

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021, 6:00 PM**

Present: Commissioner Gary Blount; Commissioner Trevor Readdick; Commissioner Ben L. Casey; Commissioner Chuck Clark; Commissioner Lannie Brant; 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:

Addition of Item 6:

6. Consideration to approve purchase of Apex Officer Pro Training Simulator from GovRed Technology

Removal of Presentation:

- General Fund per Capita Analysis presented by Fabian Mann, ACCG Intern

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda:

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Readdick to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

- July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to approve the June 15, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

- Government Management Information Systems (GMIS) Award for Camden County's role in collaborating on a regional Next Generation 911 solution through the project Southeast Regional Alliance for Spatial Solutions (SEGRASS) presented by Hunter Key, GISP, Coastal Regional Commission.

Hunter Key, GISP, Coastal Regional Commission presented the Government Management Information Systems (GMIS) Award for Camden County's role in collaborating on a regional Next Generation 911 solution through the project Southeast Regional Alliance for Spatial Solutions (SEGRASS).

- NaCO National Achievement Award for the Coordination of Benefits Update in the category of Financial Management presented by County Administrator Steve Howard.

County Administrator Steve Howard presented the NaCO National Achievement Award for the Coordination of Benefits Update in the category of Financial Management to the Camden County Human Resource department.

Public Comments

Ben Casey, Kingsland

Mr. Casey stated that he is speaking as a citizen appointed to the PSA. He explained that he has asked for limited powers of the PSA, including the removal of condemnation powers. He asked that the Board consider the legislation amendments carefully and that accountability be upheld in regards to the PSA.

Ben Goff, Harriett's Bluff

See written comments submitted below:

I always have a little bit of reaction when I hear the statement... "What we have is a failure to communicate" made by the road captain to "cool hand Luke"

If you don't know who cool hand Luke isyou are too young to be here!

Next up is "we have a "conundrum" and "bad news isn't wine, doesn't improve with age!

The definition of conundrum is a situation where there is no clear right answer or no good solution. An example of a conundrum is a challenging riddle to which you can't figure out the answer.

And the conundrum is?

How to deal with county and city recreational facilities in a county that's trying to portray a scenario where we want to attract and keep high paying jobs and the families that go with that.

The answer in the '90's seemed to be to bring that under one organization and so the current public service authority was born. I haven't researched who or what the driving force at the time was in 1990, but the legislation was in fact passed in 1990, and that has been the beginning of how and where we ended up today in this meeting.

The legislation was flawed and full of self serving interests from the beginning, not intentionally I'm sure but never the less it was and continues.

The "pie" is too large and cumbersome apparently because no one can seem to keep up with the money and or do proper accounting.
Why?

1 Too much responsibility has been placed in the hands of a few who have no "joint" interest or feel the responsibility for a joint effort.

2 No accountability oversight or clear direction for the operations side of the PSA.

3 No board verification of statistics and actions being reported at board meetings.

In a more distinct description....the PSA board has "fiddled" while the organization slowly slid down the tubes. It was true with the 5 board members and it remains the same with 9 board members.

Adding more sugar to a salt pie will never overcome, it will always be a salt pie.

I have recently seen what can begin to happen when a "professional" is introduced to a county organization. The culture begins to change for the better because that "professional" has had the benefit of real world corporate experience where you have to produce a quality product at a reasonable price.

Good things happen!

Professionals who have had real life training need to be performing the jobs that we are expecting people with little or no experience to do. Most of the functions within

the county and the PSA are service type functions yet many of those jobs are filled with long term employees that have not been trained, not given any sort of performance expectations, just show up and we will furnish some benefits and pay!

It's no different with the Board of commissioners than it is with the Board at the Public service authority, "leave it up to the staff and they will tell us what to do and how well we are doing.

One big difference and that's a big part of the reason we are talking tonight...that being the financial accountability. The county is fortunate to have a true professional "cooking" the books and I mean that in a complimentary manner. If you spend enough time looking, you will see the spatula marks and they are not "bad", but, necessary to make all the entries fit and the numbers come out even.

By design and maybe not intentional the PSA does not have that same expertise, and it shows. and the "over watch" or oversight seems to have failed.

How to fix it?

Ask some true professionals, and certainly not the current board members, nor the legislator that came up with the last fix.

It is apparent to me after really getting involved over the last few years, that our elected officials truly believe that we elected them because we were not smart or intelligent enough to make the "big" decisions. Couldn't be farther from the truth, some were elected and reelected because

even though some might be more able, it was easier to just let it go, and that reason is most predominate.

I applaud the gentlemen sitting before us because they have stepped up when no one else would, but I want to make it perfectly clear that they may or may not be the most able in the county to make the "big" decisions, and they best not ever forget they represent US, and every decision that they do make better reflect the wishes of the people and the best thing that they could possibly do is to ask us how we want to be represented.

Stop funding the PSA until the contractual obligations are met...that's not why we are discussing this tonight, but it's a big issue. Sadly no one seems to know what they are?

We are talking about this tonight because PSA has not produced the audit as required by the founding legislation, amended legislation or the by-laws of the organization.

Where is the responsibility...the Board of course, as the executive director reports to the board.

Stop the funding until it's fixed!

Steve Weinkle, Harriett's Bluff

Mr. Weinkle expressed his concerns regarding the Commissioner oversight of PSA funding. He explained that he allegedly found discrepancies in the County's own financial records regarding what he believed were invoices paid twice for Spaceport expenses.

William Jones, St. Marys

Mr. Jones stated that he is an employee of the PSA and also a concerned citizen. He urged the Board to reconsider pulling funding from the PSA because of the harm it would do to youth who rely on these programs.

Damian Brown, unknown

Mr. Brown stated he is a father of a child who participates in PSA programs. He urged the Board to continue the funding for the PSA .

Commissioner Readdick made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to adjourn the Regular Meeting and Convene a Public Hearing at 6:33 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

- Request to rezone 2.75 acres from Agricultural Residential (A-R) to Manufactured Home Park (MHP). Property is located at 2612 US HWY 17, Kingsland. Tax Map 095 036. Grayson Day, owner, James McCollum applicant.
- Request to rezone .188 acres from Agricultural Residential (A-R) to Multi-Family Residential (R-3). Property is located at 2612 US HWY 17, Kingsland. Tax Map 095 036. Grayson Day, owner, James McCollum applicant.

No comments were offered neither in favor, nor in opposition of these items.

Commissioner Readdick made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to adjourn the Public Hearing and Reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:36 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

1. Consideration of Request to rezone 2.75 acres from Agricultural Residential (A-R) to Manufactured Home Park (MHP). Property is located at 2612 US HWY 17, Kingsland. Tax Map 095 036. Grayson Day, owner, James McCollum applicant.

Vice-Chairman Casey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Readdick to approve the request to rezone 2.75 acres from Agricultural Residential (A-R) to Manufactured Home Park (MHP). Property is located at 2612 US HWY 17, Kingsland. Tax Map 095 036. Grayson Day, owner, James McCollum applicant.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration of Request to rezone .188 acres from Agricultural Residential (A-R) to Multi-Family Residential (R-3). Property is located at 2612 US HWY 17, Kingsland. Tax Map 095 036. Grayson Day, owner, James McCollum applicant.

Vice-Chairman Casey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Readdick to approve the request to rezone .188 acres from Agricultural Residential (A-R) to Multi-Family Residential (R-3). Property is located at 2612 US HWY 17, Kingsland. Tax Map 095 036. Grayson Day, owner, James McCollum applicant.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval for remaining road projects to be bid out for SPOST VII funds.

Vice-Chairman Casey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to approve the request for remaining road projects to be bid out for SPOST VII funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of request to award purchase of two (2) - 2022 International HV607 Dump Trucks

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to approve the request to purchase of two (2) - 2022 International HV607 Dump Trucks.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of Resolution concerning Camden County Public Service Authority financial reporting and County withdrawal from the Agreement.

Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Readdick to approve the Resolution concerning Camden County Public Service Authority financial reporting and County withdrawal from the Agreement.

After discussion amongst the Board, the motion was called for a vote.

So voted:

Chairman Blount – Yes

Vice-Chairman Casey – No

Commissioner Readdick – Yes

Commissioner Clark – Yes

Commissioner Brant – No

The motion carried 3 – 2, Commissioner Brant and Vice-Chairman Casey voted no.

6. Consideration to approve purchase of Apex Officer Pro Training Simulator from GovRed Technology

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Readdick to approve the approve purchase of Apex Officer Pro Training Simulator from GovRed Technology

The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- **Calendar - August & September**

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

- **County Administrator Comments**

No comments were offered during this time.

Additional Public Comments

Steve Weinkle, Harriett's Bluff

Mr. Weinkle stated that while he understands the decision regarding the PSA is a difficult one, he hopes that both parties can resolve the issues. He urged the board to consider these decisions when making decisions regarding Spaceport.

Mary Beckman, St. Marys

Ms. Beckman stated the proposal regarding the PSA that Vice-Chair Casey proposed made a lot of sense. She urged the Board to consider this proposal.

Robert Bauer, Harriett's Bluff

Mr. Bauer stated he spoke with Mr. Cason regarding maintenance and repairs at the Harriett's Bluff Park and he feels that he just wants to put a Band-Aid on everything out there, eventually recommending to tear it down.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Casey to adjourn the August 3, 2021 regular meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.