

CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2001, 6:00 P.M
WOODBINE, GEORGIA

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Courthouse in Woodbine, Georgia.

Present: Chairman Stephen L. Berry; Vice-Chairman David L. Rainer; Commissioner Robert G. Becker; Commissioner Preston Rhodes; Commissioner Kenneth G. Hase; County Administrator Barrett T. King; County Attorney O. Brent Green; and Assistant County Administrator Nancy C. Weisensee.

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Nancy Weisensee delivered the Invocation.
Chairman Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll Call: All Commissioners present.

Agenda Amendments:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to delete Item 3a. Satilla Plantation – cost to move water lines, and add Item 3a. Hampton Point Subdivision water concurrence agreement.

Work Session:

Craig Buckley, Buckley and Associates, gave an overview of the floor plans for the new courthouse. Mr. Buckley stated that the courthouse construction would be advertised in three weeks and the bids are scheduled to be opened on March 29, 2001. Mr. Buckley indicated that if all goes well, the completion date would be June 2002, with a dedication to be held on July 4, 2002. The Board of Commissioners will select the contractor at their April 3, 2001, meeting.

Chairman Berry asked the Board to add discussion of the meeting with Kingsland to the work session.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to add discussion of the meeting with Kingsland.

Chairman Berry asked the Commissioners if they want to meet with the City of Kingsland on February 12, 2001, as a group or individually. The City has several issues they wish to discuss including the proposed CAPE fire protection plan, the County's plans to establish water and sewer systems, and PSA funding.

Commissioner Rainer stated that he wants to meet with the City of Kingsland. Commissioner Becker stated that he is willing to meet with the City but does not want the meeting to hold up the County's plans.

Chairman Berry asked the Commissioners to put this matter on the regular agenda at the end of the meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to add Item 4g. Meeting with the City of Kingsland.

Public Comments:

Mr. Munson, who stated that he lives in Camden County, requested that the Board of Commissioners meet with the City of Kingsland on February 12, 2001.

Ms. Susie Munson asked the Board of Commissioners if property taxes would be lowered if the County does not fund the PSA.

Mr. Sandy Feller stated that he believes the Commissioners have done a great job and should continue to move ahead with their plans.

Chairman Berry thanked each of the residents for their comments.

1. Approval of minutes for January 16, 2001:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the January 16, 2001, Commissioners' meeting.

2. Reports:

Report on offer to purchase water system and Kingsland's response:

Chairman Berry stated that he sent the City of Kingsland an offer to purchase their water system because he had read in the newspaper that the City is in debt. Chairman Berry stated that the City of Kingsland replied that they were not interested in selling their water system.

PSA Report:

Chairman Berry is preparing information for the Commissioners.

Report on status of appointments:

Nancy Weisensee presented the report regarding appointments that are coming up for various committees and commissions.

Commissioner Rainer suggested that the Board grant the request of the Bryan-Lang Library Board to reappoint George Hannaford and Craig Root.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to reappoint George Hannaford and Craig Root to the Bryan-Lang Historical Library Board for a three-year term.

Board Calendar Update:

The Commissioners reviewed the calendar for February and March.

3. Old Business:

a. Hampton Point Subdivision water concurrence agreement:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to enter into the concurrence agreement with the developer of Hampton Point Subdivision and that any further requests for concurrence agreements be reviewed and approved by County staff.

(A copy of the concurrence agreement is on file in the County Administrator's Office and the Planning and Building Department.)

b. Woodbine's request for land donation:

The City of Woodbine requested that the County donate two parcels of land at the Ralph Bunche Complex for the construction of four Habitat for Humanity homes.

Attorney Green stated that the County could declare the land at the Ralph Bunche Complex as excess land and transfer it to the Woodbine Development Authority subject to a survey. The Commissioners agreed to prepare the deed.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to declare as excess and transfer two parcels of land at the Ralph Bunch Complex to the Woodbine Development Authority to be used as location for four Habitat for Humanity homes, subject to a survey to be provided by the City of Woodbine.

c. Travel Policy:

The County Administrator explained that the basic Travel Policy had not changed, but some conflicting language had been cleared up.

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the Travel Policy as presented.

POLICY FOR TRAVEL ALLOWANCES, ADVANCES,
AND REIMBURSEMENTS
CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

1. Purpose – This policy establishes uniform travel expenditure guidelines for board members, elected officials, employees, and approved volunteers representing Camden County on individual official business for Camden County, Georgia.
2. General – The County Administrator shall establish and enforce administrative procedures to govern the disbursement of public funds to compensate for travel-related expenses for all covered individuals. These procedures will govern all allowances for travel expenses. Any expenditure made without authorization shall be the responsibility of the person incurring the expense.
3. Reimbursements – The County will reimburse reasonable and necessary expenditures at the most economic rate for lodging, meals, transportation, registration fees, conference fees and other customary costs for official travel. Department heads or elected officials are responsible for managing travel as funded in their departmental annual operating budgets. Reimbursement or advances shall be governed by the administrative procedures and made only upon the presentation of an accurate and complete travel form to the county finance department. The County Administrator or his designee is the approving authority for exceptions or requests not covered by this policy.
4. Expenditures and limitations – Expenditures must be incurred and caused while actually conducting official county business. County-owned or leased vehicles should be used when available. Group travel in county vehicles is encouraged. Air travel shall be in coach class only and is not normally authorized for travel less than 200 miles one way. Gas expense will be reimbursed from actual receipts. Personal vehicles may be used only upon the specific authorization of the department head. Mileage for personal vehicles will be reimbursed at the current applicable federal (IRS) rate per mile on the basis of one round-trip from the Camden County Courthouse to the site of the official business using standard mileage tables. Overnight lodging is not normally authorized for sites less than 100 miles from the Camden County Courthouse. Government rates must be requested and tax exemption forms for hotel/motel and state sales taxes must be used at all lodging in the state of Georgia. The following is the standard rate for meals:

Breakfast	\$7.00
Lunch	10.00
Dinner	<u>15.00</u>
Total per day	\$32.00

Advance per diem for meals is limited to the standard rate. A specific meal at high-rate or convention location such as Atlanta, Savannah, or other locale set forth in the procedures may be reimbursed up to 50 percent higher for a specific meal upon the approval of the department head and the presentation of an actual receipt.

This policy supersedes all other travel policies.

The Camden County Board of Commissioners does hereby ordain, resolve, and enact the foregoing policy for Camden County, Georgia. Adopted this 6th day of February 2001.

d. RDC minority appointment:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Preston Rhodes as Camden County's minority representative on the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center Board of Directors.

4. New Business:

a. CAPE Fire Protection Proposal:

The final draft of the Camden Area Protective Envelope proposal was presented for Board action. The goal of CAPE is to reduce the ISO rating within five road miles of any county fire station to a base ISO 5 or better by January 1, 2003.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, to approve the final draft of the Camden Area Protective Envelope (CAPE) fire protection proposal and authorize staff to proceed with the plan immediately.

Commissioner Becker voted aye.
Commissioner Rhodes voted aye.
Commissioner Hase voted aye.
Commissioner Rainer voted no.

(A copy of the CAPE plan is on file in the County Administrator's Office.)

b. Lease for EMS Satilla Street location:

The County Administrator informed the Board that the EMS 401 S. Satilla Street location would be equipped with an engine as part of the CAPE plan. The County will include in the lease that all lease payments will be credited to the purchase price should the County have the opportunity to purchase the property in the future. The cost for the lease is \$6,000.00 annually.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to approve the lease with Gwendolyn Edenfield for 401 S. Satilla Street contingent upon all lease payments being credited to the purchase price should the County have the opportunity to purchase the property in the future.

c. St. Marys' request for easement:

The City of St. Marys requested perpetual utility easements for Tracts D-1 and D-2 at the intersection of Highway 40 and St. Marys Road Extension.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to grant the 15-foot wide perpetual utility easements for Tracts D-1 and D-2 located at the intersection of State Route 40 and St. Marys Road Extension.

d. Resolution for water and sewer systems:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CAMDEN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A DESIRED LEVEL OF SERVICE TO CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CAMDEN COUNTY.

WHEREAS, Camden County is a political subdivision of the State of Georgia existing for civil and political purposes and administering locally the general powers and policies of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Georgia at Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph 3, specifically enumerates several supplementary home rule powers to Camden County, including the authority to create and operate storm water and sewage collection and disposal systems, and the development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of water; and

WHEREAS, certain citizens residing in unincorporated areas of Camden County have made compelling requests from the county governing authority to establish and develop water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, the development of such systems has been demonstrated to be in the overall best interest of the county as the governing authority desires to improve quality of life and to provide a system of planned development and managed growth in unincorporated areas; and

WHEREAS, a water and sewer system will improve the health and welfare of citizens in growing unincorporated areas and that citizens using the system will generate revenues to support and sustain the system; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Camden County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the County Administrator to create and establish the Camden County Water and Sewer Department for the aforementioned purposes to meet immediately the needs of the Harrietts Bluff area, expanding to other areas as feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Water and Sewer Department be established as an enterprise fund under county management as other current enterprise divisions are managed, and that the system shall have the full financial support of the county during its developmental period with the provision that all such financial support shall be repaid by the enterprise as it matures.

Resolved in legal assembly this 6th day of February 2001.

e. Acceptance of contract from DOT for Temple Creek Bridge project:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to accept the contract from the Georgia Department of Transportation for project PR 55-4(39) CR 55 @ Temple Creek – Bridge Replacement with Culvert.

f. Cancel February 20, 2001, Commissioners' Meeting:

The Commissioners will be attending ACCG Conference in Atlanta from February 18 through February 21, 2001.

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to cancel the February 20, 2001, Commissioners' Meeting.

g. Meeting with City of Kingsland:

Chairman Berry stated that the Commissioners have been invited to attend a meeting with the City of Kingsland on Monday, February 12, 2001. Chairman Berry asked the Commissioners if they wanted to attend the meeting; and if so, would they like to attend as a group. The Commissioners agreed to attend the meeting as a group with the stipulation that the discussion be confined to the first five issues in the Mayor's letter. Chairman Berry stated the letter from the Mayor did not state a time for the Commissioners to be at the meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously that the Board of Commissioners attend the City of Kingsland meeting on Monday, February 12, 2001, as a group, with the stipulation that the discussion be confined to the first five issues stated in the February 5th letter from Mayor Dixon.

5. Adjourn into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and land acquisition: (7:15 o'clock p.m.)

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to adjourn into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-15-4 and

pursuant to advice by the County Attorney, for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and land acquisition.

That upon the 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 Commissioners' Meeting Room that this Board is back in session.

That upon coming back into open session 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. Sec. 50-14-4, and that this body confirm that the actions of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

6. Reconvene:

Chairman Berry signed the affidavit as required under O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4(b) The original copy of the signed affidavit is on file in the County Clerk's office, and a copy of the affidavit is attached to these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to reconvene the meeting.

Chairman Berry announced that there were three items to be added to the agenda as a result of the executive session: City of Kingsland water lawsuit appeal; City of Woodbine SPLOST lawsuit; and City of Kingsland SPLOST lawsuit.

City of Kingsland water lawsuit appeal:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, to dismiss the appeal of the City of Kingsland water lawsuit.

Commissioner Rainer voted aye.
Commissioner Becker voted aye.
Commissioner Rhodes voted aye.
Commissioner Hase voted no.

Motion carried 3 – 1.

City of Woodbine SPLOST lawsuit:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to dismiss the City of Woodbine SPLOST lawsuit.

City of Kingsland SPLOST lawsuit:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to dismiss the City of Kingsland SPLOST lawsuit, with the stipulation that the City of Kingsland dismisses their SPLOST suit against the County.

7. Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. (7:55 o'clock p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Berry
Chairman

Nancy C. Weisensee
Assistant County Administrator