

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2009, 6:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.

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

Pastor Donald Wolfgang, United Methodist Church, of Woodbine 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 Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Charlene Sears; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney Brent Green, and Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

The following amendments were offered:

Addition to Item 1:

Request for funding for remodeling of office, purchase of furniture and equipment as well as additional funding for increase in supplements.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to accept the agenda amendments.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears, to adopt the agenda with the offered amendments.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Work Session - Camden County Annual Performance Review of Strategic Plan & 2009 Priorities, January 20, 2009 Work Session – Joint Development Authority and January 20, 2009 Regular Meeting with the corrections noted.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

- *Proclamation - Spay Day USA, National Spay and Neuter Month*

Read by Commissioner Sears and presented to Nancy Cops of the Humane Society by Chair Rainer.

Recognizing Tuesday, February 24, 2009, as Spay Day USA in Camden County for National Spay & Neuter Month

WHEREAS, cats and dogs provide companionship to and share the homes of over 63,000,000 individuals and families in the United States; and

WHEREAS, two unaltered cats and all their descendants can number 420,000 in seven years, and two unaltered dogs and their descendants can number 67,000 in six years; and

WHEREAS, humane societies and shelters have to euthanize approximately four million cats and dogs each year, although many of them are healthy and adoptable, simply because there are not enough good homes; and

WHEREAS, the problem of companion animal overpopulation costs the taxpayers of this country over a billion dollars annually through animal control programs aimed at coping with the millions of homeless cats and dogs; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering cats and dogs has been shown to drastically reduce cat and dog overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians, humane societies, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens worked together to ensure the spaying or neutering of an estimated 225,000 companion animals through SPAY DAY USA in 2008; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians, humane societies, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens have joined together again to advocate the spaying and neutering of companion animals on **“SPAY DAY USA 2009”**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that this body recognizes Tuesday, February 24, 2009 as **“SPAY DAY USA”**, and to observe the day by having your cats or dogs spayed or neutered, or by sponsoring the spaying or neutering of someone’s cat or dog for National Spay and Neuter Month in Camden County, Georgia.

PROCLAIMED this 3rd day of February, 2009.

- Budget Discussion regarding Fiscal Year 2008/2009

Finance Director Mike Fender presented a power presentation to the Board regarding the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 budget reductions. He explained at this time the County has not received the reimbursement for the Homestead Tax Relief Grant totaling approximately \$632,000.00. Also, he explained the additional budget shortfall due to currently not receiving property taxes totaling approximately \$648,000.00 on the Bridge Pointe/ Land Resources bankruptcy. Mr. Fender explained to the Board possible budget reductions in various departments to rebalance the fiscal year 2008/2009 budget due to the uncertainty of these reimbursements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jay Moreno, St. Marys

Mr. Moreno stated that he had reviewed the agenda posted on the website for tonight’s meeting and was disturbed by Item 1 - Request for funding for remodeling of office, purchase of furniture and equipment as well as additional funding for increase in supplements. Mr. Moreno went down the list of requested furnishing items submitted by Judge Anthony Harrison as well as cost estimates prepared by the Camden County Facilities Maintenance Department for the work Judge Harrison has requested. Mr. Moreno expressed his disapproval of this item.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. **Request for funding for remodeling of office, purchase of furniture and equipment as well as additional funding for increase in supplements.**

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to deny the request for funding for remodeling of office, purchase of furniture and equipment.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to deny the request for additional funding for increase in supplements.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Tax Release Application.

Commissioner Sears made a motion seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the Tax Release Application.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Announcement of vacancy on the Board of Assessors.

Commissioner Sears made a motion seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to authorize staff to proceed with the appointment to a vacancy on the Board of Assessors.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution Opposing Governor Perdue's Amendment to Fiscal Year 2009 Budget regarding Homestead Tax Relief Grant.

Vice-chair made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the Resolution Opposing Governor Perdue's Amendment to Fiscal Year 2009 Budget regarding Homestead Tax Relief Grant.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. Approve and authorize staff to proceed with implementing results-based incentive for wellness.

Vice-chair made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to table this item until a Work Session is held inviting the employees to attend and express any concerns they may have regarding the results-based incentive for wellness program.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approve and authorize staff to proceed with instituting Camden County Citizens' Academy.

Vice-chair made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears approve and authorize staff to proceed with instituting Camden County Citizens' Academy.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- ***County Administrator's Report***

County Administrator Steve Howard reported the following:

- He stated that he will continue to monitor reports from ACCG regarding the Homestead Tax Relief Grant monies as well as all the current budget shortfalls.
- He stated that Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith will present the 2009 Legislative Profile to the Board at the next meeting.
- He stated that he will be attending the ACCG Conference held in Atlanta, Monday & Tuesday, February 9 & 10, 2009 regarding legislative matters.
- He stated that on March 21, 2009 the St. Marys River Management Committee, in which Commissioner Sears serves, will host a clean up drive along the St. Marys River.
- He stated, to follow-up with the presentation regarding health care, staff will be looking at all options. He explained that the first priority is to look out for the employees and the best options regarding healthcare.
- ***Calendar – January/February***

Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop read the February and March calendars.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jay Moreno, St. Marys

Mr. Moreno stated his concerns regarding the results-based incentives for wellness program. He stated that it seems a bit discriminating against an employee that is not in the best health, but the employee may be trying unsuccessfully to lose weight and be healthy. He expressed concerns regarding surgical procedures that have been proven to cure diabetes and obesity, and the costs the employee will incur under the proposed plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to adjourn the February 3, 2009, meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chair

Kathryn A. Bishop, Acting County Clerk