

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023  
AT 6:00 P.M.  
1229 NEWCASTLE STREET, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
&**

**STREAMED LIVE AT THE BELOW WEB ADDRESS:**

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

**PRESENT:** Honorable Mayor Cosby Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem Julie Martin, Commissioner John Cason III, Commissioner Felicia Harris, and Commissioner Kendra Rolle ~ (*attended virtually*).

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Johnson ~ *meeting began at 6:00 p.m.*

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Felicia Harris

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison by all in attendance.

**ADDENDUM(S) TO AGENDA:**

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1. Mayor Johnson made a motion to remove item (2) under Discussion, Testimony Regarding Nuisance Properties, and item (4) under Public Hearings – Land Use, Consider Approval of 90% Site Plan – 3302 Glynn Avenue; and add under City Attorney’s Items, item (12) Consider for approval agreement with CRSA to continue to provide probationary services to the City of Brunswick Municipal Court, and item (13) Consider for approval a Quit Claim Deed releasing any interest arising from the 1938 Tax Deed conveyed in favor of the City of Brunswick relating to a portion of 914 Amherst Street; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Adoption of April 19, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Harris made a motion to adopt the above-referenced agenda with the aforementioned addendums; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

2. The following individuals addressed the commission:
  - Don Myers – Addressed Homelessness and Nuisance Properties. Emphasized issues with affordable housing.
  - Starling Sutton – Addressed Homelessness and Nuisance Properties. Emphasized the positive work the Commission is doing with transitional housing.
  - Michael Luff – Addressed Homelessness and Nuisance Properties. Emphasized how organizations like the well helped elevate him from homelessness.
  - Roxanne George – Addressed Homelessness and Nuisance Properties. Emphasized solutions to address issues that lead to homelessness.

**DISCUSSION**

2. Testimony Regarding Nuisance Properties.

*Above referenced item was removed from agenda.*

**PUBLIC HEARING(S) – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

3. Amendment to Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Brunswick; Particularly to Add Article XIX to be Titled Homelessness. (*B. Corry*)

City Attorney Corry presented the amendment to Chapter 13 of the City Code. Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comment.

**Public Comment Period:**

- Samantha Mixon, 406 Palmetto Street - Addressed concerns regarding mental illness, housing, and needs for the homeless, such as transportation and jobs.
- Jenna Kennedy, 135 Regal Road - Discussed need for more resources like The Well as resources are limited to those in need.
- Ed Gornto, 406 Midway Circle - Discussed the good of The Well is doing.
- Elizabeth Milburn, 523 Union St, penalize – Discussed businesses draining resources from the Brunswick Police and issues with correctly categorizing service facilities.
- Brenda Richardson, 2014 Tillman Avenue – Discussed issues with squatters and increase of young homeless folk. Ms. Richardson also raised concerns regarding 2016 Tillman Avenue, owned by Lawton Moore, as a nuisance property.
- Tina Hearing, 2650 Canary Drive – Stated there is a need for homeless shelters in Brunswick and Glynn County.
- Kim Sapp-Gornto, 406 Midway Circle – Stated that the homeless will always be here when the doors to service organizations close. Emphasized the cause and effect when resources are removed.
- Wright Culpepper, 1101 Gloucester Street – Representative of the Well, Mr. Culpepper stated he and his team looked over the homeless ordinance and are okay with it.
- Nancy Wilks, 606 Gloucester Street, Supports the ordinance and wants more consideration for downtown businesses who deal with homelessness daily.
- Pat O’shea, 108 Silverlane Drive - Spoke about assault on wife at Maggie Mae’s and issues with violence. Mr. O’Shea wants better guidelines and more accountability for offenders, such as the homeless woman who assaulted his wife.
- Andrew Douglas, 108 Silverlane Drive - Spoke about assault on his mother at Maggie Mae’s and emphasized better solutions to address violence, homelessness, and mental health issues.
- Debbie Brown, 428 Union Street – Stated that the first responder component is an important part of the ordinance and her appreciation for the ordinance.

Mayor Johnson clarified rumors stating the City Commission approved the placement of The Well, which they did not, and the ordinance will address.

City Attorney Corry stated that the ordinance followed proper protocols regarding advertisement by the City Clerk and public input, allowing the Commission to move forward with passing the ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to adopt the homeless ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Cason. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S) – LAND USE**

4. Consider Approval of 90% Site Plan ~3302 Glyn Avenue. *(J. Hunter)*

*Above-referenced item was removed from the agenda until later date.*

**PUBLIC HEARING – NEW ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)** *(A. Brown)*

5.

New Alcohol License(s)			
Name of Business	Business Owner/Manager	Business Address	Permit Type
J E and N Inc. DBA Five Points	Owner: Rajendraprasad Patel Manager: Sheritta Jackson	2806 Altama Avenue	Retail sales of beer and wine

Mayor Johnson asked Deputy Marshal Brown if the owner attended the Midtown Neighborhood Planning Assembly meeting. Deputy Marshal Brown stated the owner did not attend. Mayor Johnson expressed the need of input from community stakeholders, regarding alcohol sales in their neighborhood.

Commissioner Harris made a motion to defer consideration of Five Points alcohol license until the owner meets with Midtown Neighborhood Planning Assembly, Mayor Pro Tem Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING - APPEAL – NEW ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE** (A. Brown)

6.

Name of Business	Business Owner/Manager	Business Address	Permit Type
H & H Mini Mart LLC DBA In & Out	Owner: Harikrushina Patel Manager: Mehulbhai Dalal	1603 L Street	Retail sale of beer & Wine.

Alan Tucker, attorney for **H & H Mini Mart LLC DBA In & Out** presented evidence to the Commission regarding his disagreement with the March 1, 2023 denial.

Business Owner Patel stated he spent \$150,000 to renovate the property, which needed numerous repairs and believed he would get a license, as the previous owner was granted one.

City Attorney Brian Corry clarified that liquor licenses cannot be carried over with transfers of ownership.

Mayor Johnson asked Deputy Marshal Brown if there were previous issues with the property.

Deputy Brown discussed previous issues, including a shooting with prior ownership.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for anyone wanting to speak in favor or opposition of the new license for H & H Mini Mart LLC DBA In & Out.

The following individual(s) addressed the commission:

- Anita Collins, 1602 Tillman Avenue Oppose
- Seemona Holmes 1819 Lincoln Street Oppose
- William Kitts, 2017 Niles Avenue Oppose
- William Tresvant, 1915 Wilson Avenue Oppose
- Mike Lehman, 1626 Tillman Avenue Oppose
- Brenda Richardson, 2014 Tillman Avenue Oppose
- Brandon Evans, Homeless Resident Briefly discussed support of The Well
- Rhonda Waller, 1701 Wilson Avenue Oppose

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to uphold the decision to deny license; seconded by Commissioner Harris seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM(S) TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL**

7. Consider Approval of April 5, 2023 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. (subject to any necessary changes.) (N. Atkinson)

MPT Martin made motion to approve the April 5, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Consider Approval of Funding to Support Improvements to Old City Hall. (R. McDuffie)

Commissioner Cason made motion to approve funding to support improvements to Old City Hall, seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider Approval of Funding for Two (2) Police Vehicles. (R. McDuffie)

Commissioner Cason made motion to approve funding for two police vehicles; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cason asked Chief Jones if the police department was looking into vehicle alternatives, such as electric vehicles.

Chief Jones responded that Brunswick Police Department currently has two electric vehicles, but they are expensive compared to gas vehicles.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S ITEM(S)**

10. Consider Adoption of Proposed Homeless Ordinance. *(Second Reading)*  
The above-referenced ordinance was adopted under item (3) of the agenda.
11. Consider Adoption of Proposed Alcohol Ordinance. *(Second Reading)*  
City Attorney Corry presented the proposed Alcohol Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Martin asked for clarity regarding the non-refundable fee.  
City Attorney Corry responded that his version of the draft ordinance contained previously discussed revisions including the amount of the non-refundable fee. Corry further stated in the future he will ensure the version the Commission receives reflects his track-revisions.  
Mayor Pro Tem Martin made motion to adopt the alcohol ordinance subject to changes that were discussed and agreed upon by the Commission; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.
12. Consider for Approval Agreement with Central Savannah River Area to Continue to Provide Probation Services to the City of Brunswick Municipal Court. *(B. Corry)*.  
City Attorney Corry gave background information on probation services offered by Central Savannah River Area Probation Services Inc.  
Mayor Johnson acknowledged a representative from Central Savannah River Area, and asked the Commission if they have any questions, which there were none.  
Commissioner Cason made a motion to approve the contract with CSRA; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously.
13. Consider for Approval a Quit Claim Deed Releasing Any Interest Arising From the 1938 Tax Deed Conveyed in Favor of the City of Brunswick Relating to a Portion of 914 Amherst Street. *(B. Corry)*.  
Mayor Johnson and the Commission thanked Tax Specialist Taylor Ritz for her diligent work in finding old city ledgers regarding delinquent taxes from the 1930s and 1940s.  
Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve the Quit Claim Deed; seconded by Commissioner Cason. Motion passed unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION** *(8:11 p.m.)*

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss potential litigation; seconded by Commissioner Harris. Motion passed unanimously.

### **RECOVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Following executive session Mayor Johnson open floor for a motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to impose a 65-day closure of The Well, located at 1101 Gloucester Street, subject to notice and provisions set forth by the City Commission; seconded by Commissioner Cason. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Harris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING AJOURNED** – *meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.*

/s/Cosby H. Johnson  
Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Devone J. Williams  
Devone J. Williams  
Assistant City Clerk