

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2020, 6:00 PM**

**Present: Chairman James H. Starline; Vice-Chairman Gary Blount; Commissioner Lannie Brant; Commissioner Ben L. Casey; Commissioner Chuck Clark; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney John S. Myers; and County Clerk Kathryn A. Bishop.**

Chairman Starline called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Lannie Brant delivered the invocation.

Chairman Starline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Amendments:**

No agenda amendments were offered during this time.

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda:**

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to adopt the agenda as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Approval of the Minutes**

- December 3, 2019 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Casey to approve the December 3, 2019 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Presentations**

- Recognition of Retirement and 35 years of service to Mrs. Annette Woolsey of the Camden County Solid Waste Department

Commissioner Lannie Brant recognized Mrs. Annette Woolsey for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the citizens of Camden County over her 35 years of service. He congratulated her on her recent retirement and expressed his appreciation for all her years of service.

- Employee of the Quarter presented by the Employee Recognition Committee

Senior Human Resources Director Mike Spiers announced, on behalf of the Employee Recognition Committee the recipient of the Employee of the Quarter, Mrs. Heather Farrell. He read the nomination by her peers and thanked Mrs. Farrell for all her hard work for the employees and citizens of Camden County.

- Board of Elections and Registration Annual Review presented by Chair Joseph Michaels and New Voting Equipment Demonstration presented by Elections Supervisor Shannon Nettles

Board of Elections and Registration Chair Joseph Michaels presented an overview of the office's Annual Review for 2019.

Elections and Registration Director Shannon Nettles gave a brief demonstration of the new voting equipment during this time.

## **Public Comments**

Ben Goff, Harriett's Bluff

Mr. Goff entered the following comment for the record:

I remember vividly taking issue with ROW mowing in 2014, and was assured by our commissioner for district 2 that improvement was coming.

I also remember emailing him later in the year that the best work that I had seen was now being accomplished.

Culverts and signs bridge crossings were being cut with weed eaters and there was a general vast improvement over the previous contractors that would bring "bat wing" mowers into the subdivisions.

I had no further concerns with ROW mowing and trash pickup for a couple of years.

I had no reason to suspect that the original contract for \$139,000 dollars annually had increased to more than \$240,000 dollars per year, but it in fact had.

The actual improvement slowly began to deteriorate and more efficient ways to kill vegetation around culverts were discovered, creating failing culvert shoulders, and apparently all of the weed eaters died and were not replaced because I have not seen any until very recently when a couple of bridges were trimmed with those devices. I think that may have been caused by the state highway department?

The contract signed by the PSA and the county has very specific guidelines as to how the work was to be completed, with specific requirements for "monitoring that work".

Not only has the work not been completed as detailed, on an ongoing basis, it has gotten worse. From a citizens perspective, not only has the contractor not fulfilled terms of the contract on an ongoing basis, neither has the entity that is supposed to be monitoring the work of the contractor.

Checks to the PSA have been sent regularly for substandard work, especially on Harriett's Bluff road and the subdivisions that are supposed to be maintained.

I believe that that the contract with PSA expired more than a year ago and it stated in the contract that the term would not exceed 5 years total, thus the contract expired in April of 2019. Work has been extended twice since that time. Performance hasn't improved...Where is the supervision?

The language and terms of the contract seem to be very appropriate, and if followed would more than suffice. Where is the supervision?

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to adjourn the Regular Meeting and convene a Public Hearing at 6:23 PM.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Starline convened the Public Hearing at 6:39 PM.

## **Public Hearing**

To receive comments from the public regarding the following items:

- Request for an alcohol license to Meera Patel and OKP Inc. for Retail Dealers of Malt Beverages, Beer, and Wine. Located at 1160 Clark's Bluff, Rd. Tax Map & Parcel 083 025.

No comments were offered either in favor or in opposition of this item.

- Amendment to the Official Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Sec. 6-20 & 6-30 of the Alcohol Ordinance.

No comments were offered either in favor or in opposition of this item.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to adjourn the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:42 PM.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Consent Agenda**

1. Acceptance of reimbursement from Cincinnati Insurance Companies for repairs made to D5K dozer by Yancey Brothers.
2. Approval of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Amendments.

Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blount to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Regular Agenda**

3. Request for an alcohol license to Meera Patel and OKP Inc. for Retail Dealers of Malt Beverages, Beer, and Wine. Located at 1160 Clark's Bluff, Rd. Tax Map & Parcel 083 025.

Commissioner Casey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to approve the request for an alcohol license to Meera Patel and OKP Inc. for Retail Dealers of Malt Beverages, Beer, and Wine. Located at 1160 Clark's Bluff, Rd. Tax Map & Parcel 083 025.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

4. Waive the first reading of the Amendment to the Official Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Sec. 6-20 & 6-30 of the Alcohol Ordinance.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Casey to waive the first reading of the Amendment to the Official Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Sec. 6-20 & 6-30 of the Alcohol Ordinance.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

5. Appointment to the Camden County Public Service Authority.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to appoint Ben Casey, Lannie Brant and Denise Levasseur to the Camden County Public Service Authority.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

6. Appointment to the Camden County Planning Commission, District 2 and District 3.

Vice-Chairman Clark made a motion to appoint Larry Martin (District 2) and Lili High (District 3) to the Camden County Planning Commission.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

7. Approval of Camden County Lightning Safety Policy

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blount to approve the Camden County Lightning Policy as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

8. Discussion and action regarding the 2020 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG).

Commissioner Casey made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blount to table this item.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

9. Adoption of the 2020 County Legislative Priorities.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Casey to approve the 2020 County Legislative Policies as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

10. Consideration to allow the City of St. Marys to place signage located on Parcel 121 016A.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Casey to table this item.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

11. Consideration to approve Camden County Public Service Authority Off-Season Right of Way Mowing Plan.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blount to approve the Camden County Public Service Authority Off-Season Right of Way Mowing Plan.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Reports**

- **Calendar – January & February 2020**

County Clerk Katie Bishop stated there were no changes to the calendar at this time.

- **County Administrator Comments**

Deputy County Administrator Shawn Boatright thanked Mrs. Annette Woolsey of the Camden County Solid Waste Department for her 35 years of service to the citizens of Camden County and congratulated her on her recent retirement. He stated that it was a joy to work with her and she will be truly missed.

## **Additional Public Comments**

Cody Smith, St. Marys

Mr. Smith requested the Board consider the adoption of the following Resolution declaring Camden County a Second Amendment Sanctuary:

**RESOLUTION  
DECLARING CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY COUNTY**

**Whereas**, The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America reads: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.";

**Whereas**, Article 1, Section 1, Paragraph VIII of the Constitution of the State of Georgia reads: "Arms, right to keep and bear. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, but the General Assembly shall have power to prescribe the manner in which arms may be borne.";

**Whereas**, certain legislation such as SB 281 has been filed for the 2020 session in the Georgia General Assembly, and certain -legislation introduced in the current session of the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution;

**Whereas**, the Camden County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing upon the constitutional right of the citizens of Camden County to keep and bear arms or could lead to further restrictions of the Second Amendment right of the citizens of Camden County;

**Whereas**, the Camden County Board of Commissioners intends to uphold its commitment to defending the right of Camden County citizens to keep and bear arms granted to them by the United States Constitution; and

**Whereas**, the Camden County Board of Commissioners wish to declare Camden County as a Sanctuary County for the Second Amendment right guaranteed to all Americans and to oppose, within the limits of the United States Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use any legal means at the Board's disposal to protect the inalienable rights of the citizens of Camden County, Georgia to keep and bear arms not limited to initiating legal action, petitioning for a redress of grievances, and not enforcing any law deemed unconstitutional;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA:**

1. Camden County is hereby declared a Second Amendment Sanctuary County, wherein the right of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for the purpose of lawful self-defense, community defense, sport shooting, game hunting, and gun collecting as protected by the United States and Georgia Constitutions, is engrained in the very being of our community since before the founding of our Republic and must be respected, celebrated, and upheld;

2. Camden County urges the General Assembly, the United States Congress, and other State and Federal government agencies to refuse to adopt, accept, or enact any provision, law, or regulation that may infringe, deny, or place any undue burden on the right of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms; and,
3. Camden County expresses its intent to continue to take lawful actions to protect and support the inalienable right of its citizens to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the United States and Georgia Constitutions, and to refuse to aid in unconstitutional efforts to restrict these rights;
4. Camden County opposes, in particular, any provision, law, or regulation that imposes any burden on its citizens right to keep and bear arms as well as any mandate to expand public funds for enforcement or administration of such laws, or to require constitutional officers of the locality to do so;
5. The Camden County Administrator is directed to forward true and exact copies of this resolution to the County's representatives in the General Assembly, the United States Congress, The Governor of Georgia, and to the Sheriff of Camden County, Georgia; and,
6. This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption by the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Camden County Board of Commissioners

_____	Yes _____	No _____
District 1 Commissioner		
_____	Yes _____	No _____
District 2 Commissioner		
_____	Yes _____	No _____
District 3 Commissioner		
_____	Yes _____	No _____
District 4 Commissioner		
_____	Yes _____	No _____
District 5 Commissioner		

David Huck, Kingsland

Mr. Huck stated that he resides in Bristol Hammock subdivision and recently the road construction markers were knocked down. He asked if this was purpose of this was the drainage change. He also stated that he is concerned with the amount of litter on the roadway leading to his residence. He asked the Board for any information regarding the Kingsland By-Pass project to address his concerns.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Blount to adjourn the January 14, 2020 regular meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.

***The motion carried unanimously.***