

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2003, 6:00 P.M.
WOODBINE, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
FOR VARIANCE REQUEST**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse in Woodbine, Georgia

Present: Commissioner Stephen L. Berry, Commissioner David L. Rainer, Commissioner-Elect Sanford S. Feller, Commissioner-Elect E. B. Herrin, Jr., Commissioner Preston Rhodes, County Attorney O. Brent Green, Interim County Administrator Penny Woodard.

Probate Judge Martin Gillette was present to swear in the Commissioners-Elect.

Commissioner Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Reverend Tommy Sikes, Burnt Fort Baptist Church, delivered the invocation.
Commissioner Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.
The roll call indicated all Commissioners present.

SWEARING IN: After the swearing in ceremony, a vote was taken to choose a Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

ELECTION:

Motion by Mr. Herrin and seconded by Mr. Rhodes and voted unanimously to elect David L. Rainer as Chairman.

Motion by Mr. Rhodes and seconded by Mr. Rainer to elect E.B. Herrin as Vice-Chairman.

So Voted 3 in favor, 1 abstention

David Rainer – Yea
Preston Rhodes – Yea
Stephen Berry – Yea
Sanford Feller – Abstain

The motion carried.

COUNTY ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT:

Motion by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Rhodes and voted unanimously to reappoint O. Brent Green as County Attorney.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Mr. Feller and seconded by Mr. Herrin and voted unanimously to add DNR renewal, item c., as request for approval for Dr. Stuart Stevens of the Environmental Health Department to apply for a second year of funding from the Coastal Georgia Incentive Grant program.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Rainer read aloud a Proclamation on behalf of the Camden County Board of Commissioners stating the board's appreciation of the Camden County High School Varsity Wildcats Football Team, and presented the team and the Wildcats' Coach Jeff Herron with a commemorative plaque expressing the same.

PUBLIC HEARING: (6:15 p.m.)

Mr. Rainer convened the Public Hearing regarding Brenda Haywood's request for a variance to the elevation level required in a flood zone based on Camden County Code Sec. 34-69. Ms. Haywood's property is located at 8120 Dover Bluff Road, Waverly, Ga. 31565.

Ms. Haywood based her request on the following:

- It would be a hardship to tear the new structure down and begin new construction.
- The existing structure is only one foot higher than the new structure.
- If flooding occurred, as a result of the low structure, it would be a personal loss and would not affect the County in any manner.
- The structure would not impose any danger to life or property as a result of flooding.

Ms. Haywood was building an addition, which included a garage, bath and laundry room, onto the existing house, which is more than 40 years old.

Mr. Rainer stated that the Board would be voting on this issue during the meeting and concluded the public hearing. (6:20 p.m.)

WORK SESSION: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. Daniel Delovie, 332 Osprey Circle, St. Marys, stated he was in favor of abandoning the SPLOST-funded renovation of the Old Courthouse and refunding the money back to the taxpayers as a tax credit. He was informed that the motion to do this failed at the December 17, 2002 Commission meeting. Mr. Delovie said he could come up with 400 or 500 voters in Commission Districts 4 and 5 who would be in favor of such an action, if legal.

1. Approval of Minutes for December 17, 2002 Commission Meeting and December 17, 2002 Solid Waste Authority Meeting:

Motion by Mr. Rhodes and seconded by Mr. Herrin to approve the minutes for both the December 17, 2002 Commission and Solid Waste Authority Meetings, as amended by the Clerk.

So Voted 4 in favor, 1 abstention

David Rainer – Yea

E. B. Herrin - Yea

Preston Rhodes – Yea

Stephen Berry – Yea

Sanford Feller – Abstain

The motion carried.

2. Reports:

Ms. Woodard reviewed the Board Calendar for January/February 2003.

3. OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Planning Commission Business

1. Variance Request, Brenda Haywood

Discussion ensued as to whether Ms. Haywood received misinformation from the Planning and Building Department telling her that she could proceed with the renovation on her property before requesting a variance. Ms. Haywood maintains that she was told she was exempt from the elevation level requirement because the existing structure that she was making the addition to was more than 40 years old. Planning and Building Department Director Frank Etheridge said that no one in his department recalls making such statements.

Mr. Etheridge said he would write a report to FEMA stating that the area in which Ms. Haywood's property is located has not flooded historically, that flooding to Ms. Haywood's home would not have any impact on the provision of public service, and that Ms. Haywood would be the only individual in her vicinity that would be affected dollar-wise should there be damage to her home.

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and voted unanimously to approve Brenda Haywood's request for a variance to the elevation level requirement for a flood zone based on Camden County Code Sec. 34-69. Ms. Haywood's property is located at 8120 Dover Bluff Road, Waverly, Ga. 31565.

2. Request to waive rezoning application fee

Motion by Mr. Herrin, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to waive the \$150.00 residential rezoning fee for Mr. Johnnie King.

Mr. King's property will change from the Agricultural-Residential (A-F) zoning district to the Multi-Family Residential (R-2) zoning district. Mr. King desires building a new home on his property located at 59 Old Granger Circle and identified as Parcel 18 on Tax/Zoning Map 78E.

b. Rebate of Commission Salary Increase

Commissioner Berry stated that waiving the acceptance of a Commissioners Cost of Living Increase for 2003 would be symbolic, as the County is experiencing economic difficulties, has a tight county government budget and a wage freeze in place for county employees. Mr. Berry said it would be unfair for the Commissioners to receive a wage increase, when the county employees did not.

Motion by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to waive receiving the Commissioners' Cost of Living Increase.

c. DNR Grant Renewal

Motion by Mr. Herrin, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve Camden County Environmental Health Department Director Dr. Stuart Stevens' request to apply for a second year of funding from the Coastal Georgia Incentive Grant Program.

The Coastal Georgia Incentive Grant Program awards funding for the costs associated with the counting of freshwater wells, monitoring the amount of water being drawn out of the aquifer, and the random sampling of water quality. Dr. Stevens said the grant will fund the cost of hiring a technician who will perform these duties.

5. Adjournment (6:40 p.m.)

Motion by Mr. Feller, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer
Chairman

Denise Etheridge
Executive Secretary/County Clerk