

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2021, 6:00 PM**

**Present: Commissioner Gary Blount; Commissioner Trevor Readdick; Commissioner Lannie E. Brant; Commissioner Ben L. Casey; Commissioner Chuck Clark; County Attorney John S. Myers; County Administrator Steve Howard; and County Clerk Kathryn A. Bishop**

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

Commissioner Lannie Brant delivered the invocation.

Chairman Blount led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Amendments:**

**Removal of Presentation:**

- 2021 Tax Digest Projections presented by Chief Appraiser Brian Bishop

**Removal of Item 9:**

9. Approval of processing quitclaim deeds of County owned properties used for parks and recreation to the Camden County Public Service Authority (PSA).

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the agenda amendments as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda:**

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

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Approval of the Minutes**

- April 6, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the April 6, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Presentations**

- Proclamation recognizing April 22, 2021 as Earth Day.

County Clerk Katie Bishop read the Proclamation recognizing April 22, 2021 as Earth Day.

## **Public Comments**

No comments were offered during this time.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to adjourn the Regular Meeting and Convene a Solid Waste Authority Meeting at 6:08 PM.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**The Camden County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) held a special called meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2020, at 6:08 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.**

**Present: Gary A. Blount; Lannie Brant; Ben Casey; Trevor Readdick; Chuck Clark, County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney John S. Myers; and County Clerk Kathryn A. Bishop.**

## **SWA Agenda Amendments**

No SWA Amendments were offered during this time.

## **Adoption of SWA Agenda**

Lannie Brant made a motion, seconded by Ben Casey to adopt the SWA agenda as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **SWA Approval of Minutes**

- April 6, 2021 SWA meeting minutes

Lannie Brant made a motion, seconded by Ben Casey to approve the April 6, 2021 SWA minutes.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Public Comments**

No comments were offered during this time.

## **SWA Agenda**

1. Approval of repairs to final drive on Aljon Compactor at the MSW landfill for the Solid Waste Dept. Repairs made by Tractor & Equipment Co.

Lannie Brant made a motion, seconded by Chuck Clark to approve the repairs to final drive on Aljon Compactor at the MSW landfill for the Solid Waste Dept. Repairs made by Tractor & Equipment Co.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration of purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 4x4 pickup truck from Duval Ford for the Solid Waste Dept.

Lannie Brant made a motion, seconded by Ben Casey to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 4x4 pickup truck from Duval Ford for the Solid Waste Dept.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Additional SWA Public Comments**

No additional comments were offered during this time.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to adjourn the SWA meeting and reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:13 PM.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Regular Agenda**

1. Consideration of approval of One-Time Pandemic Performance Award for Employees.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approval of One-Time Pandemic Performance Award for Employees as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

2. Approval of repairs to final drive on Aljon Compactor at the MSW landfill for the Solid Waste Dept. Repairs made by Tractor & Equipment Co.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to the repairs to final drive on Aljon Compactor at the MSW landfill for the Solid Waste Dept. Repairs made by Tractor & Equipment Co.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration of purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 4x4 pickup truck from Duval Ford for the Solid Waste Dept.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approval the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 4x4 pickup truck from Duval Ford for the Solid Waste Dept.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

4. Request to consider Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) funding of Kingsland By-Pass Phase II design, thru Project Framework Supplement.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the request for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) funding of Kingsland By-Pass Phase II design, thru Project Framework Supplement.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

5. Approval of grant award from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Funds will be used to purchase twelve (12) automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to accept the grant award from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Funds will be used to purchase twelve (12) automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

***The motion carried unanimously.***

6. Approval to submit a "319 h grant – Clean Water Act" through Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to approve the submittal of the "319 h grant – Clean Water Act" through Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

7. Appointment to the Camden County Board of Assessors, District 5 – Commissioner Casey.

Vice-Chairman Casey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to appoint John Wojcik to the Camden County Board of Assessors – District 5 to assume the vacated term which will expire on December 31, 2024.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

8. Consideration of funding for additional capital items and operating startup costs for the Two Rivers Gun Range and the budget amendments regarding the changes needed to the FY 2021 budget.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the funding for additional capital items and operating startup costs for the Two Rivers Gun Range and the budget amendments regarding the changes needed to the FY 2021 budget.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

9. Approval of processing quitclaim deeds of County owned properties used for parks and recreation to the Camden County Public Service Authority (PSA).

***This item was removed during agenda amendments.***

## **Reports**

- **Calendar - April & May**

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

- **County Administrator Comments**

County Administrator Steve Howard announced that he would like to thank the leadership of the Board in recognizing the employee's hard work and dedication throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. He announced that tomorrow is Administrative Professionals Day and he thanked all those in this role for keeping the County running as well.

## **Additional Public Comments**

Sonya Walker, Kingsland

Ms. Walker submitted the following comment via the online Speaker Request Form and read the comment aloud during this time:

## Crime Victims' Rights

At their April 6 meeting, the Camden County Commissioners recognized April 18-24, 2021, as Camden County Crime Victims' Rights Week. You proclaimed that "National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime, especially those who are challenging to reach or serve, are offered culturally and linguistically accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime."

We NAACP Camden Branch members commend you for this proclamation, and offer four suggestions for how to make good on the commitment.

First, reactivate the Camden Criminal Justice Council (CCJC), which has met only once in the last three years. Ask Yolanda Richardson, Director of the Victim-Witness Assistance program for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit, and Robert German, Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney for Camden County, to help the CCJC review how the justice system served victims in recent court cases, including the trial of Zechariah Presley. We remind the Commissioners of just one of the many ways in which the system failed Anthony Green's family. The body camera footage was released to the killer's family and defense team months before it was released to the victim's family, who saw it for the first time in public at the hearing of a motion to dismiss the case on the grounds of immunity.

Second, task the CCJC with finding ways to overcome the challenges of reaching and serving victims of less lethal encounters, as well as victims of racial profiling. Start by getting advice from the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) for how to review the incident report data for the "approximately 107 situations where deputies felt compelled to utilize Use of Force tactics" in 2020 that the Camden County Sheriff's Office mentioned in a Grant Application Request that the Commissioners approved at their February 16 meeting. Use the review to decide how to reallocate funds so that the Sheriff's Office can seek accreditation by the Commission for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

Third, work with NACOLE and the three city governments to design a Camden County Civilian Review Board to monitor such incidents in the future. Develop a county-wide policy that whenever an officer confronts a driver or a pedestrian, the body cam must be activated before the encounter, so that the Board has a consistent basis to review victims' complaints even when the victims themselves cannot record these encounters on their mobile phones.

Finally, coordinate with the city governments to develop legislation to increase accountability, modeled on Cariol's Law that was recently passed in the City of Buffalo. This law, designed by former Buffalo Police Officer Cariol Horne in collaboration with Strategies for Justice Founder Terry Watson, legislates a duty to intervene and protection from retaliation to make it easier for law enforcement deputies to become the "good apples" that Ms. Horne exemplified at such great personal cost.

In short, use the many resources available locally and nationwide to develop a comprehensive multifaceted approach to protecting the rights of all victims of crime in Camden County.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Readdick to adjourn the April 20, 2021 regular meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.

***The motion carried unanimously.***