

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2002, 6:00 P.M.
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A recessed meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2002, 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 Kenneth G. Hase; Commissioner Robert G. Becker; Commission Preston Rhodes; County Attorney O. Brent Green; and Assistant County Administrator Bill Shanahan. (County Administrator Barrett T. King absent due to being on active duty with U.S. Army)

Chairman Berry called the meeting order at 6:00 p.m.
Bill Shanahan delivered the invocation.
Chairman Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:

The JDA Director, Bob Noble, announced that the JDA had sold property to a small factory which will be manufacturing sausage. The company will employ approximately 18 employees. Mr. Noble then presented the Camden County Board of Commissioners with a \$50,000 check to pay towards the bond payment.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commission Hase, and voted unanimously to add Item: 4k., Annexation Request Notification – Tax Map 132B, Parcels 8, 11, and 12 (Mush Bluff Area).

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to add, "and run waterline", to Item: 3a., Haddock Road Right of way.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to add Item: 4l., Board of Health Appointment.

WORK SESSION:

Carl Hofmann, CPA, Karp Ronning & Tindol, 123 Abercorn St., P.O. Box 9550, Savannah, GA 31412 was invited to the 02/19/2002 Camden County Board of Commissioners' Meeting to discuss any questions the Commissioners might have after reviewing the Camden County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The preamble was discussed.

The Planning and Building Director informed the Camden County Board of Commissioners it will cost \$6,550.00 to bring the Flea Hill Water System up to state standards and \$10,120.00 to maintain it for the first year. (Total Annual Cost for the first year is \$16,670.00) In addition, he stated that the annual cost to keep the water system running will be \$10,120.00. Jordan Jones & Goulding, engineers, reported that if we meet the minimum standards, as described above, they expected the system to fail within the very near future. Their recommendation was to bring the system to the standard of current new water systems, at a cost of \$78,833.00. (Payments: 25 Years at 5.0% Interest = \$5,593.00) Annual O & M for this system will be \$17,520.00, with a total annual cost of \$23,113.00. By request of the Camden County Board of Commissioners, the Planning and Building Director will present this information to the Flea Hill Residents to enable them to decide whether they want to maintain the system or have Camden County maintain the system. Their decision will be reviewed and voted on at the 03/05/02 Commissioners meeting.

The Finance Director recommended that the Camden County Board of Commissioners implement an across the board 7% budget decrease. This reduction is based on the projected \$400,000 budget shortfall in revenues. He was advised by our Constitutional Officers that they are willing to assist with the bottom line. By implementing this reduction, the Finance Director stated, hopefully, the county will not have to deplete its reserves.

The Chairman of the Camden County Board of Commissioners recommended the Commissioners oppose the annexation of parcels 8, 11, and 12 (Mush Bluff) and that he be allowed to voice County concerns to both the St. Marys Council and Planning Commission. (One of the parcels, identified by the Planning and Building Director, will need to be rezoned if annexed by St. Marys, which allows the county to object to the annexation.) The Chairman also recommended that Parcels C-G 13,14, and 15 be de-annexed due to the difficulties for St. Marys to service these areas. Failing this, the Chairman recommended the City of St. Marys adopt the Camden County Ordinances for RV parks.

The Director of Human Resources informed the County Commission about one employee request for change to the new personnel policy. The requested change was to add son and daughter-in-laws to the funeral leave policy. She also acknowledged making the Commissioner requested change to the leave bank. (Employees can donate leave to employees of equal or lesser rank.) The Chairman of the Camden County Board of Commissioners stated that while this policy did not affect the Constitutional Officers in anyway, he hoped they will accept the policy for uniformity throughout the County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Jack Sutton spoke about recreation in the Harrietts Bluff area. He stated Harrietts Bluff was the fastest growing community within the county and they needed a recreation park. He asked where the county stood on land acquisition, from Sea Island, for use as a park. He was briefed, by the Chairman, that while Sea Island has not said yes they were very positive about donating the county land for a park. The Chairman also briefed Mr. Sutton on the availability of funds for this project (\$150,000 available, \$125,000 from SPLOST 5, and \$25,000 for equipment). The Chairman further informed Mr. Sutton that the boat Ramp at Harrietts Bluff will be re-built within the next 90 – 120 days, depending on when the county received the permits needed to perform this work. Mr. Sutton was also informed that Harrietts Bluff Rd did not qualify for resurfacing by the DOT. (Missed qualifying by one point.) He was told that the DOT had re-valuated the road and it still fell one point short. The LARP program was explained to Mr. Sutton, who recommended the Camden County Board of Commissioners contact Mr. Harry Dixon for aid with resurfacing Harrietts Bluff Road.

Ms. Jorene Lavender asked when the White Oak Dock would be repaired. She was told that upon receipt of the insurance payment this would be taken care of.

Ms. Harriet Bount stated if it took 80 ft. to pave Escott Rd, then her family was against it. The Chairman informed her that in order for the State to pay part of the bill, it must be 80 ft. wide. He also told her that there had been no decision on the road split.

The Camden County Board of Commissioners had multiple residents from the Mush Bluff and Elliotts Plantation areas voice opposition to the RV Park Construction in Mush Bluff for the following reasons:

- Service Response (Noise, Fire, Police, Sanitation, Environmental)
- State Park is already there (Don't want to take business from State Park)
- Destroy the natural beauty of area
- Increased traffic
- Large amount of children in area
- Size of the area
- Security
- Traffic Control
- Depreciate the value of the Homes.

The Chairman recommended that all of the residents go to the next Planning Commission Meeting.

1. Approval of minutes for February 5, 2002:

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for February 5, 2002.

2. Reports:

Bill Shanahan reviewed the report on the status of appointments and the Board Calendars for February and March 2002.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Haddock Road Right of Way and Run Water Line:

Motioned by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Hase and voted unanimously to allow the City of Kingsland to run a water line along Haddock Road from the Brighton Lakes Subdivision, recently annexed to the City of Kingsland, via an Intergovernmental Agreement (drafted by the County Attorney).

b. Flea Hill Water System: Discussed during Work Session.

c. Mid-Year Budget Analysis:

Motioned by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted to implement an across the board 7% budget reduction, excluding the following departments: Forestry, Administrative Support, Special Appropriations, Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Brian-Lang Library, County Agents.

So Voted 3 -1 to Accept
Commissioner Becker – Yea
Commissioner Rhodes – Yea
Commissioner Hase – Yea
Commissioner Rainer - Nay

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Cadda Board of Directors Appointment:

Waiting to receive a letter from the RDC and CADDA Board requesting three (3) names (with attached qualifications) from the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

b. Coastal Georgia RDC Appointment:

Motioned by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Hase and voted unanimously to re-appoint Commissioner Rhodes to the Coastal Georgia RDC Board of Directors.

c. Camden County Forestry Appointment :

Moved to 03/05/02 Commissioners Meeting.

d. Resolution – Prayer in School:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase and voted unanimously to accept the follow resolution to support the reinstatement of prayer in public schools.

RESOLUTION URGING THAT PRAYER BE
RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, Article (1) states, “Congress shall make no law respecting and establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”, and

WHEREAS, our nation was founded upon many different religious beliefs and ideals of settlers from other countries; and

WHEREAS, the framers of our Constitution sought to protect everyone from one mandated state religion; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the States shall not compose school prayers, nor require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity; and

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on the FREEDOM OF RELIGION and was not founded on the FREEDOM FROM RELIGION; and

WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Commissioners believes that reinstatement of prayer in the public schools will move this nation toward those religious ideals and beliefs upon which this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Commissioners urges all cities and counties across the State of Georgia to join in an effort to reinstate prayer in the public schools by passing similar resolutions and uniting in a “grass roots” movement for that purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Camden County Board of Commissioners strongly supports House Joint Resolution 81 introduced in the 107th Congress, 1st Session on December 20, 2001.

ADOPTED IN LEGAL ASSEMBLY this 19th day of February, 2002.

e. Georgia Emergency Management Agency Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement:

Motioned by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to accept the Georgia Emergency Management Agency Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between Camden County Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

f. Tax Refund Request for Mr. James J. Bruce:

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Rainer and voted unanimously to refund Mr. Bruce \$292.40 for timber taxes and refund \$73.03 for taxes paid for property not owned by Mr. James J. Bruce.

g. Bid Evaluation, Purchase of new Steel Wheel Compactor for the Solid Waste Department

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Rainer and voted unanimously to approve accepting the lowest bid to meet all required specifications made by the Carlton Company. (\$227,000.00 plus \$155,000 buy back cost)

h. Second Reading of Ordinance to Amend Appendix B, Zoning Regulations of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia

Motioned by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to waive the second reading and adopt the Ordinance to Amend Appendix B, Zoning Regulations of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia.

The purpose of this ordinance is to place into the Zoning Regulations the requirements of the River Corridor Protection Act as adopted in the Camden County Comprehensive Plan and to continue to provide for the best use of property promoting the health, safety, morals, convenience, order, prosperity and general welfare of the people of Camden County.

i. Revised GIS Services Agreement with Coastal Georgia RDC

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Becker and voted unanimously to table this until the County Attorney has time to review this.

j. Planning Commission Business

Motioned by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Becker and voted unanimously to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendations as stated.

Approve a variance from the maximum building height from 35-feet to 42-feet (Section 503 C.(7) of the Camden county Zoning Ordinance) for a structure located on lots 7 & 8 of Admiral's Point Subdivision. (The property is identified as Parcels 70-H & 70-I on Zoning/Tax Map 132-A.)

Approve a rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Residential – 1 (R-1) of 4.7769 acres located on McVeigh Road. (The property is identified as Parcels 35, 35-A, 36, 36-A, & 37 on Zoning/Tax Map 111-A.)

Approve a rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential of 4.7 acres located on Highway 17 north of Old Red Bluff Road. (This property is identified as Parcel 11 on Zoning/Tax Map 75.)

Approve a rezoning from Agriculture-Residential (A-R) of 1.774 acres located south of Bailey Mill Road on Armstrong Creek. (This property is identified as Parcel 17 on Zoning/Tax Map 29.)

Approve a rezoning from Mobile Home Park (MHP) to Commercial-General (C-g) of 6.24 acres located on Price Road. (This property is identified as parcel 14 on Zoning/Tax Map 125.)

Approve a rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential (A-R) of 6 acres located off Burnt Fort Road. (This property is identified as a Portion of Parcel 3 on Zoning/Tax Map 8.)

Approve the final plat for a 3-lot development know as the Sarah D. Buie Subdivision consisting of approximately 14 acres. (This property is identified as a Portion of Parcel 3 on Zoning/Tax Map 8.)

k. Annexation Request Notification – Tax Map 132B, Parcels 8, 11, and 12 (Mush Bluff Area).

Motioned by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to oppose the annexation of the three parcels in question, request that St. Marys de-annex the parcel that is already a part of St. Marys, failing this request that St. Marys adopt the Camden County Ordinances regarding RV parks, and authorize the Chairman to make these points to the St. Marys Council.

l. Executive Session to Discuss Possible Personnel Litigation. (7:30 p.m.)

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously that this Board now enters 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 litigation (threatened and pending), Land Purchase, and Personnel Issue.

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 confirms that the actions of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

m. Reconvene: (8:10 p.m.)

Motion by Commissioner Becker, Seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to reconvene the meeting.

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

Chairman Berry announced that no action is necessary as a result of the executive session.

n. Recess (7:35 p.m.)

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to recess the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Berry
Chairman

Bill Shanahan
Assistant County Administrator