MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA APRIL 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022 by Mayor Owens.

Roll call indicated the following present: Councilmember Tucker, Councilman Burley, Councilman Morgan, Councilman Pollard, and Councilman Palmer.

City Attorney Tommy Coleman and Interim City Manager/City Clerk Cheryl Ford were also present.

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Councilman Pollard gave the invocation and the Mayor and Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Sign-in Sheet Attached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include approval of the carnival contract and disclose the names of the final three finalists for the Interim City Manager position. A motion was made by Councilman Burley, seconded by Councilman Morgan, and passed by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2022 Called Council Meeting, March 14, 2022 Council Meeting, and March 22, 2022 Called Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilman Burley, and passed by a unanimous vote.

SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Mayor Owens stated the first speaker is Reverend James Edwards. Mr. Edwards thanked them for giving him an opportunity to speak and stated he was there to request on behalf of the Mitchell County House of Hope transportation, not only for the House of Hope, but also their Parent University, which he made a request for last week. The reason he is back is because he checked with the Southwest Georgia Regional Transportation Authority and was told they do not have any funding for them. They do not see any way they would qualify for funding. He is asking the Council consider the Mitchell County House of Hope for some type of transportation, either by shuttle or if the City could provide funding, whereby they could acquire a van or transportation to assist the citizens of Mitchell County and Camilla in their effort to reach out and help those citizens. Mr. Edwards stated the reason they need transportation from the Council is because they have Parent University and as stated before, one of the challenges they have is they keep talking about our children and need to take back our streets and all of that. There is no problem with children, because they are children and that is all they know how to be, and get the parents to understand this. Parent University started in 2018 and they had their first graduate and

are on track to graduate more parents. He thanked them for all their help over the past three years and during the pandemic they were doing it via Zoom. The need is there and are looking for some things to happen around September whereby they will be moving in another direction and will outgrow the Mitchell County House of Hope located at 76 Oakland Avenue. If anyone would like to stop by and visit he stated they should feel free to do so. Councilman Pollard commented as he recalled when he [Mr. Edwards] came last Monday this program took place at Mitchell County High School. Mr. Edwards replied they actually started in the housing project and outgrew that space and had the opportunity to move to the high school. He has not spoken to the new superintendent yet but believes what will happen is they have been offered a module at the high school. Once they move to the high school they will need transportation. During the pandemic they stopped holding classes there. Councilman Pollard asked if the program was taking place on Saturday's and Mr. Edwards replied it is now taking place on Tuesday. At the time they moved they were doing it on Tuesday before the pandemic. They are now doing it on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until noon. If parents can't make it on Tuesday they hold a class on Saturday. Councilman Pollard commented this is an opportunity to have conversation with the Mitchell County school system. They have programs they offer on Saturday and conversation and collaboration with Mitchell County School Board will perhaps provide that service to them. Mr. Edwards commented he agreed 100% and one of the things they have to do is put everyone on the same page and right now they are not all on the same page. Everyone has areas they are working in and what they can do is take all the parents they have and group them because they are serving the same people. Once they all come together and meet one with another and say this is what they need to do, he believes they can all come together and be able to say the need is being met. He plans to get on the superintendent's calendar this week. Councilman Pollard pointed out the City of Camilla invested in the building.

Utoria Thomas Murray was recognized as the next speaker and stated she is greatly concerned she is being threatened with harassment and racism from her next door neighbor, Mary Parker, the city police department, city code enforcement as well as city councilman or woman that is over District 2. She has emailed everyone on two occasions beginning in November 2021 and again April 2022. She never received a response, especially from the city councilman or woman that is over District 2. Mary Parker stated she has money and can do what she wants. This has been proven true because on several occasions she has been threatened with being arrested, lied on, recorded, flashlights shined on, and pictures taken while in the privacy of her own yard. Code enforcement stated they only send out notices when people call and complain. She received a notice and a threat the police would be called to her residence if she does not comply with a notice all because Mary Parker called them. She was told by Keith Lodge that she [Mary Parker] called almost everyday about something and has been to her residence several times concerning issues with her [Mrs. Murray] but could not find anything but her vehicle parked in front of her house with a current tag, registration and insurance. According to city ordinance a notice must have the violation, action required, and a time frame. Her notice only had 'please call'. She is zoned as a residential neighborhood but she lives directly on 112. Her questions are: How long does a person endure constant harassment and racism before actions are taken, does money and ethnicity allow a person to be able to continuously harass a person before action is taken, and how can she be zoned residential when she lives on a state highway. If she is going to be zoned residential can she have signs that prohibit all semi-trucks from coming through her neighbor-

hood. Where are truckers to leave their trucks because Camilla does not provide anywhere for truckers to park. If the councilman or woman is not going to represent everyone, African American and Caucasian, how long do they remain in office without an infraction or action taken against them for not doing their job. Where is the accountability for the lack of representation in District 2. Mayor Owens thanked her for her comments. He stated he was in the Interim City Manager's office this afternoon and knows she and the police chief had a conversation about this very issue. In terms of specific questions or answers, he asked her to reach out to the Interim City Manager and see what information she has to share with her. He knows she is gathering some information related to this issue and is not something that happened overnight. Mrs. Murray asked if she reached out to Ms. Ford how long it would take to get a response. She reached out to several people in November 2021 and did not get a response at all. In April 2022 she got a response from only two people on the City Council and they are not in District 2. Mayor Owens asked her to reach out to Cheryl Ford and see what information she has gotten for her and knows she is getting more information related to it. Interim City Manager Ford commented Mrs. Murray can contact her at her convenience and she is in receipt of the email sent out. She is gathering information reports for the incidents that happened and is in communication with the police chief. It may be where they need her to come in to discuss and will expedite as quickly as she can. Councilman Pollard stated he is deeply sorry she is having to go through this because any resident of the city of Camilla should not be harassed, feel they are not included, and cannot stay in this section of a neighborhood. This is not Camilla. He is deeply troubled these things are going on, but as stated, the information has been forwarded to someone that will get to the bottom of the issues and hopefully come to a conclusion and everything will be alright. Councilman Morgan stated they have spoken about this and he remains committed to help in any capacity he can, although he is in District 1, and wants to take some heat off Ms. Ford as she has only been in this interim role for about two weeks. They are going through a major shift in the city and sorry she did not get those responses and part of the reasons they are going through the shift. Mrs. Murray asked if Ms. Ford would be able to address the issue about the truckers. Ms. Ford replied she will and it was a very inclusive conversation to provide an option to park the truck at another location so she would not have a code violation. Mrs. Murray asked how was she zoned residential and lived on a state highway. Mayor Owens stated some of the questions are too complicated for the conversation tonight but if she will reach out to the Interim City Manager, and he was part of that conversation this afternoon, some of the information is already being gathered and see what some of the solutions are.

Garrick Murray was recognized as the next speaker and stated Mrs. Murray is his wife and she voiced her concerns. He stated he was not a fan of Mayor Owens when he first became mayor but someone told him to give him a chance and he is glad he did. One thing he talked about is transparency and holding folks accountable. His question is, Mrs. Tucker is over District 2 and Mr. Palmer is over District 2, if they are not going to represent everybody, and he does not care what color their skin is, they took that office to represent everybody and feels the same way she [his wife] does. They are not getting represented and should not have to go to District 1 to have a conversation with other councilmen. They did not have the dignity to return an email and what this all started from. This did not start when he moved there, it started prior to him moving there. This has been going on for years and it is always you tolerate it, you do this and you do that. His wife tried to have a conversation with Assistant Police Chief Casterline and he became indignant

He used to work there and it is time for a change. If they are not all going to be included there needs to be a change somewhere. It doesn't make sense that some feel they can't get fair representation. If they are not going to be transparent and held accountable, that is where they are now and there is no accountability. You send out an email to people who represent you and they do not return emails. That is a fact and not right. He has been in this town for 50 years, born and raised. They have grown and came a long way but they have a ways to go. It is their job to represent everybody for the best interest of the city and it is not getting there. If you don't look like him, or as he was told 'I have money and can do what I want', how is that fair representation? It is not and he does not like politics and tries to stay away from it. He is serving notice today that whoever runs for District 2 he will do his very best to get them in office to represent everybody. Councilmember Tucker commented she appreciates them bringing this to their attention. She was first informed on April 8th and forwarded to the city manager and supports allowing her to work through the process. She will be glad to offer any kind of assistance she can but April 8th was the first time she found out about their situation and forwarded to the Interim City Manager. She is in the process of researching and will meet with them to see what needs to be done. It was the first she heard of any of it and will allow the city manager to check with the police chief and code enforcer and other departments involved.

Marie Dixon was recognized as the next speaker and stated her concern is two of the top positions in the city resigned recently and is curious about that. As far as she is concerned she found them to both be highly qualified with over 30 years of experience doing their jobs and were fortunate to have them. She thanked the newspaper for reporting and has read a good bit in the newspaper and they have been covering these meetings. In one of the newspapers Sykes stated the Mayor would not allow him to do his job and curious what that meant. She did research and Camilla is a council run government, not a mayor run government. If a city manager is hired to run day-to-day operations of the city, shouldn't he be allowed to do his job and not interfered with by the mayor. She asked about CFO Lisa Ferguson who came here very qualified and has resigned. Why wasn't she hired as the Interim City Manager and wants to know the qualifications they are looking for. Mayor Owens stated he truly appreciates her speaking up and this is literally what the majority of this Council had in mind when they moved the time from 9:00 o'clock in the morning to 6:30 p.m. to allow the public to come out and address their government and ask those questions. He believes they are valid questions and does not think anyone on the council knows why anyone would resign. That is a personal decision and she would have to ask those individuals those particular reasons. In terms of the interference from the Mayor, he asked if she had a specific instance. Mrs. Dixon replied particularly the Tyson situation. The City Council passed that and when the Council changed he brought it back up again to be voted on a second time when it had already been voted on by the Council. It was written in the newspaper and she was concerned about the Tyson situation. She does not think that made our city look very good in the sense we could be depended on that we had a contract and we broke the contract. Mayor Owens stated because her questions are important and community based questions and concerns related to the community, he pointed out inside the original contract there was an opportunity to cancel it. The Council, not the Mayor, cancelled it. He is not sure and cannot debate the writings of the newspaper and the only thing he has to go by as the chief elected official of the town is the Charter. All the things were done properly and will not say everyone agrees with it. In the case she just cited everything was done within the realm

of the charter and within the realm of the law and stated contract. Beyond that he cannot comment but stated she, and her family, are awesome folks and appreciates the fact she came and spoke tonight. He encouraged her to come back and encourages everyone in the room and everyone listening, if there is an issue whether it is in the charter or not, if it concerns them, this is why they are here. They have a right to question their government and he encourages it. Mrs. Dixon stated it is a great idea for people to turn out for this and a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand what is going on.

Susan Rackley was recognized as the next speaker and stated she too thanks the Council for allowing them to come. They need to talk about things and when they talk about things they can solve things. She thanked them for the opportunity and those being at the meeting for caring about what is going on in their city, because they all love their city. Her main concern was about using a portion of the competitive trust fund for paving projects. She knows they have money coming in July allocated for paving projects and does not see the hurry of taking it out of the reserves. She expressed her concern to keep those funds for rate stabilization that benefit all citizens in Camilla, especially those with limited income. Any time they start talking about spending money she gets nervous. With inflation and a lot of things going on in our country where prices are rising, farmers in particular and everybody, she really wants them to look at using our money wisely and keeping our savings and the trust fund there because rainy days could come. Mayor Owens commented one of the things the Council is considering is using a portion of our municipal trust money that was put aside. There are two nuclear plants we are invested in - Vogtle 3 and 4. Back in the day the Council started putting money away so when those nuclear plants come online we have to start paying for that. The idea was to have this fund set aside so we can pay our debt service so we don't have to raise rates on our customers. He thinks it was genius then and now. One of the things that could not have been anticipated was a world-wide pandemic. COVID has changed the entire paradigm of our global economy. One of the things we are going to have to do as elected body is figure out how we can grow our economy without raising taxes and without raising rates. The good news is they made the decision not do anything before having another public hearing. He wants her and the public to know before they move forward they will have another opportunity to voice their opinions, concerns, or support. Mrs. Rackley stated they have the money coming from the state for paving and that money has to be used for the paving. Mayor Owens stated that is correct and what she is talking about is TSPLOST funds. We do not get the money ahead of time and it has to accumulate. Mrs. Rackley asked if we are going to pave roads in the summer and the fall, why not wait until the TSPLOST builds up instead of using municipal trust money now. Mayor Owens commented he is called in the Charter as the chief policy advocate and one of his jobs is to advocate for certain policies. Since the paving question, there are other capital projects that are now potentially on the table and not only street paving. Other things are happening in our city as it relates to how we are growing and enhancing economic development in our town. The municipal trust is one source where we have ready made money that has already been paid for and put aside whereby we can do that. The list of things they may use it for will not be done until the citizens of the town have an opportunity to weigh in. No money will be pulled from anywhere without an opportunity for the public to weigh in.

Mayor Owens introduced Dr. Cummings who is the Mitchell County School Superintendent and stated he was asked to attend and talk about the College and Career Academy. Dr. Cummings stated he was going to give information about the Career Academy which is a grant funded program through the state. It is a competitive process and they are in competition with other schools around the state of Georgia. They were awarded a grant for \$3.1 million. Many people in the room participated in the grant process and what they plan to do is create a viable workforce for Mitchell County and surrounding areas. This is not only for the city but the county and region. The Career Academy's goal is to create job ready skills in their students. Not every student is going to college and what they have found throughout the years is not every student is intended to go to college. A study was done in 1960 which says 60% of the employment workforce is unskilled labor and is down to 10% in 2018 by a Harvard study. If you can get a job ready skill you can find a job. The data he has pulled, and it is verifiable, is 1:2:7 ratio. What it means is for everyone one college graduate with a masters degree or higher there will be at least two positions for a bachelors degree. Also created from that is seven associates degrees or jobs that require a specialized skill. From the same 2018 Harvard study, 30% of future jobs will require a bachelors degree or higher. Fifty seven percent of those jobs require a specialized skill. What they are trying to do is partner with surrounding business and industry to provide learning opportunities for the students and internship opportunities so they can develop these skills prior to getting out of high school. They can come into the workforce ready to work. Along with the Career Academy they teach soft skills: how to apply for a job, how to get a job, and more importantly how to keep a job. They are going to assess the student's skills and abilities. They want to match their aptitude with their interest through assessments. If you match a person's aptitude and skills together you have much more opportunity to be successful. He asked how many people have they heard of that went to college and ended up not working in a filed they majored in. Quite a few but had that student known prior to going to college what their interest was matched to their interest and aptitude, they would have had a greater chance of success. That is what the Career Academy is about and they are undergoing plans now to implement the program. Some of it will require adjustments in student instruction to repurpose some of the areas. They are not looking at adding to the footprint significantly but are interested in bringing new job skills and asking people from the community and other business and industry to share with staff what they are looking for in employees. They feel the practitioners and people in the community doing this, and not just Camilla or Mitchell County because they want to serve the entire region of the state, is what they are about and implementing in the next year or so.

Jessica Jennings was recognized as the next speaker and Mayor Owens stated she was invited to come and talk about what her organization does. She stated she is Executive Director of Mitchell County Children and Youth and thanked them in advance for the proclamation that would be presented tonight for Child Abuse Prevention Month. She felt she would use this as an opportunity to give a brief overview of some of the programs they have going on as it relates to child abuse prevention. According to the most recent kids count data, Mitchell County is faring pretty well with child abuse and neglect rates. They are currently at 1.8 per 1,000 and the state rate is about 3.9 per 1,000 so we are about half the state rate. One area of concern is the number of children in Mitchell County living in poverty. Our rate in Mitchell County is 42.3% compared to the state rate of 19.5%. We rank 155 out of the 159 counties in Georgia in this area. We know that poverty puts a lot of stress on families and can sometimes be a risk factor for child abuse and

neglect. Some of the things they are doing through the Family Connection collaborative to address this is their Community Assistance Program where they are able to assist families in financial need with utility bills, rent and mortgage. They have a community supply closet where they are able to provide household cleaning supplies, toiletries, diapers and other small items. They have a community resource guide they provide families so they will know the resources available in order to access them. They have a community partnership for supporting youth that is focused on high school graduation by keeping kids in school and graduating from school on time. They partner with the local DFACS office to assist with the needs of families and children they are working with. They have monthly Family Connections collaborative meetings that provide a forum for community organizations and individuals to come together to network and share information on things they have going on. There are many other opportunities and just a few of the things they do. They hope to continue this work in the years to come and able to continue to see low child abuse and neglect rates. They would like to see it at zero and would like to see the child poverty rate come down too. It will take a comprehensive community strategy to address those issues. She thanked them for the opportunity to share what they do. Councilman Morgan asked her to speak on the parameters of the assistance programs they offer and what makes an applicant qualify. Ms. Jennings replied it depends on the funding source. The community assistance program for the utility bill and rent/mortgage is fairly new to Family Connection of Mitchell County. They started it at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic because there was a need with people being out of work. They had several different funders for the program and usually the funder sets the parameter. They had funds come in through donations from private donors, the Family Connection partnership in Atlanta, the Community Foundation of Southwest Georgia, and United Way. They are all different in the amounts they allow them to pay and some of the income requirement documentation. Usually with the COVID funds they had to prove they were affected by COVID in some way. It depends on the funding source. Councilman Palmer commented she stated the poverty rate in the county was 40+% and what the rate was in Camilla. Mrs. Jennings stated she did not have that number with her but could pull that number and get back to him. Councilman Pollard asked her the locations and she stated she worked Baker and Mitchell counties. Her office in Camilla is in the Teen Resource Building on Harney Street and her office in Baker County is in Newton at the DFACS building.

Mr. James Therrien spoke next and stated he owned Mitchell County Driver Improvement Clinic and is across the street from the House of Hope. Recently rather unique and perplexing events have occurred in their business and wanted to share with the Mayor and Council and the rest of the citizens problems they are having and if they can advise how to deal with these problems. He stated he would turn the speaking over to Ms. Sheffield, the administrative aide. Mayor Owens stated he wanted to let the Council know and for the record Mr. Therrien signed in but did not check he wanted to speak but he is up there now and can speak. Ms. Sheffield stated this is something that really bothers them. Their office is being broken into and they noticed things March 10, 2022. For example, their beige internet cord was replaced with a green cord. They have gone there and the lights are turned on when they turned them off. There are a lot of things going on and a police report was filed on March 10th and they are still waiting on the report. March 11th when they went in the lights were on again. She has a list of things going on and wants to know how it is possible for someone to get in their building and no one else in the shopping plaza is complaining about break-ins. How are they getting in, getting out, and no one

is noticing anything and no one is seeing anything. Something is going on and they feel it is racial. It is not only happening in Camilla but they live in Albany, Georgia and it is happening there too. They just want to come and work in peace and provide a good service for the community without all the extra harassment going on. Mayor Owens commented he received their email prior to the meeting today and will forward to the Interim City Manager and to follow up with her but give her time to follow up with the police chief to see what they are working with. The email will be forwarded to her this evening and include Council. Ms. Sheffield thanked him and hopes everybody could put their feet into their shoes to understand what they are going through. Mayor Owens stated their concerns are extremely important to them and hopefully they will find out exactly what is happening with their shop. Councilman Pollard asked them what type of service they provide. Mr. Therrien replied they have a school for people who have been arrested for DUI and it is a 20-hour weekend class to learn how to deal with addiction and alcoholism. They teach a class.

ACTION ITEMS

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04-11-1 – SPECIAL EVENTS AND USE OF CITY PROPERTY – INCLUSION OF CENTENNIAL STADIUM PROPERTY

The Mayor and Council received information for consideration at their April 4, 2022 Work Session to include property known as Centennial Stadium as part of the City's Special Events and Use of City Property ordinance. The parking lot at Centennial Stadium is currently included in the Centennial Stadium Entertainment District by Council action taken on August 16, 2021. The Council recommends adopting Ordinance No. 2022-04-11-1 providing for the addition of Centennial Stadium property as shown on Exhibit B of the ordinance, waiving the second reading, and authorizing the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker and seconded by Councilman Pollard to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-04-11-1, waive the second reading, and authorization for the Mayor to sign. Councilman Palmer commented if this were to be added to the parking lot, which is already a designated area, that will bring on events that will require a lot of security. When it comes budget time his suggestion is they will need to add about \$100,000 to overtime for the police to cover possible events that may occur there. Mayor Owens stated he was not sure of the dollar amount but his point was well taken. Once they get into the budget later this year this is something they can discuss. Councilman Morgan asked in the entertainment district if individual citizens host said events on our properties would the City need to be paying for security. Mayor Owens stated he thinks the larger conversation will happen, outside of the actual event security, and there may be circumstances where traffic control will be required. If they get that kind of use of the stadium that requires \$100,000 of police overtime that means the city of Camilla will be doing very well. It is a valid question and concern and if we are using city police, odds are they will be relegated to traffic control for the most. Event security may be something the host will have to provide. Councilman Pollard stated there still has be policy made for Centennial Stadium. It is a larger conversation that will be making policy and currently we do not have policies for this. Tonight they are just asking to include and he is in favor of including Centennial Stadium in our event district. Councilmember Tucker asked if this is just setting up that particular area, just like they set up other entertainment zone areas, and we have not established a policy for use yet. Mayor Owens stated that is correct. There are some

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04-11-1 – SPECIAL EVENTS AND USE OF CITY PROPERTY – INCLUSION OF CENTENNIAL STADIUM PROPERTY (cont.)

areas like the downtown area we are locked in on. Going outside there, at The Depot, there are policies already in place. To her point and Councilman Pollard's point, when talking about the stadium we are not only talking about entertainment, but potentially a film crew may want to use our stadium to film and what would be the rules for that. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

CARNIVAL CONTRACT

Downtown Manager Don Gray stated this is his third trip to bring a carnival to Camilla. They approved the action in October 2021 but COVID stopped them. The contract was delayed and they could not get it approved but he now has an approved contract reviewed by Attorney Coleman and Interim City Manager Ford. It is May 26th through the 30th over Memorial Day weekend. It will be held on the City's green space behind the Boys and Girls Club and old gym. There will be twenty rides and entertainment and they are trying to add to the carnival with some local flavor. They are gearing up to have the city/county fair feeling and trying to get in with a good company, which he thinks this is, so they can grow. Councilman Pollard asked about the marketing piece and how it was being expedited. Mr. Gray stated they [carnival company] furnish a good bit of it and is after school is let out and is different. It was not their choice and his first choice was to tag it to the Fourth of July or the fall events. They had issues trying to get things done and need a repoire (rapport) with them and be a repeat date for them. Councilman Morgan commented in the email it stated they asked for some changes to the contract. Interim City Manager Ford commented the changes were asked for by her and the contract is standard. The previous county that used the contract was still listed in the contract and they cleaned that up. The license fee had to be negotiated and Don was able to get that done. We got it back today and since he needs to get his advertisement done we had to present as a non-agenda item. Mr. Gray commented with the Council's good wishes they [carnival company] will be here Friday to work with the police, fire, electric and water departments. Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve the carnival contract for the City of Camilla as stated with the dates designated and approve the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation for Kenneth Leroy Johnson – Councilwoman Tucker presented this item and stated it was an honor for her on behalf of a wonderful citizen from our community and who served faithfully in our community and our country. For those who do not know her best friend, his name is Kenneth Leroy Johnson. She called him KJ and he called her LB. She showed a picture of him just before he passed away. Although they look a little different, he called her sister and she called him brother and they were best friends. There were many things they were absolutely on opposite ends of how they thought but they shared a love for their Heavenly Father, his family, and her family. There have probably been several hundred meals he had in her home or she had in his home. His birthday is tomorrow and she wanted to honor that with a proclamation and requested the Mayor to be given the privilege of reading the proclamation. The proclamation was read into the record by Councilmember Tucker. Mayor Owens stated proclamations are typically handled in the Mayor's office and at Councilwoman Tucker's request she wanted to do it here at the Council Meeting to be voted on to show support from the City Council. The

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS (cont.)

Council last week agreed to do this. Mayor Owens asked if there was a motion to approve the proclamation as presented honoring Mr. Kenneth Leroy Johnson, also known as KJ. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. Councilmember Tucker commented she will give the proclamation to the family, who were unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month – Mayor Owens read the proclamation into the record and presented to Jessica Jennings for all the hard work she does and continues to do and commented she now has a partner with the City of Camilla.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER'S REPORT CONFLICT OF INTEREST – 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TARGET AREA

Interim City Manager Ford stated she provided each member a map that shows the 2022 CDBG target area. If anyone owns or rents property in the area it will need disclosure. It is a requirement of the grant they disclose any ownership or if they rent in the area. No one serving on the Council disclosed any ownership or renting of property in the area.

The next item presented was a letter Councilman Palmer received from the Kolbie family which was read into the record.

Project updates: Splash Park is complete and a few minor items remain on the punch list. The grand opening is still on schedule for Memorial Day weekend and nothing on the punch list will prevent the grand opening.

Toombs Park is complete and there has been discussion about fencing around the perimeter of the park. She stated she would like to put out bids for fencing of the entire area. Everyone received the email the Mayor sent out about the policy for parks and once they start discussing that, depending on the need to lock the park, we will need to have the fence up. To prevent delay she would like to go ahead and get this done.

The Boys and Girls Club has been discussed at the work sessions and we are exploring options as to how we are going to do that. She emailed the architect and is waiting for specifications and costs.

For the Wi-Fi hotspots, on the system we have there were eight available locations and four are remaining. She recommends we put one at the splash park and two downtown, one on Scott Street near Mama Rita's and one on Broad Street near the FRAC building. The ones downtown are where major shops are, have the heaviest traffic, and in the entertainment zone. Councilman Morgan asked if that left one remaining and she replied yes and they could have the discussion where to locate the last one. Mayor Owens commented they could also have the discussion if they need to add to that. Interim City Manager Ford commented she was not sure of the range and could end up downtown to expand that area. She will coordinate with Don to make sure we have full coverage where they would like to see it. Mayor Owens commented the one at The

INTERIM CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (cont.)

Depot [he originally stated the Library] makes it to Kebo's. The pod is near the patio of The Depot and makes it across the street and the range is decent when talking about downtown.

The 2020 CDBG project is complete and we are in the process of getting information to submit our 2022 application which is due June 3rd. There is a lot of legwork to be done and is being coordinated. It is a sewer system improvement project in the Palmer, Butler, Newton and Worley areas and hopefully we are successful with our application.

Contract documents for the two gateway signs awarded last month to Barber Contracting from Moultrie are executed. City Engineer Chad Griffin will be facilitating the required meeting with the Department of Transportation for pre-construction and she has the paperwork and easement signed, along with the plat, for the location on 19 South and will get recorded this week. She is not sure how quick the construction will start and will get with Chad to get dates.

We are continuing to work on our PlanFirst application and it is due May 15th. We have provided the Regional Commission a lot of information and they will come back to us to gather more. She hopes this is also a successful application and we have some hard deadlines we are up against and pushing ourselves to get all the information gathered but we will make it.

The contract for LRL Ventures for landscape maintenance became effective April 1st and they have completed their first mowing on US19.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Owens stated he needed to read into the record the names of the people who will be working the election for the upcoming special election in May: Election Supervisor Vicki Hicks, Election Supervisor Sandra Frazier, Assistant Supervisor Betty Sue Thompson, Assistant Supervisor Brenda Wimberly, and poll workers Alexa Catchings, Emma Keaton, Kathy Cowen, Jill Williams, Emily Donnelly, and Gracie Ferguson.

He stated Georgia Cities Week will be April 23rd through the 30th and will make the proclamation part of the record and read at the actual event.

He commented one of the things he likes to do and one of his favorite quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King is: We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency and this is a time for vigorous and positive action. The reason why he is leading with that is because that is the situation they are in. The challenges they face as a community are real. As Jessica stated earlier, as a county we rank 155 out of 159 and Camilla is inside the county. As logic seems to say, we are contributing to that number. This is why we are doing things like the College and Career Academy, to get these kids, specifically in city government because we are one of the folks that agreed to do internship with our kids, obviously with the Boys and Girls Club we are investing in our youth and our seniors. This is one of the reasons we are talking about funding sources to help fund this. The reality is when 42% of our children are going to bed hungry, we are nearly approaching half of our kids in our community going to bed hungry and expected to wake up tomorrow and go to

MAYOR'S COMMENTS (cont.)

school and perform. We have to do everything we possibly can to fix that. It will take investment and all of the investment will not be popular. When you look at those kind of numbers, as elected leaders and Mayor of this town, it is unacceptable for him and he knows after talking with some of the councilmembers it is unacceptable for them. And for some of the parents and some in the community it is unacceptable to them. They are going to have to act and act boldly and quickly. In the words of Dr. King, we are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.

Mayor Owens stated earlier the approval of the agenda they changed or amended it to include disclosing the names of the final three finalists for the Interim City Manager position. These individuals have been interviewed: Dennis Stroud, Dr. Felicity Burns, and Ms. Serless West. Down the road they will get more information related to the finalists. Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve the three finalists for the Interim City Manager. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Palmer. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Councilman Pollard commented he was glad to see all the faces at the meeting tonight. This is Child Abuse Awareness Month and encouraged everyone to contact Jessica to get their pinwheels.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on motion by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard.

BY:

KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST

CHERYL FORD CLERI

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA ~ SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: APRIL 11	2022 TIME:	6:30 A.M.	P .M.
MEETING: X COUNCIL	☐ WORK SESSION	OTHER:	

			SPEAKER		
	NAME	ADDRESS	NO	YES	TOPIC OF DISCUSSION
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2	July Jalner	211 Marriano Dr	V		110)
3	Janiek Har S	V-013148	1		
4	Moria Thomas	281 S. BoukraidSt	40	V	
5	Carrick Murray	281 S. Bowkraid St	کھ	V	
6	Dicksy Hinesty	226 Main St			
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9	James Therrien	11 11			
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13	Marie Divon	410 West view in Cami	la	/	
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CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA ~ SIGN-IN SHEET

	DATE: APRIL I	11 2029	TIME:	6:30			D.M.	
	MEETING: X COUNCIL WORK SESSION				OTHER:			
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4	Jessica Jennings	POBOX 493 C	amilla		/	Child Abus	e Prev. Monthamco	
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ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04-11-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF ARTICLE V OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF CAMILLA TO INCLUDE STADIUM PROPERTY IN THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Camilla adopted Ordinance No. 2021-08-16-2, enacting Article V Chapter 9 of the City Code entitled "Special Events and Use of City Property"; and

WHEREAS, Section 9-5-6 limited special events permits to the geographic area as established by Exhibit "B" of the ordinance to be known as the "Entertainment District"; and

WHEREAS, after careful study and deliberation, the Mayor and Council have determined it to be in the best interest of the City to add the stadium property to the Entertainment District established by the ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla as follows:

Section 1. Exhibit "B" of Section 9-5-6 is amended by adding the stadium property more particularly shown on Exhibit "B" to this ordinance, to the Entertainment District for the City of Camilla.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

SO ORDAINED, this 11th day of April, 2022.

CITY OF CAMILLA

Kelvin Owens, Mayor

Cheryl Ford, Clerk

1st READING: April 11, 2022
2nd READING: WAIVED

EXHIBIT "B" Entertainment Districts Centennial Stadium and Parking Lot District Date of Amendment: April 11, 2022 Ordinance No. 2022-04-11-1





This Special Event License Agreement ("License Agreement") is made and entered in effective as of the 1st day of APRIL, 2022, by and between THE CITY OF CAMILLA, GA, ("Licensor"), A COMMUNITY A-FAIR NONPROFIT ORGANICATION DBA VIVID FAIR CREATIONS, CORPORATION.("Licensee").

RECITALS

- A. Licensor is the owner of a LARGE FIELD site, with improvements thereon, located at 108 SOUTH HARNEY STREET, CAMILLA, GA 31730 ("Licensor's Property").
- B. Licensee has requested, and Licensor has agreed, to grant, a temporary, revocal and non-transferable license to use the portion of Licensor's Property to hold A MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVAL/CARNIVAL DURING THE DATES OF MAY 26-30, 2022

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of other good and valuable consideration, the receipt, validity and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follow

1. LICENSE.

- 1.1. Grant of License. Licensor hereby grants to Licensee a temporary, revocable and non-transferable license to use the Licensed Premises solely for the purposes of holding a FAIR/CARNIVAL (the "Event"), together with (a) access to th Licensed Premises for 5 DAYS prior to the Event to allow Licensee time for sup and 2 DAYS following the Event to allow Licensee time for cleanup from the Event, and (b) a license for ingress and egress over Licensor's Property to and from the Licensed Premises. Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything contained herein to t contrary, Licensee shall have the right to terminate this License Agreement at any time on or before April 22, 2022, and, upon such termination, except for a termination pursuant to Section 3.11, the Licensee will pay a fee of \$1,000.00 due upon notice of termination.
- 1.2. Licensee may take possession of the Licensed Premises at 7:00 am EDT on MAY 22, 2022, and may occupy, enter and re-enter the Licensed Premises until 7:00 pm EDT on JUNE 1, 2022 (the "Licensed Premises Term"), subject to the terms of this License Agreement.
- 1.3. <u>License Fee</u>. In consideration of the license granted to Licensee herein, Licensee will pay Licensor 35% OF THE ADMISSION FEE FOR USE OF THE FACILITIES. (the "License Fee").



- 1.4. <u>Compliance with Governmental Laws</u>. Licensee shall, at all times durir the Term, and at its sole cost and expense, timely comply with all governmental laws, rules, regulations and requirements which may be applicable to the particular manner is which Licensee conducts the Event on the Licensed Premises, including but not limited to, the requirements of the City of Camilla Planning and Development Department, Cit of Camilla Environmental Health Department, City of Camilla Fire and Emergency Services Department, and City of Camilla Police Department.
- 1.5. Event Security and Traffic Control. Licensee shall provide adequate security and traffic control for the Event. Licensee shall provide a minimum of two off-duty law enforcement officers for general security and shall consult with the City of Camilla Police Department and follow any additional recommendations of that department.
- 1.6. No Assignment. Licensee shall not have the right to assign this License Agreement.
- 1.7. <u>Licensee's Obligations</u>. If any portion of the Licensed Premises or any other areas of Licensor's Property is damaged as a result of the acts or omissions of Licensee or its employees, agents, contractors, vendors or invitees (the "Permittees"), Licensee shall promptly repair such damage, at its sole expense, free and clear of any liens and in a good and workmanlike manner.
- 1.8. <u>Indemnity</u>. Licensee shall indemnify, defend and hold Licensor harmless from and against any and all loss, cost, damage, claim, liability or expense (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs) arising out of or in any way related to the use of the Licensed Premises, or any other areas of Licensor's Property, by Licensee or its Permittees. Licensee shall provide prompt written notice to Licensor of any claims made arising from the occurrence of any event on the Licensed Premises or any other areas of Licensor's Property.
- 1.9. <u>Insurance</u>. At all times that this License Agreement is in effect, Licenses and Event vendors shall maintain a policy of commercial general liability insurance (sometimes known as broad form comprehensive general liability insurance) insuring Licensee against liability for bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, and produliability arising out of the use or occupancy of the Licensed Premises by Licensee or its Permittees with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence. Licensee's insurance shall be written as primary coverage and not contributing with, or in excess of any insurance which Licensor may carry. Licensee shall deposit certificates of its required insurance with Licensor prior to Licensee's occupancy of the Licensed Premise which certificates shall contain provisions that obligate the insurer to notify Licensor, with prior written notice in accordance with policy provisions, in the event of cancellation or non-renewal of the coverage. Licensee's commercial general liability policy and other applicable policies shall name Licensor and City of Camilla, Georgia as additional insureds and loss payees on all property policies.



1.10. No Licensor Representations. The Licensed Premises is being delivered "As-Is, Where-Is" and with all faults. Licensor makes no representations or warranties regarding the condition of the Licensed Premises or any other areas of Licensor's Property, or any improvements thereon. Licensor shall have no obligation to maintain, stripe, clean, sweep or light the Licensed Premises or any other areas of Licensor's Property. Further, Licensor shall have no responsibility for loss or damage to motor vehicles or personal property occurring within the Licensed Premises or any other areas of Licensor's Property.

2. <u>REMEDIES</u>.

In the event of any breach or default of any term or provision hereof by Licensee, Licensor may seek the following remedies, which shall be cumulative and are not mutually exclusive: (i) all rights and remedies available at law or in equity; (ii) the immediate revocation of the license granted herein and/or termination of this License Agreement, and/or (iii) the right to receive from the Licensee all reasonable expenses at costs incurred by the Licensor in connection with the default, as determined by a court and not by a jury.

- 2.1. Governing Law and Survival. This License Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia. If any provision of this License Agreement is inval or contrary to law, the remaining provisions of the License Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and may be enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law. The provisions of this License Agreement with respect to any obligation of Licensee, including, without limitation, any indemnities of Licensee contained in this License Agreement, and Licensee's covenant and obligation to pay the License Fee, shall specifically survive the expiration or earlier termination of this License Agreement.
- 2.2. <u>Interpretation</u>. The captions of the Sections of this License Agreement at for convenience only and shall not govern or influence the interpretation hereof. This License Agreement is the result of negotiations between the parties and, accordingly, shall not be construed for or against either party regardless of which party drafted this License Agreement or any portion thereof.
- 2.3. Severability. The invalidation of any of the restrictions or other provision of this License Agreement shall in no way affect any of the other restrictions or provisions of this License Agreement.
- 2.4. No Covenants to Run with Land. The provisions of this License Agreement shall not run with the land and are personal to Licensee. Neither this License Agreement nor any document evidencing the license granted herein shall be recorded.
- 2.5. No Partnership. It is not intended by this License Agreement to, and nothing contained in this License Agreement shall, create any partnership, joint venture or other similar arrangement among the parties.



- 2.6. Entire Agreement. This License Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between and reflects the reasonable expectations of the parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof. All prior and contemporaneous agreements, representations a understandings of the parties relating to the subject matter hereof, oral or written, are hereby superseded and merged herein.
- 2.7. <u>Amendment</u>. This License Agreement may be amended, in whole or in part, only by the written agreement of the parties hereto.
- 2.8. <u>Authority</u>. Licensee represents that it is duly organized and in good standing under the laws of the state of Georgia and that it has full power and authority tenter into and perform Licensee's obligations under this License Agreement. The person(s) executing this License Agreement on behalf of Licensee represent that they are duly authorized to so execute this License Agreement. Licensee shall provide Licensor with proof of such good standing and authorization upon request.
- 2.9. <u>Counterparts</u>. This License Agreement may be executed in any number counterparts, all of which taken together shall constitute but one and the same instrumer and any of the parties hereto may execute this License Agreement by signing such counterpart. Furthermore, this License Agreement may be executed and delivered by electronic transmission. The parties intend that electronic (e.g., .pdf format) signatures constitute original signatures and that an electronic copy or counterparts of this License Agreement containing signatures (original or electronic) of a party is binding upon that party.
- 2.10. Force Majeure. Licensee may, in its sole discretion, elect not to proceed with the Event as a result of any virus, bacteria, pathogen, disease, illness, biological organism of local, widespread, epidemic, or pandemic range or nature, whether such epidemic or pandemic range or nature is formally declared by any local, state, national, extra national governmental or administrative body or NGO, or any public health, transportation or weather crisis, which Licensee determines may adversely affect the Event and/or put at risk or endanger the health or safety of anyone participating in the Event or attending the Event. In such circumstance, Licensee will notify Licensor in writing (including email) and the parties will discuss in good faith a rescheduling of the Event. If the parties cannot agree upon an acceptable period of time to reschedule the Event, Licensee shall have the right to terminate this Agreement and Licensee will be released, without penalty, from any obligations under this Agreement, including paymen of the License Fee, relating to all unused portion of the License Period as of the date of termination.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK SIGNATURES COMMENCE ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Licensor and Licensee have executed this License Agreem as of the date first set forth above.

LICENSOR:

LICENSE:

Approved as to form:

Andrew Stringfellow, Jr.
ACA/VFC

Proclamation

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- WHEREAS, Mr. Kenneth Leroy Johnson was born April 12, 1951 to Arthur and Ethel Lee Johnson and attended Oak Ridge High School in Orlando, Florida; and
- WHEREAS, After graduation, Kenneth "KJ" enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country. He was a decorated Sergeant First Class, a two-time Vietnam Combat Veteran, and received the Combat Infantry Badge. He attended the US Air Assault School, held the Combat Expert Military badge, and awarded 16 achievement medals. His most prestigious assignment was being elected to the 3rd US Infantry in Arlington, Virginia as a member of the Old Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider; and
- WHEREAS, KJ was one of the founding members and served as President of Stitches for Mitchell County and was instrumental in thwarting the overpopulation of unwanted dogs and cats in our community. Under his leadership, this organization grew from a spay/neuter operation to an animal control and animal shelter operation and led Stitches to be a testament on how animals are to be treated; and
- WHEREAS, KJ was known throughout the community for his civic engagement and volunteer service, generously dedicating his time and talent for the betterment of our community; and
- WHEREAS, Kenneth Leroy Johnson passed from this life to eternal life on December 4, 2021 and will be long remembered in our community for his love of people and always willing to lend a hand, offer words of encouragement, or give whatever someone needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla express their sincere appreciation for Kenneth Leroy Johnson's contributions to our community, state, and country.

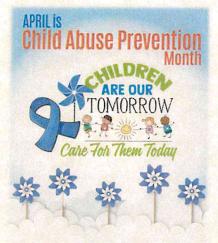
This 11th day of April, 2022.

Kelvin M. Owens, Mayor City of Camilla SIEAIL

Cheryl Ford, Clerk



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



WHEREAS, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete

resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla, Georgia do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in the City of Camilla and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Camilla, Georgia to be affixed this 11th day of April, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two.

Kelvin M. Owens, Mayor City of Camilla SEAL

Cheryl Ford, Clerk



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WHEREAS, city government is the closest to most citizens and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kelvin Owens, Mayor of the City of Camilla and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 23-30, 2022 as

Georgia Cities Week

in the City of Camilla and encourage all citizens, city government officials and employees to do everything possible to ensure this week is recognized and celebrated accordingly.

So proclaimed this 11th day of April, 2022.

Kelvin Owens, Mayor City of Camilla SIEAL

Cheryl Ford, Clerk

March 14,2022

To the; Mayor, City Council and City Administrator
The Kolbie Family wishes to thank you for the
attractive sign for the park that honors our father,
Morris. It greatly enhances the area.

Thanks again for the added improvement and Beautification to Kolbie Park.

We also thank all of you for serving the city

Of Camilla and seeing to the needs of all the

People.

God bless your endeavors with wisdom and unity.

THE KOLBIE FAMILY