

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2010, 6:00 PM**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.**

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

Pastor Pettus delivered the invocation.

Chair Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present: Chair David L. Rainer; Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi Zell; Commissioner Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Charlene Sears; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney Brent Green, and County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.**

**Agenda Amendments:**

Removal of Public Hearing -

Introduction of Regular Agenda Items 6 - 9 by John Peterson and receive public comments regarding these items.

Addition under Presentation -

Presentation of Petition & Resolution on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Woodbine by City of Woodbine Councilman Hank Higginbotham

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the agenda amendments as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda:**

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adopt the agenda as amended.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Approval of Minutes**

- February 16, 2010 Work Session & Regular Meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the February 16, 2010 Work Session & Regular Meeting minutes.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Presentations**

- Proclamation recognizing "Census Week"

Commissioner Zell read the Proclamation recognizing "Census Week" and presented the Proclamation to Adam Kabasakalian, Chair of Camden County's Complete County Committee.

- Public / Private Partnership - Design Build Lease , Detention Facility

Fred Freyer, Property Systems Land Corporation presented the Board an overview of the Design Build Lease regarding Camden County's Detention Center. He explained the concept in detail to the Board and then opened the floor to questions from the Board.

John Ingram, team member, gave the Board an overview of the architectural aspect and explained his background in this field of work. He gave the board examples of other counties who have had success with this partnership and urged the board that this is a unique time to be in the construction industry.

Chair Rainer state that although he appreciates the solution for a long range plan the decision to add on to the existing jail has already taken place. He requested that they meet with staff and the issue can be further discussed at a later date.

- Presentation of Petition & Resolution on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Woodbine

City of Woodbine Councilman Hank Higginbotham presented the Board with a Petition & Resolution on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Woodbine. Councilman Higginbotham stated that there are 453 signatures on the petition and he urged the Board to reconsider the decision to go forward with the addition to the existing Jail at this time.

## **Public Comments**

Sheriff Tommy Gregory, Woodbine

Sheriff Gregory stated that he appreciated Councilman Higginbotham's comments and stated that he had not had the chance to sit down with Councilman Higginbotham. He explained that the Georgia Sheriff's Association is the only entity who can certify a jail He stated that he explored moving prisoners to be housed out of Camden County but there is a considerable cost involved with moving and housing prisoners outside the County. He explained that he has met with judge Amanda Williams and she supports the addition to the current Detention Facility. Sheriff Gregory stated that he understands that it is an issue but he is constitutionally bound to do something.

Royal Weaver, St. Marys

Mr. Weaver stated expressed his disappointment with the Board's decision to get rid of Impact Fees. He stated that he was also disappointed in the issue being brought before the Planning Commission where no recommendation could be rendered.

## **Regular Agenda**

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Tax Release Applications.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Tax Release Applications.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

2. Appointment of James W. Boone to the Bryan Lang Historical Archives Board of Directors.

Commissioner Keene made motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to appoint James W. Boone to the Bryan Lang Historical Archives Board of Directors.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

3. Joint Resolution in support of the United States Coast Guard.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, Commissioner Sears to approve the Joint Resolution in support of the United States Coast Guard.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

4. Request(s) for relief regarding ad valorem taxes.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to deny the request for relief regarding ad valorem taxes for parcel 160C-812.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to deny the request for relief regarding ad valorem taxes for parcel 074B-025.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to deny the request for relief regarding ad valorem taxes for parcel 125F-023A.

**So voted:**

Chair Rainer - Yes

Vice-Chair Zell - Yes

Commissioner Keene - No

Commissioner Sears - Yes

Commissioner Berry - Yes

***The motion carried 4-1.***

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by commissioner Berry to deny the request for relief regarding ad valorem taxes for parcel 084-051.

John Bird Daniel, St. Simons Island

Mr. Daniel stated that it came to his attention this year that his assessment was considerably higher than similar properties surrounding him. He explained that he contacted the Office of the Tax Assessor and was told that his property was increased due to a recent improvement on his land. He stated that there have been no improvements and his property is the same. He stated that he then contacted Mr. Kabasakalian.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry to withdraw the previous motion.

***The motion carried.***

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to table this item and send it back to the County Administrator Advisory Committee for Tax Concerns for further analysis.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

5. Approval of application for Local Law Enforcement & Fire Services Grant Program.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the application for Local Law Enforcement & Fire Services Grant Program.

## **Public Hearing**

*The Public Hearing was removed during Agenda Amendments.*

6. Second Reading and Adoption of Amendments to the Unified Development Code of Camden County, Georgia Master Land Use Plan - 1 - Sections 1.1 - 1.4 and Revised Draft of the Future Land Use Map.
7. Second Reading and Adoption of Amendments to the Unified Development Code of Camden County, Georgia Master Land Use Plan - 2 - Sections 2.1 - 2.6.

8. Second Reading and Adoption of Amendments to the Unified Development Code of Camden County, Georgia Master Land Use Plan - 3 Section 3.1.
9. Second Reading and Adoption of Amendments to the Unified Development Code of Camden County, Georgia Master Land Use Plan - 4 - Sections 4.1 - 4.3.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded Commissioner Keene to waive the second reading and adopt items 6 - 8, Amendments to the Unified Development Code of Camden County, Georgia, Master Land Use Plan 1 - Sections 1.1 - 1.4 and Revised Draft of the Future Land Use Map; 2 - Sections 2.1 - 2.6; 3 - Section 3.1; 4 - Sections 4.1 - 4.3.

***The motion carried unanimously.***  
**Reports**

- Calendar - February / March

Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop read the calendars for March & April 2010.

- County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Steve Howard reported the following:

- Mr. Howard announced that National County Government Month will be held during the month of April and many events will be planned. He asked the Board for their approval to move forward with a contest for Camden County High School Art Students focused on the theme "The Essence of Our Community - What Makes Camden County Georgia's Coastal Community of Choice"

A consensus of the Board was unanimous to approve County Administrator Steve Howard's request.

**Executive Session**

The Executive Session that was previously scheduled was not held and the matter pertaining to Personnel was discussed in the open meeting.

A consensus of the Board was taken regarding the performance evaluation of County Administrator Steve Howard.

Chair Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to award County Administrator Steve Howard a score of "1", being the highest and reflecting an excellent performance evaluation.

County Administrator Steve Howard stated that like last year he will not be accepting an increase in salary, although his contract entails a yearly percentage increase. He explained that he has not accepted an increase for fiscal years 2009 nor 2010.

**Additional Public Comments:**

Keith Post, St. Marys

Mr. Post stated that he would like to thank Sheila McNeil, Christine Daniel and David Keating for all the hard work on the Joint Resolution in support of the United States Coast Guard.

Commissioner Sears stated that she would like to address a comment made by Mr. Weaver regarding Impact Fees. She explained that a Public Hearing will be held on

March 16, 2010 followed by the First Reading of the Amendment, and on April 6, 2010 the Second Reading and Adoption will take place.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Chair Rainer to adjourn the March 2, 2010 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Rainer, Chair



Kathryn A. Bishop, Deputy Clerk