

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2009, 6:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.

Chair Rainer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Reverend Verdell Griffin delivered the invocation.

Chair Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chair David L. Rainer; Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi Zell; Commissioner Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Charlene Sears; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney Brent Green, and Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Amend Item 5 to read (2 separate motions A & B):

Approval of Letters of Support regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program - A & B.

Letter of Support in partnership with the City of Kingsland and the City of Woodbine, to endorse the submission of a joint application for the EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) Program.

- B. Letter of Support for the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (CGRDC) in its application to for technical assistance and support in implementing the *Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan* (2008) as part of the EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program.

Addition of Item 10:

10. Resolution to amend previously adopted Resolution regarding the compensation for the Camden County Board of Tax Assessors. **(County Attorney Brent Green)**

Addition of Item 11:

11. Approval of Request to submit grant application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for Drug Court Program. **(Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith)**

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the

amendments to the agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the Work Session minutes and Regular Meeting minutes of March 17, 2009.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Proclamation recognizing County Engineer John Stokes
(read by Vice-Chair Zell)

Vice-Chair Zell read and Proclamation recognizing County Engineer John Stokes for Cost Saving Initiatives, and presented Mr. Stokes with the Proclamation.

- Department of Commerce - 2010 Census *(presented by Thurmond N. Tillman, Senior Partnership Specialist)*

Thurmond N. Tillman, Senior Partnership Specialist gave the Board an overview of the upcoming 2010 Census.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Vernon Copeland

Mr. Copeland expressed his concerns regarding the renaming of the newly paved portion of Ella Park Church Road. He stated that his concerns were with keeping the history of the area and landmarks incorporated in the name of the road. He urged the Board to not rename the newly paved portion but leave the newly paved portion "Ella Park Church Road". He suggested that in turn the unpaved portion could be renamed "Hardee Field Road". He explained that significance of the name "Hardee" relating to this area and urged the Board to take his suggestions into consideration when making their decision regarding this item on the agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Acceptance of Right-of-Way Deed for Thrift Road.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to accept the Right-of-Way Deed for Thrift Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Selection of a name for the newly paved road section of Ella Park Church Road.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to rename the unpaved portion of roadway “Hardee Field Road” and the newly paved portion will remain “Ella Park Church Road”.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. City of Woodbine requesting consent for an underground storage facility to be placed at the Satilla River Waterfront Park, at the City’s expense & used for disposal of cooking water from Annual Crawfish Festival.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to consent for the City of Woodbine to place an underground storage facility to be placed at the Satilla River Waterfront Park, at the City’s expense & used for disposal of cooking water from Annual Crawfish Festival.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. City of St. Marys requesting Letter of Support regarding relocation of airport.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Support for the City of St. Marys regarding the relocation of the St. Marys Airport.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Letters of Support regarding the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program -

Letter of Support in partnership with the City of Kingsland and the City of Woodbine, to endorse the submission of a joint application for the EPA’s Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) Program.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Support in partnership with the City of Kingsland and the City of Woodbine, to endorse the submission of a joint application for the EPA’s Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Letter of Support for the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (CGRDC) in its application to for technical assistance and support in implementing the *Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan (2008)* as part of the EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Support for the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (CGRDC) in its application to for technical assistance and support in implementing the *Georgia Coastal Comprehensive Plan (2008)* as part of the EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of request by Nathaniel Shivalier, Map/Parcel #082C 03 010, to waive interest & penalties from 1996 to 2007.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the request by Nathaniel Shivalier, Map/Parcel #082C 03 010, to waive interest & penalties from 1996 to 2007.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to make application for grant funding that requires matching funds.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the request to make application for grant funding that requires matching funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. Approval of Amendment to previously approved lease agreement with the City of Woodbine for Fire Station 11.

First Motion:

Commissioner Keene made a motion to deny the approval of Amendment to the previously approved lease agreement with the City of Woodbine for Fire Station 11 and send a letter to the City of Woodbine stating no additional monies would be allocated, seconded by Chair Rainer for discussion.

So voted:

- Chair Rainer - Yes
- Vice-Chair Zell - No
- Commissioner Keene - Yes
- Commissioner Sears - No
- Commissioner Berry - No

The motion failed 3 -2.

Second Motion:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to send the request for increase in the with the City of Woodbine for Fire Station 11 lease agreement back to the City of Woodbine and request to renegotiate the maintenance agreement included in the lease agreement.

So voted:

Chair Rainer - **No**
Vice-Chair Zell - **Yes**
Commissioner Keene - **No**
Commissioner Sears - **Yes**
Commissioner Berry - **No**

The motion failed 3-2.

Third Motion:

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to authorize staff to renegotiate the lease agreement and when negotiations are complete place this item on the next available agenda.

So voted:

Chair Rainer - **Yes**
Vice-Chair Zell - **Yes**
Commissioner Keene - **No**
Commissioner Sears - **Yes**
Commissioner Berry - **Yes**

The motion carried 4-1.

9. Approval of Cooperative Lease Agreement for Rural Fire Defense with Georgia Forestry. (Fire Marshal Chris Goebel)

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the Cooperative Lease Agreement for Rural Fire Defense with Georgia Forestry.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. Resolution to amend previously adopted Resolution regarding the compensation for the Camden County Board of Tax Assessors.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to adopt the Resolution to amend previously adopted resolution regarding the compensation for the Camden County Board of Tax Assessors.

So Voted:

Chair Rainer - **No**
Vice-Chair Zell - **No**
Commissioner Keene - **No**
Commissioner Sears - **No**
Commissioner Berry - **Yes**

The motion failed 4-1.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice chair Zell to table this item until after the meeting scheduled with the Board of Tax Assessors, County Administrator and members of the Board of County Commissioners and revisit this item if needed.

The motion carried.

11. Approval of Request to submit grant application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the Drug Court Program.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the request to submit grant application to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the Drug Court Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Calendar - January/February

Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop read the April & May calendars.

- County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Steve Howard reported the following:

County Administrator Steve Howard stated at this time he has asked Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith to provide the Board with some current updates regarding legislation.

Ms. Smith reported the following:

- **HB 233** - Three (3) Year Moratorium on inflationary growth in property assessments, however deflation would be reflected in the tax digest.

As Camden County is currently under contract to perform county-wide revaluations, we would be exempt until from the moratorium until 2010. The State's "1/4 mil" is not

included in the moratorium - this will require the Tax Assessors to track two values on each piece of property - which could result in the need for software upgrades. Ends 2011

- SB 55 - Property Assessments

This Bill will require the tax assessors to consider foreclosures and bank owned sales, when determining fair market value on a property.

- SB 240 - Binding Arbitration Property Appeal

This Bill creates a new binding arbitration option for the taxpayers when appealing a real property value. Through this method, the taxpayer would submit an appraisal from a licensed appraiser to an arbitrator and the arbitrator must choose between the board of assessor's value and the appraisal. The loser pays for the cost of arbitration. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator the Chief Judge of the Superior Court would choose the arbitrator. The Board of Tax Assessors shall have the burden of proving its opinion of value and the validity of its proposed assessment by a preponderance of evidence.

- **2009 Failed Legislation**

- HR 1 / SR 1 - Property Tax Assessment Cap
- HB 480 - Vehicle Tax Reform (changing from ad valorem to fee)
- HB 483 - Increase to Statewide Homestead Exemption to \$10,000

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Vernon Copeland

Mr. Copeland stated that he appreciated the Board's decision to rename the unpaved portion of Ella Park Church Road to "Hardee Field Road" and allow the newly paved portion to remain Ella Park Church Road. He expressed his gratitude for the decision.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to adjourn the April 7, 2009, meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chair

Kathryn A. Bishop, Interim County Clerk