

## The Hall County Commission continues to abuse the consent agenda

The consent agenda tonight had a vote against it and an abstention. This is a violation of the rules. The consent agenda is formally known as the "consent calendar". Roberts Rules of Order, [adopted \(Item 6b\)](#) and [codified \(2.10.010\)](#) by the Hall County Commission, states on page 349 that "Legislatures, city, town or county councils, or other assemblies which have a heavy workload including a large number of routine or non controversial matters may find a consent calendar a useful tool for disposing of such items of business.... The matters listed on I are taken up in order, unless objected to, in which case they are restored to the ordinary process by which they are placed in line for consideration on the regular agenda."

If any member objects, it must be removed. I first discovered this breach of the rules on January 10, 2008 when Commissioner Banks motioned to remove the appointment of Jim Shuler from the consent agenda. The minutes are noted as the "motion failed for lack of a second". The problem is there doesn't need to be a second. If ANY member objects, it must be removed. As a result, I can now say for the record that Commissioner Banks voted against the re-adoption of the code of ethics for Hall County along with 20 other items. However, several times in the past the Chairman has removed items from the consent agenda without the need for a motion. Seems like a double standard to me.

When elected to the Hall County Commission, I will work to hold the Chairman accountable to the rules as codified in the law. That way we can ensure proper discussion and debate on all items preventing the majority from trampling the rights of the minority.