

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008 6:00 PM  
COUNTY ANNEX, 107 GROSS ROAD  
KINGSLAND, GEORGIA**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 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:**

Item 11. Consideration and approval of the TDS Master Telecommunications Service Agreement for the equipment, service and maintenance of communication equipment to be installed at the Emergency Operations Center.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adopt the agenda as amended, adding Item 11.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rainer to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 3, 2008.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

➤ **2008 Elections Overview**

Martin Gillette, Supervisor of Elections/Probate Judge, and Kay Screws, Deputy Chief Registrar provided an overview of the 2008 election cycle, including voting by absentee ballot. They provided copies of the sample ballots for the February 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary. Mrs. Screws advised that a photo ID is required for voting. ID's could be obtained from Georgia Department of Driver Services or from the Registrar's office with proper documentation. She further stated that if a voter failed to provide ID at the time of voting, the voter would be allowed to vote and their vote would count provided they produced valid ID within three (3) days.

➤ **USS GEORGIA Return to Services Festivities – Sheila McNeill and Keith Post**

Keith Post displayed the new UGA print drawn by cartoonist Jack Davis. Mr. Keith said the prints were available for purchase with the funds being used for the GEORGIA's Return to Service Ceremony. He explained the ongoing Georgia Flag Project which will culminate with Georgia Flag being presented by the Governor to the Captain of the USS Georgia.

**REPORTS:**

**A. Calendar**

The January/February calendar was read.

**B. County Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Steve Howard advised the following:

- Finance has a new online program, GovDeals, for bidding on surplus equipment.
- The Citizen's Survey has been launched. It's accessible online through the County's website, the Chamber of Commerce's website and the Tribune & Georgian's site. It will also be in the County's Annual Report.
- The Annual Report will be released in a few weeks.
- It is anticipated to present the Strategic Plan to the Board in March. It lays out the County's plan for the next five (5) years.
- Staff would like to form a Charity Committee to give back to the community. The Board gave their support and approval of the Charity Committee.
- The Camden County sign has been erected on I-95 North bound.
- The Budget Calendar has been released.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Vernon Copeland spoke about his concerns regarding Agenda Item 7, River Trails. First, he stated he received a letter from Planning and Building stating the Planning Commission would consider the matter on December 19<sup>th</sup> and the Board of Commissioners would consider it on January 15<sup>th</sup>. However, the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was not held. He and several other citizens came for that meeting, but no one else was present. Subsequently, he found that the meeting had been rescheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, but he had not seen any notice of the change. Mr. Copeland said he believes there is room for improvement regarding communication with the public. Second, he addressed his specific concerns about the development such as the building height and units per acre. He believes the development will create an extra burden on the taxpayer.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. Establish and approve qualifying fees for the 2008 County and School Board Elections.**
- 2. Adopt the Resolution declaring Friday, March 28, 2008, as "USS GEORGIA DAY".**
- 3. Consideration and approval of P & A Engineering Agreement for survey, engineering and environmental services.**

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 3.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

- 4. Consideration and approval of adopting a Resolution rescheduling 2008 regular meeting dates which fall on the same day as a primary, general and/or special election to the Thursday immediately following the election.**

**No action taken.** Staff to bring a meeting schedule before the Board at the next meeting.

**5. Consideration and approval of holding one regular meeting in April, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, to include a Budget Work Session beginning at 5:00 p.m.**

**No action taken.** Staff to bring a meeting schedule before the Board at the next meeting.

**6. Consideration of a policy change clarifying take home vehicle assignment.**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the take home vehicle policy change.

On discussion, Chairman Rhodes asked Mr. Howard the reason for the change. Mr. Howard advised the policy change would clarify the policy, create consistency, and accountability. Chairman Rhodes indicated this change could be a significant cost savings.

**So voted, the motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Consideration and approval of the River Trail Development.  
(District 1- Chairman Rhodes)**

Commissioner Sears questioned plans for future water, marina, roads, recreation, and trees. Tommy Hayes with International Paper answered by stating they are working with Woodrow Sapp for future water service; that they believed there were too many obstacles for a marina, but they might work with Horseshoe Cove in the future; they will build interior roads and turn them over to the County; for green space they propose an amphitheatre and numerous trails through out the development; and the oaks and trees of 26" plus in circumference will be protected.

Commissioner Berry stated he was very concerned about the plan as Section 4.0 seeded away all of the County's authority and Section 5.0 was contrary to the County's current building ordinances. Commissioner Berry said they need to develop the property according to the zoning laws as they are adopted, amended and as they apply.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to deny the River Trail Development and send it back to Planning and Building for corrections.

Meg Nealan with the River Trails stated this plan does contain a lot of details that run with the property for the life of the property. She said, in a sense, this plan is a contract binding the developer to more commitments than any other zoning district. It adds an extra layer of protection. Commissioner Berry stated this plan states exactly the opposite of that.

Commissioner Berry also stated the building height contained in this plan could affect the County's ISO rating as we do not have fire equipment sufficient to handle a 60' building.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Planning and Building Director Loretta Hylton asked that the matter be tabled rather than rejected. If the plan is rejected it will be a year before the developer can bring it back before the Board.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to reconsider and set aside the previous motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to table the River Trail Development and send it back to Planning and Building for revisions consistent with the Boards concerns.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Consideration and approval of the Transmittal Resolution of the Capital Improvements Element to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center.**

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve and execute the Capital Improvements Element Transmittal Resolution.

On discussion, Commissioner Rainer asked County Attorney Brent Green if it's to the County's advantage to start this process now. Mr. Green affirmed.

**So voted, the motion carried unanimously.**

**9. Consideration and approval of Camden County's 2008 Legislative Profile.**

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the 2008 Legislative Profile.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Consideration and approval of Camden County's 2008 Washington Fly-In Issues.**

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve sending County Administrator Steve Howard and Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith to the Washington Fly-In scheduled for April 7 – 9, 2008.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Consideration and approval of the TDS Master Telecommunications Service Agreement for the equipment, service and maintenance of communication equipment to be installed at the Emergency Operations Center.**

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the TDS Master Telecommunications Service Agreement for the equipment, service and maintenance of communication equipment to be installed at the Emergency Operations Center.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Vernon Copeland thanked the Commissioners for the action taken on Agenda Item 7. He also stated that if the County did not collect impact fees up front, the taxpayer would have to sponsor the development.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adjourn the January 22, 2008, meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Preston Rhodes, Chairman

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Jodi Gregory, County Clerk