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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 16, 2009

Contact: Robert Zienkowski, City Manager/Safety Director

An article in the Wednesday, December 16, 2009 edition of the Medina Gazette contained a variety of errors, causing confusion among some Brunswick residents about City owned property at Brunswick Lake. The City of Brunswick would like to set the record straight regarding the misleading information in the article. While there is interest from several developers, the City does not have any contracts or proposals to sell the property at this time. Below are excerpts from the article, as well as our official response and clarification of the issues.

Brunswick Lake Sale of Land:

Printed:

“That is, of course, if it can sell the remainder of land it owns at the Town Center, which is estimated to be worth \$1.4 million. City Council is expected to give its OK for the sale at its 7:30 p.m. Monday meeting at City Hall.”

Correction:

There were no discussions nor are there plans for Council to award any sale of land contracts on Monday night [anywhere in the City, including the Town Center]. While there is interest from several developers, the City doesn't have any contracts in place to sell the land at this time. This item was included in the 2009 budget and since the sale didn't materialize then, we have factored it in the 2010 beginning budget. All of these items were discussed in detail at the public budget review meeting held on December 7, 2009 at City Hall and is summarized correctly in the executive budget summary delivered to Council on December 4th.

Council will be meeting Monday December 21, 2009 as part of a rescheduled council meeting (moving the December 28th meeting up a week due to the holidays). The 2010 budget ordinance will be on that agenda.



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Voter approval timing:

Printed:

“... but it expects to bolster its bottom line next year thanks to a 0.5 percentage point income tax increase voters approved in November.”

Correction:

The voters approved a 0.5 percent income tax increase in May of 2009 for the purposes of maintaining and eventually expanding the safety force staffing. The purpose of the levy was not to “bolster the bottom line.” Instead, for 2010 the funds are being used to *maintain* the staffing levels where they currently are. As discussed in the spring, staffing expansions are not expected until 2011 at the earliest (depending on the level of revenue generated).

General Fund Balance:

Printed:

“Such cuts are expected to allow the City to end the year with \$605,000 in its general fund.”

Corrected:

The ending fund balance in the General Fund for 2010 is estimated to be \$790,461. As indicated in the table from the executive budget summary document; the \$605,000 amount is demonstrating the revenue over expense amount budgeted for 2010 in the General Fund, not the fund balance.

Attendance at Budget Meeting: Brunswick City Council held a public budget review meeting on Monday December 7, 2009 which began around 6:00pm and concluded around 8:45pm. Representatives of the Brunswick Sun and the Brunswick Post were present at the meeting. All of the items misrepresented in Wednesday’s Gazette article were discussed at that meeting in detail. City Finance Director Bill White made numerous attempts to return a call from the Gazette reporter on Monday and Tuesday, but his calls were not returned.