

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007 6:00 PM
COUNTY ANNEX
KINGSLAND, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at the County Annex in Kingsland, Georgia.

Present: Chair Preston Rhodes; Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi-Zell; Commissioner David Rainer; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Charlene Sears; County Administrator Steve L. Howard and County Attorney Brent Green.

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

Chairman Rhodes delivered the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated that all Commissioners were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Addition under Regular Agenda:

Item 8: Consideration of Policy Change (Camden County Personnel Policy) regarding Section 19. Contributions, Solicitations, Gifts and Gratuities.

Item 9: Approval of Retirement Amendment to the current Retirement Plan to clarify language in original plan.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 4, 2007.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Proclamation designating March 28, 2008, USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) Day presented by Bill Weisensee.**

Mr. Bill Weisensee spoke to the Board regarding the hard work of Camden County citizens over the past fourteen (14) years to convince the federal government to convert four of the SSBNs into SSGNs. That hard work has been successful and two (2) of the new SSGNs, the USS Georgia and the USS Florida, will come to Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. In fact, the Georgia arrived this past Saturday.

Now, these citizens are working very hard to have a gala event for the Return to Service Ceremony for the USS Georgia, which will be on March 28, 2008.

Mr. Weisensee read and presented the Proclamation designating March 28, 2008, as USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) Day.

The Board and Mr. Howard expressed their continued support for Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The December/January calendar was read.

B. County Administrator's Report

The Administrator's report follows Item 9.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Vernon Copeland

Mr. Copeland spoke against the establishment of an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Investigator. He stated the EPD is responsible for these types of services, and the establishment of this position is a duplication of services. Mr. Copeland believes an existing position within the department could also serve as the investigator.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve and authorize Chairman to execute Resolution to allow District Attorney Stephen D. Kelley to negotiate with the State of Georgia to provide benefits to employees who work within the District Attorney's office.**

Mr. Kelley stated Camden County passed a similar Resolution several years ago, but he did not receive full support from all counties at that time. He now has the approval of all counties in the Brunswick Judicial Circuit.

By having the authority to negotiate with the State of Georgia and move two (2) of his employees to the State's benefits, he would be able to save Camden County taxpayers \$20,000.00 per year.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Resolution to allow District Attorney Stephen D. Kelley to negotiate with the State of Georgia to provide benefits to employees who work in the District Attorney's office.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Approve and authorize Chairman to execute the Grant Application Exhibits for the 2009 grant cycle regarding 5311 program.**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve and authorize Chairman Rhodes to execute the Grant Application Exhibits for the 5311 Program 2009 grant cycle.

The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 3. Consideration of Approval to establish the position of Certified Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Investigator (Enforcement Officer) within the Planning and Development Department.**

Mr. Howard advised that Camden County has been the Local Issuing Authority (LIA) for Erosion and Sedimentation Control since October, 2007. Being a LIA provides the County with control over the development of property. It also provides a local office and contact for citizens and contractors. This will be a full time position.

Chairman Rhodes questioned the cost as well as requested Mr. Howard and Loretta Hylton to brief Mr. Vernon Copeland on the particulars of the LIA and this position.

Ms. Hylton stated taxpayers should not be affected as this position will be funded from fees currently being collected. As a LIA, Camden County receives \$40.00 for each disturbed acre. Therefore, the program should be able to pay for itself as well as the position.

Commissioner Sears inquired about the start up costs. Mike Fender, Finance Director, advised that almost 100% of the salary has been collected from the fees already in place. He anticipates the salary being paid for by the end of the year.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rainer to establish the position of Certified Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Investigator (Enforcement Officer) within the Planning and Development Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of Approval of Official Business Seal for Camden County.

Mr. Howard stated the proposed new seal maintains the historical aspect while improving the professional image of Camden County.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the Official Business Seal for Camden County.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration of Approval to purchase new vehicles.

Mr. Howard advised the Board is currently using three (3) vehicles donated by the Sheriff's Office. These vehicles were purchased with Seized Asset Funds and should be used solely for law enforcement purposes. Additionally, these vehicles are not cost effective to maintain. Mr. Howard requested the Board allow him to proceed with the purchase of three (3) economical vehicles not to exceed a combined total of \$60,000.00.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rhodes to authorize County Administrator Steve Howard to proceed with the purchase of three (3) economical vehicles not to exceed a combined total of \$60,000.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Consideration of Approval for Renewals of Alcohol Licenses.

Mr. Howard stated the license renewals for retail sales and/or consumption on premises of spirituous liquors, malt beverages and wine are now due. This is a routine yearly procedure for businesses to renew their licenses.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the renewal of the following licenses:

Michael Ott & Ann Marie V.	Crooked River Lounge Consumption of Spirituous Liquors, Malt Beverages and Wine – 5 Coin Operated Machines
Nicholas Antar	Green Cedar Food Store #1 and #6 Retail Sale of Malt beverages & wine
William G. Bryson	Flash Food, Inc. #124 and #195 Retail Sale of Malt beverages & wine
Oliver R. Ferguson	Greyfield Inn Corporation Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Mamie Lou Holzendorf	Venezula Club Consumption on premises of Malt beverages
Mamie Lou Holzendorf	Venezula Club Retail sale of Spirituous Liquors
Jay Hulslander	Waverly Minit Mart Retail Sale of Malt beverages & wine
Jerry Middleton	The River House @ Cabin Bluff Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Jerry Middleton	The Lodge @ Cabin Bluff Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Jerry Middleton	The Pub @ Cabin Bluff Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Ralph Powers	The Golf Club @ Sanctuary Cove Retail Sale of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine

Bill F. Raulerson	Friendly Express #78 Retail Sale of Malt beverages & wine
Barry & Peggy Reed	Reed Grocery & Ponderosa Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Gregory Reed	Reed Brothers Retail Sale of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Vernicea T. Butler	Brown Derby Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Ann P. Sweatt	Trolley Package Store Retail Sale of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine
Ann P. Sweatt	Whistle Stop Lounge Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine & 7 machines
Ella L. Waye	Club Romero Consumption on premises of Spirituous Liquors, Malt beverages & wine

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration of Approval of Resolution to Amend the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget and recognize additional revenue to create a needed position within the Planning and Development Department.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Resolution to Amend the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget and recognize additional revenue to create a needed position within the Planning and Development Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. Consideration of Policy Change (Camden County Personnel Policy) regarding Section 19. Contributions, Solicitations, Gifts and Gratuities

Mr. Howard stated the current policy needed clarification to insure the highest level of integrity.

Commissioner Berry requested additional language be added to the policy.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the change to the Camden County Personnel Policy, Section 19. Contributions, Solicitations, Gifts and Gratuities, to include the additional language requested by Commissioner Berry, as follows:

Section 19. Contributions, Solicitations, Gifts, and Gratuities.

The following rules apply to Employees, which term includes Commissioners, regarding contributions, solicitations, as well as the distribution of literature on Camden County property:

1. People not employed by the Camden County Board of Commissioners may not solicit or distribute unauthorized literature on county property at any time for any purpose or cause.
2. Employees may not solicit at any time for any purpose in working areas.
3. The Camden County letterhead and other assets shall not be used in conjunction with personal business to include contributions and solicitations in conjunction with organizational programs.
4. Employees may not distribute unauthorized literature on County property for any purpose.
5. A copy of proposed literature for internal distribution must be approved in writing by the County Manager prior to dissemination.
6. No employee shall accept anything of value from anyone when the basis for such gratuity is related to the employee's condition and status as an employee of Camden County. In that regard, employees must be perceptive and alert to solicitations to accept gifts of money or anything else of value in return for acts or omissions involving their official functions and shall promptly report suspicious offers in order that trained personnel can evaluate the facts and initiate investigations when required. No employee shall accept gift card(s)/certificates of any value by a person or entity doing business with the County. The county shall pay its own way at events, lunch meetings and activities when a representative should be authorized. Attendance at sponsored receptions and general functions open to a broad range of persons is excluded from this prohibition. Candy, food products, or plants which are generally distributed during holidays as an act of courtesy or benevolence; provided, however, that such items shall be placed in an area which allows and encourages all employees and the public to partake of such items. Office supplies such as calendars, pens, pencils, or address books of nominal value which are distributed generally to employees is authorized.
7. If related to the employee's condition and status as an employee of Camden County, (1) no employee shall accept a preferential rate or terms on a debt, loan, goods, or services that is neither a government rate available to all other similarly situated government employees or officials nor a rate which is available to members of the public; (2) nor

shall an employee accept waived entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets to events, performances, or facilities; (3) nor shall an employee accept personal services for which a fee is normally charged by the person providing the service.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Approval of Retirement Amendment to the current Retirement Plan to clarify language in original plan.

Mr. Mike Fender advised this amendment would not change the Retirement Plan, but clarify some of the current language therein. Some language in the Plan, as currently written, could be construed to pay more than what is actually intended.

So Voted:

Chairman Rhodes- Aye

Vice-Chair Zell- Aye

Commissioner Rainer-Aye

Commissioner Berry-Aye

Commissioner Sears-Abstain

The motion carried.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Howard reported the County's updated website was launched last Friday. It contains a wealth of information for the public.

Planning and Building Director Loretta Hylton addressed the Board regarding the FEMA Flood Maps. They are still working with FEMA on corrections for these maps. She spoke regarding the finalization process. She encourages everyone to review the maps. The City of Kingsland Planning and Building Department has one on display. Maps should be finalized this time next year.

Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith updated everyone on HR900. It is still an ever changing document. Speaker Richardson proposes a new plan which does not eliminate any property tax used to fund county government. It does provide an offsetting credit on personal vehicle tax. Also, it includes an assessment freeze on residential homesteads and a cap on property tax growth.

Mrs. Smith will continue to update the Board as new information becomes available. She is working with the Chamber and other organizations to arrange a forum to discuss HR900.

Mr. Howard advised that Camden County is the cover story in the January 2008 edition of *Georgia Magazine*.

County Attorney Brent Green questioned whether Camden County would have any considerations for the Legislature, which will convene next month, as well as if the Legislature had any items that would affect the County.

Mr. Howard stated he would check with our Legislators.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adjourn the December 18, 2007 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Rhodes, Chairman

Jodi Gregory, County Clerk