

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005 6:00 PM
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Historic Camden County Courthouse, Woodbine, Georgia.

Present: Chairman David L. Rainer; Vice-Chairman E.B. Herrin, Jr.; Commissioner Preston Rhodes; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Sanford S. Feller; Charles Akridge and County Attorney Brent Green.

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

Commissioner Rhodes delivered the invocation.

Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Chairman David Rainer proposed that under New Business the following be added:

- 11 J. Consideration of a right-of-way of Cord Lane.
- 11K. Adopt Six Month Moratorium for Adult Entertainment Permits
- 11L. Approve to Amend the Total Length of Springhill Road

Chairman Rainer also proposed deleting items:

- 11G. Consideration of Appointment of Gerald Crummey to the Planning Commission for District 5
- 11I. Consideration of Surplus Property: 1987 Dump Truck and 1994 Dump Truck.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to add New Business items 11J, 11K and 11L and to delete New Business agenda items 11G and 11I. The vote was unanimous to amend the agenda to add items 11J, 11K and 11L and to delete items 11G and 11I.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin and voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the minutes of January 4, 2005. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of January 4, 2005.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The January/February 2005 calendar was read.

B. County Manager's Report

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that Judge Harvey Fry has opted to close the Magistrate Court Annex Building in Kingsland. He stated that Judge Fry did not feel that there was enough activity to warrant that facility being manned. The Magistrate Court Annex Building in Kingsland will close as of 12:00 p.m. (noon) on January 31, 2005.

Mr. Akridge stated that there is a public forum meeting for Gateway Community Service Area regarding mental health, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases on January 20, 2005 at the Camden County High School cafeteria from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Akridge stated that all the commissioners should have received the budget calendars in their packets. He stated that the departmental budgets will be due to him on February 28, 2005 and the first Budget Review Meeting will be on March 10, 2005.

Mr. Akridge informed the Board of Commissioners that he would be in Atlanta from January 19-21, 2005 at a Community Development Block Grant Workshop for the Ralph Bunche Center. He asked the Board of Commissioners for permission to pursue a Community Development Block Grant in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to authorize County Manager Charles Akridge to pursue the Community Development Block Grant for the Ralph Bunche Center up to \$500,000.00. The vote was unanimous to authorize County Manager Charles Akridge to pursue the Community Development Block Grant for the Ralph Bunche Center up to \$500,000.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

Charles Akridge turned the floor over to Chief Danny Daniels for presentations.

Chief Danny Daniels addressed the Board of Commissioners and stated that Camden County Fire & Rescue along with the Savannah Fire Department have been asked by GEMA to host one of the two GSAR trucks for coastal Georgia. He asked permission on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to initiate the necessary paperwork for the Chairman's signature regarding this program.

Chairman Rainer stated he would entertain a motion to authorize that the Board of Commissioners accept this equipment. Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to accept the GSAR truck for coastal Georgia.

Commissioner Feller asked exactly what the county would be receiving.

Chief Daniels stated that Camden County would receive one (1) tractor trailer rig.

Commissioner Feller stated that this would be approximately \$800,000.00 worth of equipment which Camden County would be responsible for.

Chief Daniels stated that it would be half of that. He stated that the County would get half of the \$800,000.00

Commissioner Feller made a motion to appoint an appropriate representative who will come in with a certified copy of the inventory every 30 days to maintain the records and keep tight control which is delivered to the County Manager's Office every thirty (30) days that the inventory is still there.

Chief Daniels told Commissioner Feller that they would be more than happy to do that for the Board.

Commissioner Feller amended the motion to accept the GSAR truck for coastal Georgia and for a representative from Fire & Rescue to prepare an equipment inventory in a timely manner and give it to the County Manager, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin. The motion was unanimous to accept the GSAR truck for coastal Georgia and for a representative from Fire & Rescue to prepare an equipment inventory in a timely manner and give it to the County Manager.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Daniels presented the following awards for Fire & Rescue:

Rookie of the Year – Danny Johnston
Firefighter of the Year – Keith Brown
Fire Officer of the Year – Dennis Gailey

Chairman Rainer commended each of these individuals and stated that the Board appreciated the tremendous service that they provide to Camden County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Crystal Peeples:

Ms. Peeples spoke regarding trailer issues off of Clarks Bluff Road. She stated that this area is beginning to look like a junk yard. There are trailers that are abandoned, trailers with windows out; there are washing machines in the yard, huge piles of wood and a place that looks like a junk yard for cars.

Marilyn Horne:

Ms. Horne also spoke regarding the situation off of Clarks Bluff Road. She stated that the area is becoming an eye sore and would like recourse taken against the home owners to clean up their property. She stated that because of a few people who do not care, the area is beginning to look like a slum. She asked the Board to try to make the current Ordinance more powerful so people are forced to keep their properties clean and respectable.

Carlos Jones:

Mr. Jones addressed the Board regarding Item 11D regarding the zoning request of Carlos and Sherrill West. He stated that this rezoning issue came before the Planning Commission on December 29, 2005 and the Board voted not to rezone this property. He stated that he was opposed to this rezoning and wanted the Board of Commissioners to uphold the Planning Commissions recommendation not to rezone this property. He wants to keep the neighborhood as residential. Mr. Jones presented Chairman Rainer with a petition signed by the residents of this area. At this time, Mr. Jones asked residents of this area who are opposed to the rezoning and were in attendance to stand before the Commissioners. Those in attendance were Ron Moore, Carlos Jones, Jr., Robert Jones, Gary Davis, and Pat Chizzy.

Carlos Jones, Jr.:

Mr. Jones addressed the Board regarding Item 11D as well. He stated that he is opposed to the rezoning of this property. He stated that this business would bring more traffic through this area. He stated that there are already facilities for people to store their boats. He stated that this is a neighborhood of approximately 17 people and all 17 residents are opposed to this business coming into the neighborhood. He stated that this business would not make a presentable entrance into this neighborhood and would decrease the property values.

Ron Moore:

Mr. Moore stated that he lives at the dead end of Harrietts Bluff Road and White Oak Place where this property is trying to be rezoned. He stated that he is opposed to this rezoning and does not want this business to come into their neighborhood. He stated that this neighborhood contains abundant wildlife and is not a place for this business. He stated that the business would be an eyesore coming into this neighborhood as well as it could create environmental problems for the creek which runs into Crooked River.

Dr. Dale Shaw:

Dr. Shaw stated that he is the publisher for the South Georgia Journal newspaper and he would like his newspaper to be considered as a second legal organ by Camden County to publish its legal notices, public hearings, etc.

Mike Henderson:

Mr. Henderson addressed the Board regarding Item D under New Business. He stated that he lives in the Harrietts Bluff area and one of his properties is a commercial property which he purchased as commercial. He stated that he did not pursue a residential piece of property at a lower rate and then ask the Board for a rezoning to make it convenient for him or for financial investment. He stated that there are plenty of commercial properties for sale in Camden County, including a commercial park in the Harrietts Bluff area.

Howard Davis:

Mr. Davis addressed the Board regarding the Curbside Collection Ordinance. He stated that he did not feel that property owners should be responsible for the bills of their rental properties.

Vice-Chairman E. B. Herrin:

Vice-Chairman Herrin addressed the Board regarding his statement on Tuesday, January 4, 2005. He stated he wished to retract the statement that he made regarding always approving another commissioner's nomination for the Planning Commission. Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that after consideration, he would state for the record that he would not give a commissioner a blanket stamp to certify any person at his recommendation that he appoints to any Board. He stated that there are five or six people in this county that he would not vote for. He stated that his statement on January 4, 2005 was made in haste during a heated debate regarding Commissioner Rhodes' nomination to the Planning Commission. Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that he did not want the commissioners to think that they would have his vote at any time because he would not vote for five or six people should they be nominated.

This concluded Public Comments.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Appendix A, Subdivision Regulations of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia, Section 307, Fire Hydrant requirements.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to waive the second reading and adopt an Ordinance to Amend Appendix A, Subdivision Regulations

of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia, Section 307, Fire Hydrant requirements. The motion was unanimous to waive the second reading and adopt an Ordinance to Amend Appendix A, Subdivision Regulations of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia, Section 307, Fire Hydrant requirements.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance to establish Curbside Collection Ordinance to Article 1 of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to table this item based on studying the matter further to look at billing the person who actually gets the service. The motion was unanimous to table this item based on studying the matter further to look at billing the person who actually gets the service.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Second Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia Appendix B – Zoning Ordinances – Section 1001 Appointment of Planning Commission Members and Term of Office.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to waive the second reading and adopt the Ordinance as Amended from the meeting on January 4, 2005 to Amend Appendix A, Subdivision Regulations of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia, Section 307 Fire Hydrant requirements.

Commissioner Feller stated that it is his understanding that this is based upon an individual planning board member being appointed by a commissioner and then the commission basically consents. He stated that regarding the last Planning Commission nominee, he wanted to make it clear that he was concerned about the appearances and nothing more. He stated that he agreed with Mr. Herrin that there are a few people that you could not bring yourself to vote for, but generally speaking we should follow the recommendations of the individual commissioner who is making the appointment.

So voted 4-1

**Chairman Rainer – yea
Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea
Commissioner Rhodes – yea
Commissioner Berry – nay
Commissioner Feller – yea**

The motion carried.

- D. Carlos & Sherrill West (#R032-04) A rezoning from Agriculture-Residential (A-R) to Commercial-General (C-G) of 3.2 acres located at the intersection of Harrietts Bluff Road and White Oak Place. The property is identified as lots 1 & 2, Block “B” of zoning/tax map 118A.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to deny the rezoning request of Carlos & Sherrill West. The motion was unanimous to deny the rezoning of Carlos & Sherrill West.

The motion carried unanimously.

- E. Virginia Jacobs (#R-034-04) A rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential (A-R) and Residential-1 (R-1) of 5 acres located at 950 Mush Bluff Road and is identified as parcel 67 on zoning/tax map 132A.**

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to approve Virginia Jacobs’ request for a rezoning from A-F to A-R and R-1 of 5 acres located at 950 Mush Bluff Road. The vote was unanimous to approve Virginia Jacobs’ request for a rezoning from A-F to A-R and R-1 of 5 acres located at 950 Mush Bluff Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Consideration of Tax Release Applications

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the tax release applications. The motion was unanimous to approve the tax release applications of:

- American Legion Post 511, Digest Year 1996, Bill No. 261
- American Legion Post 511, Digest Year 1997, Bill No. 271
- American Legion Post 511, Digest Year 1999, Bill No. 281
- American Legion Post 511, Digest Year 2000, Bill No. 283
- American Legion Post 511, Digest Year 2001, Bill No. 302
- Frances L. and Vincent T. Frazier, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 6529
- Shawn D. and Chantelle E. Hardey, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 8183
- Citicorp Del-Lease, Inc. c/o Operations Tax Department, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 3699
- Citicorp Del-Lease, Inc. c/o Operations Tax Department, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 3698
- Barry W. and Mistie M. Daniels, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 4713
- Abundant Life Harvest Center Ministries, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 28

The motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration of Appointment of Gerald Crummey to the Planning Commission for District 5.

This agenda item was removed in Agenda Amendments.

H. Mid Year Budget Adjustments 2004-2005.

1. Additional compensation for EMS/Fire employees of Camden County.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the Mid Year Budget Adjustment for the additional compensation for EMS/Fire employees of Camden County. The vote was unanimous to approve the Mid Year Budget Adjustment for the additional compensation for EMS/Fire employees of Camden County.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Reappropriate funds for a contract to perform aerial photography to update the entire County digest records.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to reappropriate funds for a contract to perform aerial photography to update the entire County digest records. The vote was unanimous to reappropriate funds for a contract to perform aerial photography to update the entire County digest records.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Reappropriate funds to assist the Georgia State Patrol in acquiring five (5) new radar units.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to reappropriate funds to assist the Georgia State Patrol in acquiring five (5) new radar units. The vote was unanimous to reappropriate funds to assist the Georgia State Patrol in acquiring five (5) new radar units.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Reappropriate funds to make the annual payments for the lease purchase of a motor grader, front end loader and excavator.
5. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to reappropriate funds to make the annual payments for the lease purchase of a motor grader, front end loader and excavator. The vote was unanimous to

reappropriate funds to make the annual payments for the lease purchase of a motor grader, front end loader and excavator.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Funding of a new position for cleaning the courthouse.

Chairman Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to fund a new position for cleaning the courthouse.

So voted 4-1

Chairman Rainer – yea
Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea
Commissioner Rhodes – yea
Commissioner Berry – nay
Commissioner Feller – yea

7. Increase the County Manager’s annual salary for a successful evaluation.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to increase the County Manager’s annual salary for a successful evaluation.

So voted 4-1

Chairman Rainer – yea
Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea
Commissioner Rhodes – yea
Commissioner Berry – nay
Commissioner Feller – yea

8. Funding of a 3% COLA effective January 1, 2005 for the employees of Camden County.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin for the funding of a 3% COLA for the employees of Camden County.

So voted 4-1

Chairman Rainer – yea
Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea
Commissioner Rhodes – yea
Commissioner Berry – nay
Commissioner Feller – yea

I. Consideration of Surplus Property: 1987 Dump Truck and 1994 Dump Truck

This item was removed from the agenda during Agenda Amendments.

J. Consideration of a right-of-way of Cord Lane.

Chairman Rainer made a motion to accept the right-of-way deed for Cord Lane, seconded by Commissioner Feller. The motion was unanimous to accept the right-of-way deed for Cord Lane.

The motion carried unanimously.

K. Adopt Six Month Moratorium for Adult Entertainment Permits

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to establish a six month moratorium for Adult Entertainment Permits. The vote was unanimous to establish a six month moratorium for Adult Entertainment Permits.

The motion carried unanimously.

L. Approve to Amend the Total Length of Springhill Road

Chairman Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to amend the total length of Springhill Road from 2.8 miles to 5.05 miles. The vote was unanimous to amend the total length of Springhill Road from 2.8 miles to 5.05 miles.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Feller to adjourn the January 18, 2005 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer
Chairman

Diana Smith
Executive Assistant/Clerk