

OFFICIAL MINUTES
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020
HYBRID
1229 NEWCASTLE STREET
&
STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB ADDRESSES:

<https://www.facebook.com/COBMeetings>

or

<https://cityofbrunswick-ga-gov.zoom.us/j/93966246293>

PRESENT: Honorable Mayor Cornell Harvey, Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Martin, Commissioner John Cason III, Commissioner Felicia Harris, and Commissioner Vincent Williams

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Cornell Harvey - *meeting began at 6:01 p.m.*

INVOCATION: Commissioner Williams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all in attendance in person and virtually

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

1. Karen Mumford, 607 Union Street, addressed the commission regarding the planning of a non-profit organization re-entry/halfway house program downtown; stating she was not in favor of the halfway house downtown and recommended having non-profits come before the commission.
2. Elizabeth Verheyn, P.O. Box 522, addressed the commission regarding the planning of a halfway house and development/security in Brunswick; stating she was not in favor of the halfway house downtown.
3. Seamus Barry, 502 Dartmouth Street, addressed the commission regarding the establishment of a group halfway house; stating zoning should be revised to have more government oversight.
4. Richard Angerer, 293 Good Place Road, owner of 809 Monk Street where the halfway will be located addressed the commission regarding the program. He stated that the halfway house program is for inmates released that are interested in Christian ministry.
5. Ferra Ramirez, 1027 Egmont Street; suggested the commission re-look at ordinances/codes for guidelines for non-profits like New Point Partnership.
6. Jane Drawdy, 514 Hardwood Oak, SSI, GA; stated she had a contract on a house next to the property in question and she terminated her contract because the house was next to the halfway house.

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Mayor Harvey announced that a decision will be made regarding the Monument in Hanover Square at the first meeting in November.

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PRESENTATION(S)

2. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Plaque Presentation to the City of Brunswick and City Engineer/Public Works Director Garrow Alberson for Exceeding the Requirements for NFIP Participation and Effective Floodplain Management.
City Engineer/Public Works Director Alberson accepted with gratitude stating receiving the recommendation was a departmental effort.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)- LAND USE

3. Rezoning Petition No. 20-03; from Christopher Atkinson, Owner, Petitioning to Rezone Subject Parcels from R-6 One-Family Residential (R6) to General Commercial (GC). Property Located at 3129 Brailsford Avenue. (*J. Hunter*)

Director of Planning, Development and Codes Hunter gave a presentation on the above-referenced petition. He reported staff recommends denial of the rezoning as same would create Spot Zoning, which is prohibited under Section 23-27-6(b) of the Zoning Ordinance.

Planning and Appeals recommended approval of the rezoning with the following conditions: **1)** A vegetative screen be added along Brailsford in addition to the proposed fence to soften the view from residential properties. **2)** Staff be instructed to initiate rezoning the National Guard Armory and Brunswick-Glynn Joint Water and Sewer Commission properties from R9 to GC. This rezoning would eliminate the spot zoning concerns and be more consistent with their use and proximity to Norwich Street.

Mayor Harvey opened the floor for anyone wanting to speak in favor or opposition of the proposed petition.

The following people addressed the commission:

- I. Dave Bowers, Chairman of Planning & Appeals Commission commented regarding the Planning & Appeals Commission conditions if rezoning was approved.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to defer the above-referenced petition until the second meeting in December, allowing staff time to rezone the National Guard Armory property and the property owned by Brunswick-Glynn Joint Water & Sewer Commission along with the above-referenced property from Residential (R6) to General Commercial (GC); seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

4. Conditional Use Petition No. 20-04; from Joe Rocha, Petitioning for a Conditional Use for 1802 Second Street, for Open Yard Storage of Vehicles. The Location Will be Used for Auto Storage. (*J. Hunter*)

Director of Planning, Development and Codes Hunter gave a presentation on the above-referenced petition. He reported staff and the Planning and Appeals Commission recommends denial of the conditional use based upon the storage of junk or other salvage being inconsistent with requirements for obtaining a conditional use for open yard storage in General Commercial.

Mayor Harvey opened the floor for anyone wanting to speak in favor or opposition of the proposed petition.

The following people addressed the commission:

1. William Kitts via zoom questioned if the cars would be crushed on site. Applicant stated no.
2. Dave Bowers, Chairman of Planning & Appeals Commission commented that the owner of the property should be required to attend future hearings.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to deny the above-referenced petition; seconded by Commissioner Harris.

Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

UPDATE(S)

5. Coastal Incentive Grant – Stormwater Runoff Plan. (*G. Alberson*)

City Engineer/Public Works Director Alberson reported that the Coastal Incentive grant would be used for planning/design only, not construction and will assist in reducing stormwater runoffs.

Following questions and answers; Commission thanked City Engineer/Public Works Director Alberson for the update.

ITEM(S) TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL

5. Consider Approval of September 16, 2020 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. (*subject to any necessary changes.*) (*N. Atkinson*)

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the above-referenced minutes; seconded by Commissioner Cason. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

6. Consider Approval of Financial Reports as of August 31, 2020. (*K. Mills*)

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the above-referenced reports as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

7. Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2020-18 – Authorizing the Filing of an Application with the State Road and Toll Authority for Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) Loan for Funding for Phase II and III of the Magnolia Park Infrastructure Improvement Project. (*G. Alberson*)

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve the above-referenced resolution; seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin amended her motion for a ten-year term loan; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed by a motion of 5 to 0.

8. Consider Approval of a Payment Plan Conducted by the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government (UGCVI). (*R. McDuffie*)

Alex Daman, Public Service Associate with the University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute, gave an overview of classification/compensation plan study for the City of Brunswick.

Following questions; the commission thank Mr. Daman for the presentation.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the recommendation to implement the pay plan recommended by Carl Vinson Institute of Government and provide \$402,301 to fund the adjustments for the current fiscal year; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1; with Commissioner Cason voting not to approve, stating he felt the commission needed more time to discuss the plan.

9. Consider Approval of Professional Services Contract for On-Call Transit Planning Services. (*J. Hunter*)

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the above-referenced contract and task order No. 1 for \$198,692.93 with Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLC; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

- 10. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Brunswick and the Urban Redevelopment Authority Regarding the Norwich Street Revitalization Revolving Loan Fund and the Community Improvement & Beautification Grant. (T. Stegall)

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the above-referenced Memorandum of Understanding; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

- 11. Consider Approval of Contractor for Construction of Restroom and Splashpad Support Building at Mary Ross Waterfront Park. (A. Verheyn)

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the contractor for construction of restroom and splashpad support building. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Commissioner Harris requested that the maintenance/operational cost for the restroom and splashpad support building be brought back to the commission at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to defer the above-referenced item until the October 21, 2020 commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Harris.

Mayor Harvey called for a vote from City Clerk Atkinson:

Commissioner Cason	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Martin	No
Mayor Harvey	Yes

Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1; with Mayor Pro Tem Martin voting not to defer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Williams made a motion to hold an executive session to discuss litigation; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following executive session Mayor Harvey announced no action was taken.

Commissioner William made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

MEETING ADJOURNED – *meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.*

/s/Cornell L. Harvey
Cornell L. Harvey, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Naomi D. Atkinson
Naomi D. Atkinson, City Clerk