

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BRUNSWICK CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023
AT 6:00 P.M.**

1229 NEWCASTLE STREET, 2nd 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 Kendra Rolle, and Commissioner Felicia Harris ~ (*attended virtually*).

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Brenda Iglehart, First Bryant Baptist Church

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

ADDENDUM(S) TO AGENDA:

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Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to add as item number ten (10) Consider approval of Glynn-Brunswick Services Agreement for External Services; add as item number 2b ~Consider Approval of Proclamation for the City of Brunswick's Second Annual Wellness Walk/Run/Bike and defer appointments I, II and III under item number six (6); seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Adoption of May 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to adopt the May 17, 2023 agenda with the aforementioned addendums; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Josiah Watts addressed commission regarding 3302 Glynn Avenue Development
- 2) William Kitts read correspondence from Anita Collins which addressed dumping of construction debris at 1620 Tillman Avenue by KJMC LLC, and Port City Partners meeting with Urbana Neighborhood Planning Assembly regarding development for 2307 Gloucester Street.
- 3) Michael Lehman addressed commission regarding 3302 Glynn Avenue Development.
- 4) Robert Griffin addressed commission regarding pop-up homeless shelter located at 1803 "G" Street.
- 5) Naomi Speakman addressed commission regarding pop-up homeless shelter located at 1803 "G" Street.
- 6) Sandra Brunson addressed commission regarding Highway 17 Island View Development.
- 7) David Bowers introduced himself to the Commission.
- 8) Michael Luff addressed commission regarding homelessness.

Mayor Johnson briefly commented on the public concerns regarding the situation on "G" Street stating the commission does not condone or believe the situation is the right way to serve those in indigent circumstances; stating it is important that whoever is working in the area ensures that there is real programmatic structure that helps people on their way to stabilization. He went on to say that the Commission no way believes what is happening on "G" Street is being done on those guidelines. He stated the individual(s) that has set up the area on "G" Street have not come before the commission, the commission has not approved what is happening on "G" Street, and the commission has not asked or told them to move.

Mayor Johnson went on to state that the commission has worked to alert the individuals that what they are doing is not under the City's structure and is illegal and the City ordered them to initially remove the homeless individuals from the building due to the building being unsafe, with several fire hazards, open electrical wires etc.

City Attorney Corry reported that there are pending enforcement cases regarding the situation on "G" Street scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 in Municipal Court.

Mayor Johnson stated if the individuals operating on "G" Street wanted to operate under the structure that the Commission passed; they would be asked to have a conversation with the community that is adjacent and connected.

He stated the Commission will be ensuring there is increase Police present in the area. He asked the community to notify the Commission and the Brunswick Police Department of any activities that are illegal or lewd in nature to call and email commission and call law enforcement to not only handle the issue, but the issue can be logged appropriately to ensure this will not be an problem in the community.

Mayor Johnson announced an important event "The Champions for Children Campaign", he stated this campaign is an opportunity for the community to support a cause that makes a tangible difference in the lives of children and youth in need. He stated the campaign has currently raise upward to \$125,000 and thanked everyone that have donated thus far; the funds raised will go directly to Safe Harbor (homeless shelter for children and mothers) for the many children and youth in Glynn County and surrounding areas facing poverty, leaving them vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and homelessness. Mayor Johnson encouraged the community to donate.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Mayor Johnson recognized and presented a proclamation and flowers to Marla Atkinson, daughter of City Clerk Atkinson who recently graduated from the University of Florida with a Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy.

Dr. Marla E. Atkinson accepted proclamation and flowers with gratitude.

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Mayor Johnson recognized and presented a Certificate of Recognition to Riyon Rankin, a senior at Brunswick High School who is the state champion for Boys High Jump. Riyon broke the record of 7-3.5 held by Dothel Edwards in 1983 and is Ranked #1 in the Nation.

Riyon Rankin accepted certificate with gratitude.

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RECOGNITION(S), PRESENTATION(S), & AWARD(S)

2. Proclamation Presented to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary – Brunswick Station for National Safe Boating Week.

Proclamation was accepted with gratitude.

2b Proclamation for the City of Brunswick's Second Annual Wellness Walk/Run/Bike.

Mayor Johnson read the above-referenced proclamation advising of upcoming walk/run/bike scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023.

City Manager McDuffie accepted proclamation with gratitude.

3. Recognition of Historic Preservation Award Winners. (*J. Hunter*)

Josh Dukes, member of the Historic Preservation Board announced the following winners of Brunswick Historic Preservation Awards in the following categories:

People’s Choice Awards

- Rehabilitation of a Residential Property - 1205 Union Street – Ricko Washington & Jovani Banks
- Rehabilitation of a Commercial Property – The Kress – Tommy McGraw
- New/Infill Construction – Saint Francis Xavier School – Father Tim McKeown

Excellence in Historic Preservation

- 908 Carpenter Street – Suzanne Hurley and George Zarus
- The Visitors Club – The Torras Foundation (Michael Torras & Daren Pietsch) & The Visitors Club Preservation Fund (Miriam Lancaster, Sandra Colhard, Pat Featherstone)

PUBLIC HEARING – LAND USE (J. Hunter)

4. Consider Approval of 90% Site Plan ~3302 Glynn Avenue.

Director of Planning, Development and Codes John Hunter gave an overview of the Site Plan for 3302 Glynn Avenue.

He reported staff recommended approval of the site plan, with option B for shared parking on the neighboring parcel.

The Planning and Appeals Commission voted 4 to 1 (Sabbe) recommending that the commission deny the site plan.

Johnathan Roberts - President, Robert's Civil Engineering gave an overview of the design plan for 3302 Glynn Avenue.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for anyone wanting to speak in favor or opposition with the 90% site Plan ~3302 Glynn Avenue.

The following individuals addressed the commission:

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| 1. Hal Hartman, does not agree with number of trees being removed | In Favor |
| 2. Rick O’Brien, 1100 Marshview Circle, stated site is not what they received last month | Oppose |
| 3. Kathy Spence, 4120 Riverside Drive, concerned about traffic | In Favor |
| 4. David Pope, 333 E. 45 th St. Savannah, GA | Oppose |
| 5. Bill Brunson, Former County Commissioner | In Favor |
| 6. Leslie Brantley, 602 Island View Drive, requested name be changed from Island View | In Favor |
| 7. Alice Keyes, 1210 Magnolia Avenue | Oppose |
| 8. Mary McFadden, 405 Marshview Circle | Oppose |
| 9. Helen Stapleton, 1101 Marshview Circle | In Favor |
| 10. Les Klinefelter, 401 Marshview Circle | Oppose |
| 11. Woody Woodside, Riverside Drive | In Favor |
| 12. David Bowers, Planning and Appeals Commission | Oppose |
| 13. William Kitts, Planning and Appeals Commission | Oppose |
| 14. Robert Davis, 1303 Sycamore Avenue | In Favor |
| 15. Lance Sabbe, Planning and Appeals Commission | In Favor |

Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve the 90% site plan for 3302 Glynn Avenue, with option B for shared parking on the neighboring parcel; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed by a vote of 3 to 2 with Commissioner Cason and Commissioner Harris voting not to approve.

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

5.

| New Alcohol License(s) | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name of Business | Business Owner/Manager | Business Address | Permit Type |
| Senbai Inc, d/b/a Snappy Foods | Owner: Dharaben Patel | 2905 Glynn Ave., Brunswick, GA | Retail sales of beer and wine |

Mayor Johnson opened floor for anyone wanting to speak in favor or opposition of the above-referenced new alcohol license.

The following individuals addressed the commission:

- i. Anita Collins stated she thinks the Neighborhood and Planning Assembly should make a recommendation to commission.
- ii. Lance Sabbe inquired about LED/flashing signs at the business.
- iii. Delores Harrison addressed commission regarding owner not being able to speak at the Neighborhood and Planning Assembly meeting.

Commissioner Cason made a motion to approve the above-referenced new alcohol beverage license; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1; with Mayor Johnson voting not to approve.

APPOINTMENT(S)

- 6. I. **Hospital Authority Board** – Three Nominations
- II. **Planning & Appeals Commission** – Two Appointments
- III. **Downtown Development Authority** – One Appointee

Nominations/appointments to the above-referenced board/commission/authority was deferred until the June 7, 2023 commission meeting.

ITEM(S) TO CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL

- 7. Consider Approval of May 5, 2023 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes. *(subject to any necessary changes.) (N. Atkinson)*
Commissioner Cason made a motion to approve the May 5, 2023 regular scheduled meeting minutes; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the City of Brunswick, Downtown Development Authority, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the National Trust Main Street Center for Continued Participation in the National Main Street Program. *(M. Hill)*
Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve the above-referenced Memorandum of Understanding; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.
- 9. Tentative Approval of the Proposed 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget. *(R. McDuffie)*
Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to tentatively approve the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget in order to meet the State’s requirement for advertising for a Public Hearing; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.
- 10. Consider Approval of Glynn-Brunswick Services Agreement for External Services. *(B. Corry)*
Mayor Pro Tem Martin made a motion to approve the above-referenced agreement; seconded by Commissioner Rolle. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not an executive session held during this meeting.

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

MEETING AJOURNED – *meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.*

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

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