase using the same millage rate from last year. The ad valorem taxes would increase this year about \$142,000.00 so in reality the City would be off setting all but \$46,000.00. The increase in ad valorem taxes for the City of Brunswick would be coming from redevelopment and new facilities in the City and not reassessment of properties. In reality the City is looking at a net loss of \$46,000.00. He pointed out the City should look at the total revenues and not focus on one segment of revenues.

Commissioner Jennings asked the Director of Finance the total number of City employees. The Director of Finance stated that there are approximately 350 full time employees. Commissioner Jennings asked the Director of Finance and the Human Resources Director how much pay raise out of \$188,000.00 could each employee receive.

The Director of Finance stated that each employee could receive approximately \$500.00 per year.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the employees would like to have something like that. Commissioner Jennings asked the Director of Finance if there were any scientific facts that new businesses would move into Brunswick if the City changed the business license fees.

The Director of Finance stated that there were not any scientific facts. He pointed out that he hoped that the City would get more businesses to move into Brunswick by being more competitive and on the same scale as Glynn County.

Commissioner Lawrence expressed his concerns about what bothered him. He stated that he keeps hearing that the City can do many things to gain more businesses. He pointed out the way he sees it most businesses are following the people and not people following the businesses. In other words most of the folks are moving out of the City of Brunswick and businesses started moving out the City. He stated that some people are saying that the businesses are going to come back in the City. He stated that he just don't see that happening unless the City starts doing something to bring about better housing in Brunswick and until that

happens it does not make sense for this body to sit here and say that businesses are going to come back. He asked what are they coming back to in the City of Brunswick?

Commissioner Williams asked the Director of Finance if he had an answer to the question.

The Director of Finance stated that he was looking at these speculations, economic growth, the bridge and the port facilities and if there is any vision everyone must look down the road and expect things to grow in the City.

Commissioner Williams pointed out that there are other ways to look at it. When riding around town there are a lot of businesses empty. There is nothing left in Lanier Plaza. A furniture business on Norwich Street is closed now. He stated that the City could do things to make it easier for businesses to locate in the City.

Following a discussion Commissioner Jennings made the motion opposing the change of the Business License fees from gross receipts to number of employees. Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion. On call for the vote the motion failed by vote of 2 to 3. Commissioner Jennings and Lawrence voting Yes and Mayor Brown and Commissioners Davis and Williams voting No.

Commissioner Williams made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion changing the Business License fees to number of employees to enhance the report given by the Director of Finance.

Commissioner Lawrence requested that the motion be amended to include after one year the Business License fees would be reviewed. Commissioner Williams amended the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the amended motion to include that the business license fees be reviewed after one year.

On call for the vote the motion passed by vote of 3 to 2. Commissioner Lawrence and Jennings voting No.

Tom Whelchel, Attorney at Law, in reference to error in old Riverside survey.

Tom Whelchel, Attorney appeared before the Commission to request that the Commission approve a minor error in the plat that occurred many years ago. He stated that it is a minor error, which is a few feet, and the parties are in agreement about where the line should be located. He pointed out that the City Attorney have reviewed the plat.

The City Attorney stated that the plat appears to be in order.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the plat. The motion passed.

APPROVALS:

Bid recommendation on Removal of Asbestos from new City Hall.

Mr. Neal recommended that the Commission accept the low bid of AZTEC Environmental Inc., to remove asbestos from new City Hall.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion accepting the low bid of AZTEC Environmental Inc., in the amount of \$83,500.00. The motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

The following reports were received for the month of September:

- A) General Fund
- B) Water & Wastewater
- C) Community Development
- D) Municipal Court

Commissioner Lawrence made a motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion approving the monthly reports. The motion passed.

Change to City's Personnel Policy on Accrued Vacation Leave.

Commissioner Davis made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion approving the vacation accrual to 50 days instead of 40 days and allow employees to carry forward seven days of vacation each year instead of five days. The motion passed.

Set millage rate for 2000 Tax Digest.

The Director of Finance submitted information concerning the current 2000 Digest and a five-year history. He stated that the City must advertise in the news for fourteen days the five-year history. He pointed out that the City's millage rate could be adopted at a Called Meeting the second week in November.

Commissioner Jennings made the motion and Commissioner Lawrence seconded the motion authorizing the Director of Finance to advertise the 2000 digest and five-year history. The motion passed.

CITY MANAGER'S ITEM:

The City Manager reported that the City would advertise for RFP's for Waste Management in two weeks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Williams made the motion and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. The motion passed.

Following the Executive Session, Commissioner Lawrence made the motion and Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

/s/Bradford S. Brown
Mayor

Attest: /s/Georgia E. Marion
City Clerk