

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT WORK SESSION
DISCUSSION CONCERNING DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE
FOR THE CAMDEN COUNTY JOINT DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY
200 EAST FOURTH STREET, WOODBINE, GEORGIA 31569
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2014, 6:00 PM**

The Camden County Board of County Commissioners held a Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2014, in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.

Present: Chairman James H. Starline.; Vice-Chairman Chuck Clark; Commissioner Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Tony Sheppard; County Attorney John S. Myers and County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.

Absent: Commissioner Gary Blount and County Administrator Steve Howard

Also Present representing the Joint Development Authority: Charlie Smith, Jr., Chairman; Jeff Barker, Executive Board Member and Burford Clark, member.

Work Session

- Discussion concerning dedicated funding source for the Camden County Joint Development Authority.

Chairman Starline called the meeting to order.

Jeff Barker, Executive Board Member opened the Work Session by providing a background of the inception of the Joint Development Authority (JDA), created in 1981. He explained that at that time Gilman Paper Company was the primary employer and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay was still in the process of being developed. He stated that the Naval Base and the Paper Company would be the primary economic engines for the County during this time. He stated that over this time we witnessed populations double, as well as an increase in other services, healthcare and schools and other support services. He explained that during that time the JDA was not a necessity to push jobs and growth. He further explained that years later the paper mill would be sold and eventually closed due to bankruptcy, the market crashed and the housing market fell. He stated that the County then began to feel the effects of a declining economy. He went on to explain the JDA hasn't changed and the people leading the JDA have the experience, knowledge and connection to overcome the challenges of the past in order to move forward. He stated that the JDA needs the executive staff and a marketing plan. He stated that they need the ability to fund that strategy.

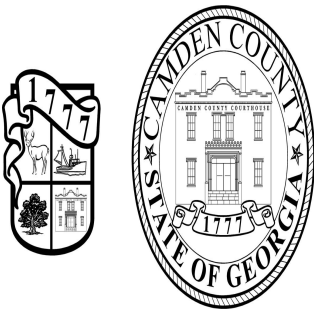
Charlie Smith, Joint Development Authority Chairman, stated that the JDA is looking to clean up the existing industrial park, specifically flatten the park except for the wetlands area. He explained that the JDA would like for that park to look

similar to McIntosh County where you drive on to the park and it is grassed. He stated that the park border on Interstate 95 and is a great site. He stated that the JDA needs to reacquire that land and clean it up. He stated that they take other prospective tenants to other locations that are not as impressive as this sites location. He further explained to the board the importance of utilizing spaces such as the industrial park for leases that in turn will help to build a significant contingency for the Joint Development Authority.

After further discussion by the Board of Commissioners, the consensus was to further consider the funding of up to 1 mil in ad valorem tax dollars for the Joint Development Authority.

Adjournment:

Chairman Starline adjourned the Work Session at 6:54 PM.



BY:

JAMES H. STARLINE, CHAIRMAN
CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF

ATTEST:

KATHRYN BISHOP, COUNTY CLERK