

CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2017 MILLAGE RATE
200 EAST FOURTH STREET, WOODBINE, GEORGIA 31569
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2016 AT 6:00 PM

The Camden County Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on the Adoption of the 2017 Millage Rate on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Complex, Woodbine, Georgia.

Present: Chairman James H. Starline; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney John S. Myers; Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender and County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.

- **Adoption of the 2017 Millage Rate**

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender presented a power point presentation regarding the adoption of the 2017 Millage Rate.

He reminded the audience that the consideration of adoption will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Chairman Starline opened the floor to comments from the public regarding the adoption of the 2017 Millage Rate.

Public Comments:

Rueben Gomez, Kingsland

Mr. Gomez stated that he opposes the increase to the millage rate and any increase of any kind. He recommended to the Board that they disband the Joint Development Authority, forget about Spaceport, cut the County Administrator's salary in half, and learn how to live within their means. He asked for someone to ask him about a fancy project called Cumberland Coast way.

Ann Shelton, St. Marys

Mrs. Shelton stated that she is opposed to the millage rate increase. She explained that she retired and moved to Camden County in March of 2014, and when she received the tax bill she was shocked. She stated that she moved here from Tennessee where they lived on seven times more acreage. She stated that recently her husband was looking for a space to have a woodshop. She explained that after looking for a property or space it was determined that the rent and taxes would be too high. She further stated that looking at empty buildings around town, one in particular named Shark Bites, closed due to the rent increasing because of property higher taxes. She stated that not a lot of people are coming to this area because the tax rate is prohibitive and she

would like to see the taxes decreased. She stated that it is very expensive for her to live here.

Steve Weinkle, Harriett's Bluff

Mr. Weinkle stated that he is opposed to the millage rate increase. He explained that he moved here from Gwinnett County where he was involved with a tax issue. He stated that Spaceport is a speculative project and will cause the County to be bankrupt. He stated that the answer is not a year by year mil at a time increase. He stated that most people don't understand it is cheaper to own a home in Gwinnett County than in Camden.

April Douglas, Harriett's Bluff

Ms. Douglas stated that last year her taxes increased by two percent and this year by one percent. She explained that she owns several properties rather than one and this makes the increase substantial to her. She stated that she that Economic Development doesn't understand and wants them to do something that will finally benefit Camden County. She asked if the increase was in anticipation of the Spaceport project, if so, this needs to be put out to a vote by the taxpayers. She explained that she doesn't want to increase taxes on a pipe dream.

Adjournment:

Chairman Starline adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:17 PM.