

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008 6:00 PM
COUNTY ANNEX, 107 GROSS ROAD
KINGSLAND, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at the County Annex in Kingsland, Georgia.

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

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

The roll call indicated that Chair Preston Rhodes, Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi Zell, Commissioner David Rainer, Commissioner Stephen L. Berry, Commissioner Charlene Sears, County Administrator Steve L. Howard, County Attorney Brent Green and County Clerk Jodi Gregory were present.

Chairman Rhodes adjourned the regular meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Chairman Rhodes convened a work session regarding the millage rate at 6: 02 p.m.

Mr. Howard and Mike Fender, Director of Finance and Budget, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the setting of the 2008 millage rate. Mr. Fender recommended setting the rate at 11.85. Mr. Fender stated this rate will provide a cushion should the digest decrease that will not impede anything that the County is currently doing and also would prevent a reduction in the budget in the future should the digest decrease.

Mr. Howard added that this rate will result in a reduction in homeowners' tax bills.

Chairman Rhodes adjourned the work session at 6:20 p.m.

Chairman Rhodes reconvened the regular meeting at 6:20 p.m.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

The following agenda amendments were added:

Regular Agenda Item # 5, Consideration of Revocation of Black Jack Billiard's Alcohol License; and,

Regular Agenda Item # 6 Employee Agreement for County Administrator for consideration after Executive Session.

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:

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2008, public hearing and regular meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Status of Master Plan and Water/Wastewater Initiatives in Camden County's north end, by Diane Sapp, Woodrow Sapp Utilities.**

Diane Sapp provided the Commissioners with an overview of Woodrow Sapp's current activities in Camden County as well as information regarding the services offered by Woodrow Sapp.

- **Proclamation recognizing Camden County Fire Fighter Appreciation Week.**

Commissioner Sears read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation of the
Camden County Board of Commissioners**

Recognizing CAMDEN COUNTY FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, fighting fires is one of the most hazardous professions, requiring physical strength, stamina, extensive training, courage, selfless concern for the welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their daily service to communities, Fire Fighters throughout the state and across the nation have joined the Muscular Dystrophy Association for the past 53 years in the fight against neuromuscular diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Muscular Dystrophy Association is extremely grateful to the Fire Fighters of Camden County whose "Fill the Boot" campaign will assist MDA in providing medical services at local clinics, summer camps, research grants, support groups, and public education seminars at no cost to local children and families; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the efforts of the Fire Fighters of Camden County, the MDA is sponsoring Camden County Fire Fighter Appreciation Week for the week of August 3 through August 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for all Camden County citizens to join the Muscular Dystrophy Association in this tribute to our Fire Fighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the members of this body do hereby proclaim the week of August 3 through August 9, 2008, as

CAMDEN COUNTY FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION WEEK

and commend the Fire Fighters of Camden County for their efforts on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

PROCLAIMED this 5th day of August, 2008.

The proclamation was presented to Fire Marshal Chris Goebel.

- **Status of Camden County Road Projects, by Public Works Director Scott Brazell.**

Public Works Director Scott Brazell updated the Commissioners on the status of Germantown, Ella Park, Kingsland by-pass and Horsestamp Church Road projects. Mr. Brazell also provided the status regarding New Post Road and the resurfacing at Elliott's Bluff and Dover Bluff. Mr. Brazell advised the Commissioners of the new procedures regarding state aid, and he asked for submissions for the new LARP list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Vernon Copeland, Waverly

Mr. Copeland expressed his concerns over the millage rate and the Tax Assessors' office.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approve and authorize the execution of the Tax Release Applications.**

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to approve and authorize Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

2. Woodbine Community Center Bid Award.

Project Manager Harvey Amerson advised the Commissioners this project had bid twice with no success. Bent Pine Construction was the lowest bidder at \$843,547.25, which was still over budgeted. Value engineering was performed, and the price was reduced to \$667,461.87. Mr. Amerson recommended awarding the bid to Bent Pine in the amount of \$667,461.87.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to award the Woodbine Community Center bid to Bent Pine Construction in the amount of \$667,461.87.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. First reading of an ordinance to amend the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia, by adding Chapter 27, Sections 1 – 35 Camden County Fire Rescue Fire Prevention & Services Ordinance.

Fire Chief Dennis Gailey advised this ordinance sets the framework of the roles and responsibilities of Camden County Fire Rescue and provides for local control.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to waive the first reading of the ordinance to amend the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia, by adding Chapter 27, Sections 1 – 35 Camden County Fire Rescue Fire Prevention & Services Ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Information Technology 5 year Strategic Plan, by Rajan Jindal with Axiom Corp.

Rajan Jindal from Axiom Corp., presented a 5 year Strategic Plan for IT Department.

No action taken.

5. Consideration of Revocation of Black Jack Billiards' Alcohol License.

Joseph Hammill, attorney for Black Jack Billiard's licensee Kimmerly Renee Bossier, asked the Board not to revoke the license, stating that the situation is merely a conflict between the older residents of the community and the young patrons of the business.

Ronny Wilson, Yolanda Baggs and Michael Key all spoke in support of Black Jack Billiards.

County Attorney Brent Green read the numerous calls received by 911.

Commissioner Berry questioned the owner, Ms. Bossier, about the activity at Black Jack's. Ms. Bossier stated she was not always present and that her manager rented the building out for private parties and that the individuals attending these parties bring their own alcoholic beverages. Commissioner Berry advised Ms. Bossier that this was not allowable under County ordinance.

Ernest Edwards, Harry Cummings and Karen Edwards all spoke against Black Jack Billiards.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry, to revoke the Consumption of Malt Beverages and Wine license from Kimmerly Renee Bossier, effective immediately.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session – Personnel and Real Estate

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, and voted unanimously that this Board enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4 at 7:46 p.m., and pursuant to the advice by the County Attorney, for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation.

That upon conclusion of the discussion or deliberation in the closed session portion of the meeting that this body enter back into open session, open to the public, at which point an announcement will be made in the Commissioner's Meeting Room that this Board is back in session.

That upon coming back into open session that this body ratify the consensus taken in closed session; and

That this body, in open session, adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the Chairman to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4, and that this body confirms the actions of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

RECONVENE:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell and unanimously voted to reconvene the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Chairman Rhodes signed the affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4(b). The original copy of the affidavit immediately follows these minutes and a copy is on file in the County Clerk's office.

Mr. Green recommended the Board make a motion to approve the matters discussed in executive session and authorize the Chairman to execute the affidavit regarding the executive session. Mr. Green also recommended the Board make a motion to approve Mr. Howard's contract, as discussed in executive session. Mr. Green outlined the terms of Mr. Howard's contract.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to accept the County Attorney's recommendations as stated.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Employee Agreement for County Administrator.

Matter considered under executive session.

Reports

- ***Calendar – August/September***

The August and September calendars were read by County Clerk Jodi Gregory.

Mr. Green advised a motion was needed regarding the real estate purchase discussed in executive session.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears, to authorize Harvey Amerson to proceed with the purchase of real estate as discussed in executive session.

The motion carried unanimously.

- ***County Administrator's Report***

Mr. Howard reported the following:

- Deputy Clerk Katie Bishop has worked very hard to complete the Showcase Camden County Photo Contest. Photos from the contest will be placed in the new Central Offices.
- Solid Waste Department rather than purchasing a new tractor at a cost of approximately \$390,000.00, they refurbished the tractor instead at a cost savings to the taxpayers of \$250,671.12.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Cummings

Mr. Cummings asked if the County intends to place a flag pole at the Ralph Bunche Complex.

The Board stated the County would place a flag pole at the facility.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears, to adjourn the July 22, 2008 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Rhodes, Chairman

Jodi Gregory, Clerk