

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WORK SESSION

**PROACTIVE CODE ENFORCEMENT
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 5:15 PM
200 EAST FOURTH STREET, WOODBINE, GEORGIA 31569**

The Camden County Board of County Commissioners held a Work Session at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.

Chair Rainer called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

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.

- Work Session - Proactive Code Enforcement**

Planning and Development Director Mike Tuller gave the Board an overview of initiating a Proactive Code Enforcement Program within Camden County. He presented a power point presentation and provided the Board with examples of code enforcement violations in Camden County. He stated that he is looking into deputizing himself and several other employees, such as the Building Inspectors and Soil and Erosion Control Investigator, to handle these code enforcement violations.

Commissioner Keene asked if the GIS will be utilized to map out these code enforcement violations.

Mr. Tuller stated that work orders will be created and though the work orders the violations can be mapped out using GIS.

Commissioner Keene stated that impression is a big factor in attracting industry to the area. He explained that getting support from the media may help with resolving some violations early. He stated that a checklist in the paper of common violations may encourage the violator to clean up.

Mr. Tuller explained that staff will begin with the proactive approach with the most extreme violators, such as those posing a threat to public safety.

Commissioner Sears stated that the City of St. Marys took this same approach with abandoned homes and the first phase was they contacted the property owner. The property owner would do a few things to clean up and if they could not bring it up to par the City would in turn send a letter stating that it would be demolished. After that a lien

would be placed on the property to recoup the cost incurred for demolishing the abandoned home. She urged Mr. Tuller to keep up with everything that his department does concerning the violators.

Vice -Chair Zell stated that her district may have the most violations. She stated that the citizens in her district would be happy to get rid of the eyesores.

Commissioner Berry stated that if Planning & Development picks two (2) or three (3) really egregious violations, making them examples, and follow through to the end this may encourage other violators to correct the problems before it gets to that point.

Commissioner Sears asked that they do research into historical places as well.

Chair Rainer stated that starting with the abandoned places alone will get the message out. He urged Mr. Tuller to move in a expedient manner regarding the abandoned properties, but to proceed in a cautionary manner when you are dealing with someone who resides in the place where the violation has occurred.

County Attorney Brent Green stated that a good code review is necessary to strengthen the code and possibly looking at Glynn County as an example for what has been done there with Code Enforcement. He stated that visible uniformed Code Enforcement Officers may be a necessary as well.

Chair Rainer stated that the consensus of the Board is to move forward with Proactive Code Enforcement (P.A.C.E.) as soon as possible and to look at the code to make sure the code itself will carry us.

Mr. Tuller stated that he will be working with County Attorney Brent Green and will be bringing this item back to the Board at a later date for further discussion, as well as plan of action to begin the process of Proactive Code Enforcement (P.A.C.E.).

Chair Rainer adjourned the Work Session at 5: 43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chair

Kathryn A. Bishop, Interim County Clerk