



## **CAMDEN COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 17, 2023 • 5:30 PM**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Landreth called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

#### **II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Landreth delivered the invocation

#### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Landreth led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **IV. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Terry Landreth – Present

Artie Jones, Jr. – Present

Vice-Chairman Stephen Haughn – Present

Jimmy Smith – Present

Commissioner Lannie Brant – Absent

June Maxwell – Present

Mayor Kizzi Knight – Present

Ernesto Herring, Jr. – Absent

Alex Blount – Present

#### **V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Vice-Chairman Haughn made a motion, seconded by Blount to approve the regular meeting minutes from July 20, 2023.

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Vice-Chairman Haughn called to add agenda item A5, discussion on ROW and agenda item B2, decision on athletic programs: either revenue neutral or deficit funded.

Maxwell made a motion, seconded by Mayor Knight to approve the agenda as amended.

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **VII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC**

Tracy Osterhout, Kingsland

Ms. Osterhout addressed the board concerning the lack of care in summer camp. Her daughter attended summer camp the previous 3 years. Summer camp went on a field trip to The Catty Shack during the last 2 weeks of camp. The temperature that day was in the triple digits. Ms. Osterhout stated her daughter became ill with heat exhaustion from lack of hydration. She had to pick her daughter up early on the first day of school and she was unable to attend the following day. When she addressed her concerns with summer camp staff, she was informed that there was a 30 gallon jug of water made available to the children. Her concern is the children were between the ages of 5-10 and they should be told when to hydrate especially when the temperature is in triple digits. Ms. Osterhout also addressed the board with several other concerns. Summer camp doesn't allow the children to have electronics in camp. When she would drop off her daughter or pick her up the counselors were too busy on their phones and not paying attention to the children. She purchased sunscreen several times during summer camp and it was always gone. Her daughter came home beet red several times. Her ID was never checked after the first day of camp and no snacks were provided. She believes the counselors lacked experience and training on how to properly care for children. Her daughter will not be attending summer camp in the future unless the staff is properly trained and provides better care. Ms. Osterhout tried to get in contact with PSA staff concerning her concerns. Executive Director Johnsen called her concerning the matter. She stated he had nothing to do with the summer camp. Ms. Osterhout showed the board a picture of her daughter during the time she was ill.

Vice-Chairman Haughn asked Ms. Osterhout if in her opinion there were plenty of counselors on staff. She responded yes but they didn't seem to care about the kids and were always on their phones.

Jones asked Ms. Osterhout if she knew of any other children that were sick. She stated her daughter's friend was also sick and along with others who would not come forward.

Chairman Landreth stated he will follow up on the issue.

Myrtie Seals Schoychid, St Marys

Ms. Seals Schoychid addressed the board concerning the St Marys City Pool. She and husband have lived in St Marys for many years. She remembers her first experience riding her bicycle to the St Marys pool to attend an aqua aerobics class. Her first impression of the pool was that the facility was a jewel

and well maintained, she was very impressed with its cleanliness. The pool closed and she was certain it would eventually reopen. She joined the Rec Center and had to drive many miles for the pool when there was one in bicycle riding distance. Ms. Seals Schoychid is not sure what happened in the last 7 years for the City of St Marys to lose the pool. Now it is in the process of being demolished. She stated it is a shame to lose such a marvelous resource. She doesn't know what will replace the pool but thinks it would be a marvelous idea to possibly use grant money towards an indoor pool.

Mel Schoychid, St Marys

Mr. Schoychid also addressed the board concerning the St Marys City Pool. He agrees with his wife that grant money should be used to replace the community pool.

Jones stated to his knowledge the pool has been turned back over to the City of St Marys. He would like to meet with him and his wife following the meeting to discuss what has been decided about the pool. It is no longer the responsibility of the PSA.

## **VIII. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **A. ADMINISTRATION**

1. The board was provided a staff organizational chart and upper management job descriptions for the upcoming year. Vice-Chairman Haughn also handed out another organizational chart that was discussed in the continuous improvement plan working group. Chairman Landreth stated the chart that was handed out is straight across with all the coordinators and streamlines it better. Vice-Chairman Haughn stated the working group looked at other communities, counties and other programs in Georgia and North Florida.

Chairman Landreth stated that he wanted to provide the highest quality of service to the citizens as possible.

Chairman Landreth asked if the board should turn it over to staff for recommendations and proceed from there.

Blount wants to be careful on a document the board is creating and how

it is worded “turn over to the staff.” We absolutely want staff input but a document created by the board is not the staff’s to mark up. We will accept their recommendations, accept opinions and incorporate that as the board sees fit.

Maxwell asked where youth programs such as summer camp fit in. Vice-Chairman Haughn stated that it is under special events.

Mayor Knight inquired about the blocks over to the side what line are they under. Vice-Chairman Haughn said they would report to the Director over Finance and Administration.

Smith stated that Buck Johnsen’s position needed to be added to the organizational chart.

The board will follow up with staff and the working group for input.

2. Discussion and vote on gymnastics competition leotards ensued. Ealy presented a bid tabulation and recommended going with GK as they are the lowest cost bid provider at \$10,489.85 for 41 leotards. The funding source will be a pass through expense.

Blount made a motion, seconded by Maxwell to approve GK.

**The motion carried unanimously**

3. Discussion and vote on water abatement and augmentation for the video scoreboard installed at Chris Gilman Stadium. The score board has been installed and is operational.

Maxwell inquired about an agreement with the school concerning who would be responsible for running the scoreboard.

Blount said the scoreboard being replaced doesn’t change the 50 year agreement that is in place. Discussion ensued as to the fact that the scoreboard being placed in the stadium puts the scoreboard under the 50-year agreement and therefore the school has access to it.

Ealy stated athletic staff and the facilities maintenance tech. have been trained to operate the software for the score board.

Ealy provided the board with the original quote for the water abatement and augmentation, as it was not included in the original quote. It was not in the original budget that was sent to the county and cities where they would fund their share. She is recommending a budget amendment to transfer the funds from the parks budget allotted for repairs and maintenance of playground equipment and be moved to repairs and maintenance for the stadium. The cost is \$9,500.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Blount to approve the water abatement and augmentation payment of \$9,500.

So voted:

Chairman Landreth – Yes

Artie Jones – Yes

Vice-Chairman Haughn – Yes

Jimmy Smith – Yes

Mayor Knight – Yes

June Maxwell - No

Alex Blount – Yes

**The motion carried 6-1, Maxwell opposed**

4. Discussion on the 50 year agreement with the Board of Education ensued. The board was provided a copy of the agreement for the use of recreation facilities and the property. Chairman Landreth would like the board to review the agreement as he has been approached by the chairman of the school board about having a discussion about amending the 50 year agreement or possibly turning Chris Gilman Stadium over to the school board and other facilities that would involve the baseball fields and the track. The board assigned Jones and Vice-Chairman Haughn to get with staff and provide a recommendation for going forward to present to the school board.

Maxwell approached the question why did the board just vote to put \$9,500 into the stadium.

Jones stated it is a field we have already created and we need to pay it.

Blount stated we currently own it. When you own something you are responsible for the work that has been completed there.

5. The board discussed amended item, discussion on ROW. Vice-Chairman Haughn explained currently we have a ROW contract with the City of St Marys for 2 highways. The PSA is currently not making a revenue from ROW due to staff having to be paid and maintaining the equipment. Vice-Chairman Haughn is concerned that if there isn't a revenue, does it take away from the primary mission. Could the employees be used more effectively in keeping better care of the fields.

Blount believes the employees would be better utilized doing field maintenance. It is more in line with the core responsibility.

Chairman Landreth would like the board to get super focused on getting the fields up to date and providing the highest quality facilities to the citizens as possible.

The board will review the contract when it is up for renewal.

Mayor Morrissey asked for an analysis of the contract and he has yet to receive it. He heard the discussion and direction it is going he would like to be provided with the analysis to understand if it is no longer profitable, and whether or not the PSA wants to continue it. If it is something we want to continue, what is the differential. That is important if the board is going ask the various municipalities for more money.

## **B. ATHLETICS**

1. Ealy provided the board with a sports registration update. There has been an increase in participation for every sport.

Jones said we need to address the soccer complex and the condition of the facilities.

2. Vice-Chairman Haughn discussed amended agenda item, decision on athletic programs: either revenue neutral or deficit funded. He stated there

are usually 3 different approaches to how to charge for the athletic programs. The first being making a profit, the second way is revenue neutral and the final is affordable deficit spending for programs. Almost all the programs currently run in the red. The board needs to decide how to approach these programs which are important to the youth, families and community.

Blount doesn't want to charge the families too much, because the PSA is already funded by ad valorem tax. Blount is gravitating more towards learning what would be defined as affordable and making up the difference of what the tax payers are already contributing. There are tax payers supporting the PSA that have never stepped foot on the property. The organization should be careful of how much we burden our participants that are already such a big portion of the funding mechanism.

**C. FACILITIES**

1. Discussion and vote on new bleachers for Rec Center basketball gym. Ealy presented a bid tabulation and recommended going with Southeastern Surface & Equipment for \$49,306.80. The funding source will be SPLOST 8.

Blount made a motion, seconded by Maxwell to approve Southeastern Surface & Equipment.

**The motion carried unanimously**

**D. PARKS AND FIELDS**

1. Discussion and vote on surplus of Massey Ferguson tractor and batwing.

Blount made a motion, seconded by Jones to approve staff recommendation of surplus of Massey Ferguson tractor and batwing.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Chairman Landreth updated the board on the St Marys Rec Park. Vice-Chairman Haughn spoke with Bobby Marr concerning the entrance road coming into the park, which needs repair.
3. Chairman Landreth updated the board on the St Marys Pool. The St Marys City Council voted to remove the pool. Chairman Landreth would like to join St Marys for a best use study for the replacement area.

**E. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Ealy presented the board with a presentation summary of the FY24 proposed budget and asked if they had any questions. With staff help she has made cuts to the intergovernmental funding to provide the best service, at the lowest cost. She was able to get the funding down to an increase of 2.17 percent.

Vice-Chairman Haughn would like to have a budget work session, which the board will schedule a time for.

**F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Johnsen, presented the board with a report of recent happenings at the PSA, including an update on the parks, special programs/events, aquatics, gymnastics and athletics. The report can be found on the PSA website and Facebook page.

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Maxwell made a motion, Jones seconded to adjourn the regular meeting and convene executive session.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Regular meeting adjourned and convene executive session at 6:59 PM

The board discussed personnel matters. The board took no action.

Vice-Chairman Haughn made a motion, seconded by Smith to adjourn executive session and convene regular meeting.

**The motion carried unanimously**

Adjourn executive session and convene regular meeting at 7:15 PM

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Convene regular meeting at 7:15 PM

Vice-Chairman Haughn made a motion, seconded by Blount to adjourn the regular meeting.

**The motion carried unanimously**

Adjourn Regular Meeting at 7:16PM



APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TERRY LANDRETH, PSA CHAIRMAN

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ATTEST: TERESA PATTERSON, SECRETARY

DRAFT