

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2005 6:00 PM
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 19, 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.

Reverend Chris Ogden of Woodbine Church of God delivered the invocation.

Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Bob Noble of the Joint Development Authority – Check Presentation

Bob Noble and John McDeal presented the Board a check in the amount of \$17,526.38 on behalf of the JDA. Amazon Orchids has purchased a piece of property in the Industrial Park.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Chairman Rainer proposed the following agenda amendments:

- Item 12P. Change wording to state Consideration of Bid Award for Courthouse Drainage;
- Remove Items 12M and 12N from Agenda; and
- Add Item 12Q as Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Section 70-6, No Wake Zones Specified, of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to make the changes proposed by Chairman Rainer to the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin, and voted unanimously that this Board enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4 at 6:05 p.m., and pursuant to the advice by the County Attorney, for the purpose of discussing personnel.

That upon 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 Commissioner's Meeting Room that this Board is back in session.

That upon coming back into open session that 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. § 50-15-4, and that this body confirm the acts of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

RECONVENE:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and unanimously voted to reconvene the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Chairman Rainer signed the affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4(b). The original copy of the affidavit immediately follows these minutes and a copy is on file in the Executive Assistant's office.

Chairman Rainer stated no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Chairman Rainer did make a statement stating that the Board of Commissioners went into Executive Session and discussed personnel in the matter of former Fire Chief Danny Daniels. He stated that they also listened to District Attorney Steven Kelly regarding pending litigation. Chairman Rainer then stated that after discussing the matter, that at the present time this issue is in the hands of the County Manager and that the demotion stands at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the minutes of April 5, 2005.

The motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 5, 2005.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The April/May 2005 calendar was read.

B. County Manager's Report

County Manager Charles Akridge reported on the following:

- The next Community Action Group meeting will be held on April 21, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Marys Police Station.
- The Board of Commissioners will have a Special Called Meeting on May 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. for a presentation on water and sewer issues in conjunction with the Joint Development Authority.
- After three-quarters (3/4) of the county's budget year, expenditures are 3.6% under with the standard being 75%, we are at 71.4% and the revenues are 6.5% over projections.
- Presented Harvey Amerson for an update on the SPLOST capital building projects:
 - Mr. Amerson stated:
 - Library project - Touch-up and cleaning phase and they are expecting to be able to do some moving on April 20, 2005.
 - Facilities Management Complex – Water and Sewer is in, move in should start on April 21, 2005, Seaboard Construction is donating the paving of the parking lot.
 - Records Retention – About 98% complete, hanging rafters next week on the roof.
 - Fire Station 14 Classrooms – Painting is underway, touch-up on electrical and they are ready to hang ceilings.
 - Court Services Building - Complete.
 - Historic Courthouse – Differences in Mr. Amerson's readings and architect's readings on the size of the plat, so overlays are being sent which are expected tomorrow and then should be on line with the project.
- Georgia DOT sent correspondence indicating that Greenville Road from the beginning of Springhill Church Road to Temple Church Road will be resurfaced under the 2005 LARP list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Walt Yourstone – Destination Camden

Discussed the relocation of the St. Marys Airport. Destination Camden presented a Resolution at the St. Marys City Council meeting recommending the relocation of the St. Marys Airport and would provide the Board of Commissioners with a copy of the Resolution.

Don O’Neal

Mr. O’Neal addressed County Manager Charles Akridge as an employee of Fire & Rescue. He stated that he does not believe anyone has come to talk to the employees of the Fire & Rescue Department to find out their feelings on the issue of Danny Daniels’ demotion. He stated that he has worked with Mr. Daniels since 1980 and under his leadership the Fire and EMS System is second to none in Georgia. He stated that he believes Danny Daniels has a vision that will carry the department and the county into the future. He asked Mr. Akridge to reconsider reinstating Danny Daniels as Chief of Fire & Rescue.

Ron Williams

Mr. Williams stated that he is an employee with Camden County Fire & Rescue. He stated that the glue that binds the brothers and sisters of the fire service starts with the Chief. He stated he has been a firefighter since 1974 and that he has had good chiefs, bad chiefs and he has had one great chief. He stated that it is his opinion that Danny Daniels is the glue that binds the Camden County Fire Department. He asked for the reinstatement of Danny Daniels to Chief.

Carl Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that he is a Glynn County Commissioner. He stated that he is a former fire chief of Glynn County. He stated that under the direction of Danny Daniels the Camden County Fire & Rescue Department started in 1969 with nothing to a department that is highly regarded in the State of Georgia with a Class 4 ISO Rating. This rating which was achieved by Mr. Daniels and the department saves the citizens of Camden County a great deal of money and provides them with outstanding service. Mr. Johnson stated that he has worked with Danny Daniels on many issues while he was fire chief and on the EMS Council. Mr. Johnson asked Charles Akridge to consider reinstating Danny Daniels to Chief of Camden County Fire & Rescue. He stated that he is a good chief and works hard for the citizens of the county and that he may have made a mistake, but does not believe that one mistake should take over the many years of service to Camden County. He asked for the manager to forgive and go on, as everyone makes mistakes.

Dennis Gailey

Mr. Gailey is an employee of Camden County Fire & Rescue. He stated that Danny Daniels is an icon of the community and suffers the most of any type of remarks made against him. He stated that the grants are very difficult to deal with and there are

many rules and regulations to follow. He stated that he feels Mr. Daniels did the best he could with the people he had to do it with. He did everything for the best of the county to maximize the money that the county gives him and the grants received to make the best fire department in the county. Mr. Gailey stated that Danny Daniels is the person who is going to take the fire department into the future and who can manage the department the way it needs to be managed. He asked for an opportunity for Mr. Daniels to receive the benefit of the doubt and be reinstated as Chief.

Grant Porter

Mr. Porter is an employee of Camden County Fire & Rescue. He asked Mr. Akridge to reconsider Mr. Daniels demotion and reinstate him as Chief. He stated that for the size of Camden County, the Fire & Rescue Department has an incredible system in terms of training, equipment and support. He stated that Mr. Daniels has a unique ability to put together a good plan for the county and has the support of the employees. He stated that it is rare to have such a leader that has the support of the employees.

Gene Murray

Mr. Murray is an employee of Camden County Fire & Rescue. He stated that he would like for Danny Daniels to come back as Chief. He addressed County Manager Charles Akridge and said that he understands that Danny Daniels made mistakes, but that he cannot say that he has never made any mistakes nor can anyone on the Board say that. He asked why the commission cannot step in and make a decision on this matter rather than leave it with the County Manager. He stated that it is his understanding that some or all of the commissioner had, on some level, a part in his demotion. He stated that he is the best boss he has ever had. He stated that morale is at an all time low due to the demotion of Danny Daniels.

Chairman Rainer interjected and stated that this matter has been placed in hands outside of the control of the commission. He stated that the process must decide this issue. He stated that everyone has to be held accountable and we have to get resolution outside of the commission from the U.S. and District Attorneys before making a final decision.

Mr. Murray asked if it was known about how long it was going to take the U.S. and District Attorney to make a decision.

Chairman Rainer stated that he too has asked this question. He stated that is out of the control of the commissioners but they have encouraged them to bring resolution to it as soon as possible.

Vice-Chairman Herrin

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a statement to the audience. He stated that he had and still has a lot of faith in Danny Daniels. He stated that he was on board when Mr. Daniels was hired. Mr. Herrin stated that he agreed with the firefighters and paramedics that Danny Daniels built a department second to none and would put them up against any in the State of Georgia. He stated that Mr. Daniels did this over years of time and has

done an excellent job. Mr. Herrin stated that he believes that Mr. Daniels' intentions have always been for the betterment of Camden County Fire & Rescue and its citizens. He stated that in the open meetings he stood up and stated that he was going after these grants and that every commissioner, the county manager, county attorney and finance director were apprized of the grants. He said that when the grants came in, Danny Daniels addressed the Board and told them when grants were awarded to Camden County in front of all five commissioners, the county attorney, county manager and finance director. He stated that he did not know the rules and regulations of the grants and did not have the knowledge to tell him what to do or where to go with the grants. It is his belief that when a man has done as much for the county as Danny Daniels has done, he cannot hold a first offense against him. Mr. Herrin stated that if he did not know all the facts, then he is no different from us, he is human.

Bob Johnson

Mr. Johnson is an employee of Camden County Fire & Rescue. He asked that when the commissioners hear something from the attorneys, if they could have a meeting with fire department so they do not have to wait until the next commissioners meeting.

Chairman Rainer stated that when resolution comes it will be given to the fire department instantaneously.

Dean Groover

Mr. Groover is an employee of Camden County Fire & Rescue. He asked to have Danny Daniels put back as Chief.

THIS CONCLUDED PUBLIC COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Appropriations for Courthouse Security

Captain Chuck Byerly addressed the Board regarding the need for additional courthouse security. He stated that right now the courthouse is 100% vulnerable. He presented the Board with three proposals.

Commissioner Berry asked that a fourth proposal be prepared with 24 hour security but without 24 hour staffing.

The Board of Commissioners asked Mr. Byerly what the courthouse needs on an "emergency basis" until the budget year begins on July 1, 2005.

Captain Byerly stated that on an emergency basis he would ask for all the equipment, which would be a one time expenditure, and 3-4 officers. He stated that the equipment itself is no good without the people to operate it and the people to work it are no good without the equipment. He stated that the equipment would cost approximately \$76,935.00. After some discussion, Mr. Byerly stated that they could put in the

equipment and provide three additional officers for the courthouse through June 30, 2005 for no more than \$130,000.00.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to provide \$130,000.00 to the Sheriff's Office to purchase the necessary equipment as outlined in the proposals and provide three additional officers to the courthouse for security.

The motion carried unanimously to provide \$130,000.00 to the Sheriff's Office to purchase the necessary equipment as outlined in the proposals and provide three additional officers to the courthouse for security.

Captain Byerly also requested that they would like for the Sheriff's Office to be responsible for all courthouse work orders and maintenance that is related to the courthouse.

The Board agreed to allow the Sheriff's Office to be responsible for any and all work orders and maintenance that is related to the courthouse.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Agreement Between Camden County and the Humane Society of Camden County.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to approve the Agreement between Camden County and the Humane Society of Camden County.

The motion carried unanimously to approve the Agreement between Camden County and the Humane Society of Camden County.

B. Nomination of two people to serve on the Camden County Board of Forestry.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to nominate Walter Merck and Charles Akridge to serve on the Camden County Board of Forestry.

The motion carried unanimously to nominate Walter Merck and Charles Akridge to serve on the Camden County Board of Forestry.

C. Consideration of Two Budget Amendment Resolutions.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve two Budget Amendment Resolutions.

The motion carried unanimously to approve two Budget Amendment Resolutions.

D. Consideration of Quit Claim Deed between Coastal Bank of Georgia and Camden County Board of Commissions for Springhill Circle.

Chairman Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to accept the quit claim deed between Coastal Bank of Georgia and Camden County Board of Commissioners for Springhill Circle.

The motion carried unanimously to accept the quit claim deed for Springhill Circle.

E. Consideration of Tax Release Applications.

Chairman Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve the following Tax Release Applications:

- William H. Spires, III, Digest Year 2003, Bill No. 879 - \$103.14
- William H. Spires, III, Digest Year 2004, Bill No.18788 - \$95.65
- Soncel Homes, Inc., Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 18566 - \$548.58
- Soncel Homes, Inc., Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 18533 - \$68.32

The motion carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned Tax Release Applications.

F. Consideration of request by the City of St. Marys to remove donated property from the tax rolls.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to remove donated property to the City of St. Marys from the tax rolls.

The motion carried unanimously to remove donated property to the City of St. Marys from the tax rolls.

G. Consideration of Repayment of FEMA Grants.

Chairman Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry to table the consideration of repayment of FEMA grants.

The motion carried unanimously to table the consideration of repayment of FEMA grants.

H. Nomination of Alternate on Appeals Board.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to table the nomination of an alternate to the Appeals Board.

The motion carried unanimously to table the nomination of an alternate to the Appeals Board.

I. Consideration of Relief for Fat Boys Foods, Inc. for \$230.81 in interest, penalties and collection costs.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to waive the interest, penalties and collections costs in the amount of \$230.81 for Fat Boys Foods, Inc.

The motion carried unanimously to waive the interest, penalties and collections costs in the amount of \$230.81 for Fat Boys Foods, Inc.

J. Consideration of Request by Dennis Patterson for Rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential (A-R) of 15.04 acres located on Vickie Lane south of Al Gay Road. The property is identified as a portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 108.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve the request of Dennis Patterson for rezoning from A-F to A-R of 15.04 acres located on Vickie Lane south of Al Gay Road, portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 108.

The vote was unanimous to appoint Michael Bowick to approve the rezoning request of Dennis Patterson from A-F to A-R of 15.04 acres located on Vickie Lane south of Al Gay Road, portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 108.

K. Consideration of request by George R. Pinkney (#R-008-005) for rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry to Residential-2 (R-2) of 3.54 acres located on Martin Luther King Blvd. The property is identified as parcel 3, Block 3 on zoning/tax map 82C.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the request of George R. Pinkney for rezoning from A-F to R-2 of 3.54 acres on Martin Luther King Blvd., parcel 3, block 3 on zoning/tax map 82C.

The vote was unanimous to approve the request of George R. Pinkney for rezoning from A-F to R-2 of 3.54 acres on Martin Luther King Blvd., parcel 3, block 3 on zoning/tax map 82C.

L. Consideration of request by Alvin C. Dickey (#R-009-05) for rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential (A-R) of 6 acres located on Crooked River south of Harrietts Bluff Road. The property is identified as a portion of parcel 9 on zoning/tax map 106.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve the request of Alvin C. Dickey for rezoning of 6 acres located on Crooked River south of Harrietts Bluff Road, portion of parcel 9, zoning/tax map 106.

The vote was unanimous to approve the request of Alvin C. Dickey for rezoning of 6 acres located on Crooked River south of Harrietts Bluff Road, portion of parcel 9, zoning/tax map 106.

- M. Consideration of request of Patterson Park, Phase II – Privett-Bennett & Associates as agent for Dennis Patterson (#S-003-05) of preliminary plat approval for 5 lots located on Vicki Lane. The property is identified as a portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 108.**

Removed from Agenda during Agenda Amendments.

- N. Consideration of Tidewater Plantations, Inc. – P&A Engineering, as agent for Tidewater Plantations, Inc. (#S-004-05) of an application for the first phase of a Planned Unit Development on Laurel Island. The plat is for 48 single family units. The property is identified as a portion of parcel 2 on zoning/tax map 120.**

Removed from Agenda during Agenda Amendments.

- O. Sheffield West, Phase II – Privett-Bennett & Associates, as agent for Joseph T. Stover (#OO5-05 F) for final plat approval for 10 lots in the A-R zoning district. The property is located west of Mason’s Court and is identified as a portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 82.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the final plat for 10 lots in the A-R zoning district, west of Mason’s Court, identified as a portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 82.

The vote was unanimous to approve the final plat for 10 lots in the A-R zoning district, west of Mason’s Court, identified as a portion of parcel 6 on zoning/tax map 82.

- P. Consideration of Bid Award for Courthouse Drainage.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to award the bid for courthouse drainage to RJ’s Underground Utilities in the amount of \$10,700.00.

The vote was unanimous to award the bid for courthouse drainage to RJ’s Underground Utilities in the amount of \$10,700.00.

- Q. Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Section 70-6, No Wake Zones Specified, of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to waive the second reading and adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 70-6, No Wake Zones Specified, of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia.

The vote was unanimous to waive the second reading and adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 70-6, No Wake Zones Specified, of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Herrin, seconded by Commissioner Feller to adjourn the April 19, 2005 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chairman

Diana Smith, Executive Assistant/Clerk