



AGENDA
CITY OF CAMILLA COUNCIL MEETING
4th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
LIVE BROADCAST - CITY OF CAMILLA FACEBOOK PAGE
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 ~ 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order; Roll Call
2. Opening Prayer and Pledge
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes: March 1, 2022 Called Council Meeting
March 14, 2022 Council Meeting
March 22, 2022 Called Council Meeting
5. Speaker Appearances
6. Action Items:
 - a. Ordinance No. 2022-04-11-1 – Special Events and Use of City Property – Inclusion of Centennial Stadium Property
7. Proclamations and Presentations:
 - a. Proclamation – Kenneth Leroy Johnson (Councilmember Tucker)
 - b. Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month (Mayor Owens)
8. City Manager's Report
 - a. Conflict of Interest – 2022 Community Development Block Grant Target Area
9. Mayor's Announcements
10. Adjourn

**MINUTES – CALLED MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
MARCH 1, 2022**

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 by Mayor Owens.

Roll call indicated the following present: Councilmember Tucker, Councilman Burley, Councilman Morgan, Councilman Twitty, Councilman Pollard (arrived late), and Councilman Palmer.

City Manager Steve Sykes and City Clerk Cheryl Ford were also present.

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Tucker 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

On motion by Councilman Twitty, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, the motion to approve the Called Meeting agenda for March 1, 2022 passed by a 5-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter. On motion by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Burley, the motion to enter Executive Session passed by a unanimous vote. Mayor Owens announced to the public they would be entering Executive Session discussion on a personnel matter and the live feed for Facebook would stop. Upon adjournment of the Executive Session the live feed for Facebook will resume.

Upon adjournment of Executive Session, Mayor Owens asked for a motion to direct the city manager to create an external job posting for an Interim City Manager with the job posting starting on March 9, 2022 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard. The motion passed by a 4-2 vote with Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer voting against the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Twitty, seconded by Councilman Burley, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

BY: _____
KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CHERYL FORD, CLERK

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
MARCH 14, 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, March 14, 2022 by Mayor Owens.

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

City Manager Steve Sykes, City Attorney Tommy Coleman, and City Clerk Cheryl Ford were also present.

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Councilman Burley 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 approve the agenda. Councilmember Tucker stated she would like to make an amendment to the agenda. She commented there was discussion about the FY21 budget amendment and considering the documentation they now have from the CFO and city manager detailing the audit is due by March 31st, they would not have a meeting before then, a budget amendment is needed to stay in compliance and be eligible for future CDBG grants and GEFA funding, and subject them to repay ARPA. She wants to add that as an action item for discussion on the agenda. Mayor Owens stated if he understands her she is amending the agenda to include Fiscal 2021 budget amendment. She stated that was correct and could be item #k. Councilman Palmer stated he seconded the motion and critical they do this because the good faith and credit of the City of Camilla is hinged on this and has not heard any reason why they should not be doing this. It is business and should be taken care of in a timely manner and the Council should act accordingly. Mayor Owens stated the councilwoman referenced the city manager's memo and for the record asked if she was basing her motion off the March 9, 2022 memo from the city manager. She replied that was correct and her motion is just to amend the agenda. Mayor Owens stated inside the memo the city manager mentioned, or in the email at least, the detailed information given them last Monday related to this particular subject. Their CFO laid some documents down when there was a consensus not to add to the agenda. If there is no objection, and Lisa [Ferguson] is not here, he wanted to make sure that was the document she [Ferguson] handed out and City Manager Sykes agreed it was the document. To make sure they have it in front of them he passed out the information provided by CFO Ferguson and asked it be made a part of the record. One of the things when they are preparing for the budget and rely heavily upon, and the Charter calls for it especially if there is going to be major changes related to the budget, the city manager (he is saying city manager because the Charter is written that way), is the information flows from him. With this budget they are talking about five to a thou-

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (cont.)

sand line items and its a lot. If there are going to be major changes the Charter asks the city manager let them know about big changes (his language) and the Charter talks about major changes. In the document he gave them that Lisa handed out last week they were budgeted for \$8,600 for police overtime. That is what they were told would be needed for year ending 2021. As they see from the document provided, that number ended up being over \$90,000. They were told they needed \$8,600 for police overtime and was communicated from the city manager to the Council. It was a different Council back then but the facts remain the same. In 2020 they had no less than three budget hearings and no where in the summary they were given it mentions about police overtime, and specifically at Tyson. They had three meetings and at the end of the third and final meeting when the Council voted, they were told they needed was \$8,600 for police overtime. When the fiscal year ended that number was somewhere near \$97,000. Here is what happened and he said it before. For the record Mayor Owens stated in April of 2020 the city manager, without the authority or knowledge of the Council, entered in to what he believed to be a services agreement to provide private security for Tyson. This Council was not aware, was not told, and did not approve it. It was for night time security. They had a meeting the following month, another meeting in May, and in June there was a tragedy at Tyson. At that time, according to the city manager, he was asked by the leadership at Tyson if he could add day time security and it was added. Much of this, if not most, was due to overtime. Officers had to do this when they were off for the most part. This had happened while they were talking about the budget. Not once, and the record is clear, was this Council informed from the city manager or staff, back in April a contract or agreement was done without their authority or knowledge with Tyson to provide private security on their private property. It is costing overtime so they may want to consider when they vote on this year's budget. They were never told that. In June of 2021 he told a different Council this is a problem and specifically mentioned the \$8,600. For whatever reason, that information was not consumed. Ten months later they are being asked to approve an amendment for an additional roughly \$88,000 and he has a question. Councilman Palmer stated they have a motion and a second on the floor and he is calling the question. Mayor Owens stated it was the discussion period and he is the presiding officer of the meeting. His question for the city manager, in the memo Councilwoman Tucker mentioned, in the last paragraph the city manager mentioned detailed information provided Monday (which is the document the Mayor just provided), the unbilled overtime expense related to Tyson is 21.7% of the total overtime expense. The city manager was asked what he meant by unbilled. City Manager Sykes stated when the budget was presented for \$8,700 it did not include Tyson. It was any incidental overtime and when officers were being called and that was being budgeted. Tyson was not budgeted any overtime because the security agreement was for them to pay for it. The way they account for the Tyson service agreement is the revenue and expense hit the same line item. For this year they were projecting, before the contract was canceled, \$147,000 in revenue and they were offsetting that with \$112,000 in expense. There would be no overtime for Tyson budgeted because it is a net gain, a revenue. What they are talking about today is a budget amendment for 2020-2021. At the time they did the budget there was no anticipation that there would be any Tyson overtime not covered or reimbursed by Tyson. What they ended up with, the \$90,000, wasn't just from Tyson. It was vacancies, COVID vacancies, and a big number. They don't budget for vacancies but budget to be completely staffed. When not completely staffed they pay overtime. There is an offsetting expense called regular salaries. What they should see when there are vacancies, they are high on overtime and low on regular salaries. They need to

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (cont.)

take the whole thing into consideration rather than just saying it was a Tyson issue, it really wasn't a Tyson issue. The only issue with Tyson is when they authorized for night time only and he authorized a day time also. About \$20,000 of that was for the service we provided and did not collect from them. That is where he gets the 20% of the \$88,000 experienced in overtime. Only \$20,000 was related to Tyson and the other \$60,000 was related to COVID, vacancies, and/or special events they did not plan for during the year. For the year they are talking about, October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, they collected \$98,820 and it cost them \$119,000 in expense. The actual out of pocket to the City during that period of time was \$11,345. They were over budget and it was a decision of his to send help when they called for it. The reason for the \$8,000 was not related to Tyson. Mayor Owens stated in the memo it says unbilled overtime, 462 hours, \$20,939.06. His original question was when city manager says unbilled, what he means. City Manager Sykes stated that was the difference between what they paid and what it cost us. Mayor Owens asked if we received the \$20,000 from Tyson. City Manager Sykes stated we received \$98,820 from Tyson. Mayor Owens asked how much it cost us. City Manager Sykes replied \$119,000. Mayor Owens asked where that balance was. City Manager Sykes replied it shows up in the overtime. Mayor Owens stated we received \$98,000 from Tyson and paid the officers \$115,000. City Manager Sykes stated we paid them \$102,000 plus benefits of \$7,800 which is social security and Medicare. Mayor Owens asked when that amount (the difference) came in from Tyson. City Manager Sykes responded during the budget year. City Manager Sykes stated there was a period of time where they provided day time service and they were not being billed for it. Mayor Owens stated that is what he is getting to and there was a point the citizens of Camilla paid for Tyson's day time private security. That is a problem and it needs to be worked out. City Manager Sykes stated those officers are totally under his direction and he did not need a Council agreement to authorize them to do that. He could send them to the parking lot at Walmart today without Council approval. Mayor Owens stated as he mentioned before, and the City Manager said, there was a period of day time security the citizens of Camilla paid the bill and that is a problem. We cannot attempt to amend the budget when we have those kind of questions out there. It is Councilwoman Tucker's motion and wants to make sure what we are saying. We are talking about amending a budget where the people of Camilla, it appears, have not been made whole. The people of Camilla need to be made whole before this is ratified by the Council. The City Attorney and parliamentarian would agree, she [Councilwoman Tucker] has the option to rescind the motion. He wants to make sure there is a balance of money the citizens of Camilla, and what it appears and listening to the city manager, the citizens paid for that and it is a problem. This is not about delay, but due diligence. Before they send anything to the State they have to take care of something here first and there is a lot to be discussed. Councilmember Tucker stated she certainly did not know that were going to revisit Tyson tonight and thought it had been settled. With respect to the conversation about him not being aware of it, she wants it to be clear the city manager has the authority to direct personnel. The police chief has the authority to send officers to Walmart and Tyson and the city manager has the authority. When it is presented in the light he [the Mayor] presented it, like it was not appropriate, if it had not been appropriate our city attorney would not have allowed that to occur. Once it was brought up and Council wanted it in the form of a contract rather than a personnel agreement, it was handled in that manner. She wants to make sure that they are all clear on the fact the city manager is responsible for personnel and they are not as a council. When an agreement is made between the police chief and city manager to provide law enforcement, then that was at their call. At the point

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (cont.)

in time the Mayor wanted it to be a contract, the Council agreed to do a contract. All of this is for the sake of just amending our agenda for tonight because she thinks everything he [the Mayor] has said has already occurred. So now what do they do? Now they be wise about how they plan for the future and make the correct decision. It is customary for cities to make a budget amendment. She supports amending the budget because she feels the City needs to be in compliance, the City needs to be eligible to receive grants, and she does not want to see it to hurt our credit rating as a city for failing to make a relatively small budget amendment. Councilman Palmer stated almost every year they have had to go in and true up the budget at this time for various and sundry things that have changed or not balanced. This is business as usual. Mayor Owens stated the personnel agreement the city manager entered into with Tyson, even though in his mind was something he could do, he entered into a contract and he cannot do that. It was not Owens' contract to be done, something our city attorney reaffirmed, and how we ended up getting a contract. Owens found the discrepancy when they were 800% over the budget and wanted to know why are we 800% over our overtime. He had to do an open records request to find out we had a contract with Tyson. It was during that time he advised the city manager it was a contract and needed to be approved. If there was going to be that type of arrangement there had to be a contract. The city attorney will be more than happy to validate that. Councilman Palmer asked if that was a contract. City Manager Sykes replied it was a services agreement that he sent to Tyson and the agreement was to protect the City. Without the agreement he can still send an officer to Tyson right now and it would impact the budget. Mayor Owens asked the city attorney if the agreement entered into by the city manager with Tyson was a contract. City Attorney Coleman replied it was. Everyone is correct that he [city manager] can assign officers to go where he believes they need to go and can assign public works people, electrical, or where he thinks the problem is. When we enter in an agreement where there is pay then it became a contract. He and Steve talked about that and he told him to put in writing and that is what they did. Councilmember Tucker commented the contract was approved. Mayor Owens stated as long as they are clear it was a contract. Mayor Owens stated his opposition is not about delay but due diligence. There is money the citizens of Camilla, and gratuities type stuff with the State of Georgia, there are issues they are going to have to address. The councilwoman asked what do we do now. It has been spent and is in the past and what we do is we lead. We hold folks accountable where necessary, we tell the people of Camilla where their money is. Not until that happens, he recommends, there be no amendment until those things are done. There will be transparency in this City. There will not be any side deals, any talks outside of this Council when it is within their authority, i.e. contracts, there will be transparency in this City. Whatever it takes, if it is delay in getting this audit to the State, so be it. There will be transparency in this City and this is a new day. Mayor Owens apologized for his tone but it is important as the chief elected official and the presiding officer of this meeting, as the chief policy advocate of this city, it is important for him to say it in such a way that it is understood. The councilwoman's motion stands and has been seconded. Councilman Pollard commented they gave 21st century policing to our police, the council, and our citizens. They had an awesome presentation. He is reminded as he is sitting there tonight, and he [city manager] is saying 'I have the authority to do exactly what I desire to do. If I want to send the police out there at my leisure, I can do that.' Chief Rich brought to the Council just because it may be in your authority or just because you may see you can do that, it does not make it right or legitimate because you can do that. There is \$20,000 of

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (cont.)

the people's money that has not been addressed that the people gave to Tyson, a multi-million dollar company, the citizens giving them money is backward and absurd. He asked if they could understand it. Whether it was legitimate or not, they haven't gotten the money back, the people's money, not his money, not Councilman Burley's money, not Mayor Owens money, not the city manager's money. This is the people's money they paid for their police officers to go out there and sit for private security. Where is the money is what they need to be finding out. Mayor Owens asked for all in favor of amending the agenda to include adding the Fiscal Year 2021 budget amendment as presented. Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer voted in favor of the motion. Councilmen Burley, Pollard and Morgan voted in opposition. Mayor Owens stated they have three councilmembers voting against adding to the agenda and per the Charter, the Mayor votes typically when there is a tie. But there is also another section in his responsibilities the Mayor also can vote to give the four votes needed for or against something. He votes against adding this to the agenda. The motion failed by a 4-2 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Owens stated the following minutes are on the agenda for approval: January 26, 2022 Called Council Meeting, February 14, 2022 Council Meeting, and February 17, 2022 Called Council Meeting. Councilmember Tucker stated she has a motion to correct the record in the February 14, 2022 minutes, page 9, line 11. It states we were in the news three weeks ago about high crime in Camilla, auto entering, and home invasion in the city of Camilla. With respect to her motion to correct the record, according to our police reports, there has not been a home invasion since July 2020. It was related to drug activity going on inside the home and a home invasion occurring. Her motion is to correct the record. Mayor Owens asked if it was her contention there was not a news story about Camilla in general and he remembers the news story. Councilmember Tucker stated she does not question there was not a news story and for the record wants to document there was not a home invasion. She is not advocating to change the minutes but document the news report was incorrect. Mayor Owens commented whoever made the statement was referencing the news article and believes it was our local prosecutor on the news asking people to lock their doors. Councilmember Tucker stated the only motion to correct the record is there was no home invasion in January or February of 2022 and the only correction. City Attorney Coleman stated that would not be a change in minutes. Councilmember Tucker stated it is not amending the minutes but a correction of the record. On motion by Councilman Morgan, seconded by Councilman Burley, the motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2022 Called Council Meeting, the February 14, 2022 Council Meeting and February 17, 2022 Called Council Meeting minutes with the addition to the record by Councilwoman Tucker to add the item related to February 14th. Councilman Pollard abstained from voting and the motion passed by a 4-1 vote.

ACTION ITEMS

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03-14-1 – SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY

The Mayor and Council received a letter of resignation from Councilman Vernon Twitty, Jr. effective March 8, 2022. Councilman Twitty's term expires December 31, 2023 and represents District 2, Post 1. In his letter of resignation, he expressed his great pleasure and privilege to

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-03-14-1 – SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY (cont.)

serve with the citizens of Camilla for the past 30 years as councilman and as mayor. He further stated it was also his pleasure and privilege to serve with councilmembers who also served the citizens of Camilla in the hope of moving Camilla forward toward our collective tomorrows. He wished the Council and Camilla great future success. The Council recommends adopting Ordinance No. 2022-03-14-1 declaring a vacancy for the position, calling for a special election to be held on May 24, 2022, waiving the second reading, and authorizing the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Burley. Councilman Morgan asked when the qualifying period would be held. City Attorney Coleman replied when qualifying for regular elections it is set by the State. For special elections it is more flexible and is April 11th and thinks Steve will be saying it needs to be earlier. City Manager Sykes stated Item 7 identifies qualifying beginning April 11th at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until April 15th at 4:30 p.m. If they do that they are not able to send the ballots to the printer until qualifying ends to know who the candidates are. With this schedule it gives them two weeks to get the ballots printed, back to us, and proofread. Without changing anything else but the qualifying period, they would move it to April 4th and ending April 8th to give one extra week to get the ballots printed. He asked Council to consider qualifying to begin on April 4th through April 8th. Mayor Owens asked for thoughts moving the date to April 4th. Councilmember Tucker commented it would give staff one extra week to process ballots, have ballots printed, and process applications as they come in. City Manager Sykes commented when early voting begins they have to have ballots and have to be proofread. Mayor Owens asked if there was any objection to amending the ordinance to April 4th. He commented in the ordinance it has Camilla Enterprise and it is no longer the Camilla Enterprise. He recommends they change that to the proper legal organ, which is the Mitchell County Enterprise Journal. City Manager Sykes stated in Item 10 it references the advertisement the week of March 28th and they need to move the advertisement up to the week of March 21st. Staff's intention is to educate the community by putting this information out in various sources so the community is aware when qualifying is, election date, and location. Mayor Owens stated Don Gray is the election superintendent for the purposes of the election and is a little tricky. At that particular time Mr. Gray reports, and works for, the Council in his capacity as election superintendent. He will be recommending on April 4th for Don to come and talk about the process going forward. The motion is to adopt Ordinance No. 2022-03-14-1, waive the second reading, authorize the Mayor to sign, along with the change of qualifying to begin on April 4, 2022 and end on April 8, 2022 at 4:30 p.m., change the name of the legal organ, and move the public notice to the week of March 21st. Councilman Morgan commented he wanted to thank Councilman Twitty for his service and leadership on the Council and is definitely appreciated as a new councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem to see how he navigated throughout our government process in the city. Councilman Burley referenced the advertisement and commented we would have to change the dates on Exhibit B. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

COVID-19 VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM POLICY

The Council reviewed a policy providing for a COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program for citizens residing within the corporate limits of Camilla. At the regular session of Mayor and Council held February 14, 2022 the Council approved the use of \$50,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide \$50 gift cards for participating citizens who meet the criteria as outlined in the policy. The program begins March 15, 2022 and will continue through July 12, 2022. The Council recommends approving the COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program Policy. Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve the COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive for citizens residing within the corporate limits of Camilla. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Morgan. Councilmember Tucker stated she was absent last week and only able to participate by watching through Facebook and the reason social security number was struck. She thought it was to be used as an identifier to make sure the child under eighteen and the reason it was eliminated. Councilman Pollard stated it does not identify anything and does not identify a child being legal age or anything, it only belongs to the person. Councilmember Tucker stated a child would not have a drivers license and social security would be used to help staff be able to verify. Councilman Pollard asked verify what. Councilmember Tucker replied a city resident. City Manager Sykes commented eligibility and what social security does is recognize the parent has access to the social security number of a child. It prevents fraud where someone can come in and claim they have five children and they have one and get four extra \$100 gift cards. It verifies they are eligible for the card. Mayor Owens stated to the councilwoman's point, the main driver for this incentive is you reside in the corporate limits of city of Camilla and the social security does not say that. On the second page of the document is an affidavit for whomever is bringing the child in. What replaced the social security card is the school record. If the child's school record matches the utility bill of the person bringing them in, the child would be eligible and why the social security card was taken off. Mayor Owens stated if the motion is approved, the first event is Saturday the 19th. Tomorrow they will have to get hot getting this information out to the public. If the motion passes tonight he will send out an email tonight requesting those particular marketing tools be used to get the word out. He asked if there was any issue with that and no one voiced objection. He will see what Saturday looks like in terms of the card and if staff will be available for Saturday. If not, there are elected officials prepared to be there. Mayor Owens stated the motion is providing a COVID-19 vaccine incentive program for citizens residing within the corporate limits of Camilla. Councilmen Burley, Morgan and Pollard voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer voted in opposition. Mayor Owens stated there are only three votes and in Camilla you need four affirmative votes to pass a motion. He votes yes and the motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

ONE-DAY ALCOHOL PERMIT REQUEST – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL BANQUET

The Council reviewed a one-day alcohol permit request submitted by the Camilla Chamber of Commerce for their annual banquet scheduled for March 22, 2022. This event is classified as an annual event for renewal per City Ordinance No. 2021-08-16-1. The Council recommends approval of the one-day alcohol permit for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on

ONE-DAY ALCOHOL PERMIT REQUEST – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL BANQUET (cont.)

March 22, 2022. On motion by Councilman Palmer, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE/LANDSCAPE BID

The Council reviewed three bids received for the 2022 Right-of-Way Maintenance/Landscape contract. The scope of work remains the same as the previous contract and the anticipated start date is April 1st. LRL Ventures and Management of Albany, Georgia was identified as low bidder with a bid amount of \$66,800 per year. The Council recommends accepting the bid from LRL Ventures and Management and awarding the bid for right-of-way maintenance/landscape in the amount of \$66,800. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilmember Tucker. Mayor Owens stated last week at the work session they talked about crews out there picking up trash but the grass got cut. City Manager Sykes stated the contractor who did not renew the contract agreed to come help us out until we could we could get this addressed. Councilman Pollard asked if he said agreed to help us out. City Manager Sykes responded they mowed it after the contract was up but agreed to mow it for the same price we were paying during the contract. The money was in the budget and we will pay them for the mowing. Mayor Owens stated he assumed staff reached out to them and City Manager Sykes stated they did knowing LRL would not be available until April. Mayor Owens stated he appreciates the initiative and this cut should last. The motion to award the right-of-way maintenance/landscape contract to LRL Ventures and Management in the amount of \$66,800 passed by a 5-0.

BID AWARD – GATEWAY SIGNAGE

City Manager Sykes stated he has provided a bid tab received today. They have three prices: Barber Contracting in Moultrie, Construction CGM, and LRA Constructors. Bidders were asked to price one sign or two signs. Barber Contracting gave the low bid for one sign in the amount of \$49,700. For two monumental signs being built at the same time, Barber is also the low bidder for \$99,400. Recommendation from staff is these funds would come from economic development funds on hand. DOT has requested we meet with them for pre-construction for the sign on the south sign on DOT right-of-way. They have given us ninety days from their permit to at least begin construction and waiting to see if Council approves the award for one or two signs so we can schedule a meeting with DOT for the sign. For the sign on the north side of town the property is being sold, but both the current owner and future buyer have both agreed to assist the City and cooperate with the permanent easement agreement and those documents are being drawn up now. If the Council will consider and award to Barber both signs we can proceed with beginning the construction and finalizing the permit easement on the north side. It is their recommendation to award both gateway signs. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilmember Tucker. Councilman Pollard commented on the sign prices and City Manager Sykes responded anything we do right now will come with a premium. When they see the pricing of the Boys and Girls Club it will probably be in the \$3 million range which is a lot higher than a year ago. Most construction happening right now is a lot higher than six months ago. Mayor Owens asked for unanimous consent for the Mayor to sign the contract for this parti-

BID AWARD – GATEWAY SIGNAGE (cont.)

cular item and items listed tonight it is understood, or stipulated, they are authorizing him to sign whatever contracts are needed to make these things work. Councilman Palmer asked the city attorney if proper. City Attorney commented the Mayor would sign. The motion to award both gateway signs to Barber Contracting in the amount of \$99,400 with authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract passed by a unanimous vote.

BID AWARD – CAMPBELL DRIVE PAVING IMPROVEMENTS

Bids were received for a paving project on Campbell Drive for an approximate 150' section of pavement at the entrance. Scope of the work includes cutting the road two-feet deep and placing compacted subgrade along with base and coordinating traffic control during road construction. To ensure safety of the public during construction, certified flaggers will direct traffic and with one lane accessible for entering and exiting the area. Green's Backhoe of Thomasville, Georgia was low bidder with a bid amount of \$32,169.75 and Council recommends awarding the bid to Green's Backhoe. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Burley. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL TRAVEL BUDGET AMENDMENT

The Council reviewed information provided by City Manager Sykes for FY 2021-2022 travel budget expenses incurred and anticipated future expenses. Approval is required for the mayor or a councilmember to exceed the budgeted amount of their individual allowance. Councilman Pollard's anticipated future expenses are estimated to exceed his budgeted allowance of \$5,975 by a deficit of \$600. Council recommends approval of an additional \$600 to the Councilmember's budget to ensure all training activities are budgeted. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Burley. Mayor Owens reminded the council and public the reason for the overage for Councilman Pollard. He is one of a few elected officials about to achieve the Certificate of Excellence from the University of Georgia and our relationship with GMA. In order to get that certification he has to attend the Knox Leadership Institute. That training is approximately \$700 and where they see the balance at. Just a little into his fourth year on this Council he has achieved that standing and primed to go to the Knox Leadership Institute this spring. He wanted to make sure the record is clear where the overage is coming from. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – BURSON ROAD PROJECT

The Council reviewed an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Camilla and the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners for expansion of sanitary sewer to serve County property located at 5201 Hwy. 19 (Burson Road area). The two parties each agree to pay 50% of the \$54,347.95 bid awarded to Green's Backhoe to complete the sewer expansion project. The Council recommends approval of the intergovernmental agreement with authorization for the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilmember Tucker. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

LOCAL VENDOR PURCHASING POLICY

The Council discussed the need to review the City's local purchasing policy to express their desire to purchase from local vendors whenever possible. A new *Section 12 – Local Buying Preference* was reviewed by Council to replace the existing policy language dated August 15, 2018. The new policy provides for all purchases over \$5,000, when the quality, service, price, and other factors are substantially equal, local vendors may be given an opportunity to match the lowest cost proposal, if the quotation or bid is within 5% of the lowest cost proposal. The Council recommends approval and implementation of the new policy for Local Buying Preference to ensure the use of local vendors whenever possible. A motion was made by Councilman Palmer and seconded by Councilman Pollard. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

COMPETITIVE TRUST FUNDS – STREET PAVING

The Council discussed in depth at their March 7th work session the use of competitive trust funds to expedite street paving. With a scheduled date of August 2022 for a street paving project consisting of ten streets using TSLPOST, LMIG, and SPLOST funds, it is recommended to use approximately \$384,070 from the unrestricted competitive trust fund and begin the paving project. The actual amount to be used from the unrestricted competitive trust fund is contingent upon the bids received for the paving project and the dollar amount of the bidder identified with the lowest and best bid. Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve using the funds from the unrestricted municipal competitive trust to prefund paving projects for 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Pollard. Councilmember Tucker called on the city manager to give an overview of the memo of March 10th and the graphs that go along with it. She thought he might be best to review that for them. The comments she has received from citizens who called her since last week's newspaper were with respect to why would we want to use our reserve fund that we have in place for stabilizing our rates. She had to look at it from a very simple level of what does it mean to the citizens. She looked at it in terms of what if we did not have this fund that councilmembers before them were wise enough to set aside and build this reserve to help stabilize. Last year they pulled \$1.2 million to stabilize the rates to keep from having a rate increase and are certainly thankful for the wisdom the council long before them making that decision. This year they are looking a \$1.4 million differential between what they are currently charging our residents vs. what it actually costs. What does that mean to the homeowner and it is going to be about 25 to 27% rate increase for the homeowner. She took what she thought maybe was a common electric bill and used the figure of \$270. If your electric bill is \$270, if we don't have this fund to draw on, your electric bill is now \$338, a \$68 increase. Some have an electric bill less than \$270 and some more than \$270. By not having this fund available she thinks it makes a huge impact for our citizens, especially those who could least afford a 27% increase. She is not comfortable pulling funds from our reserve and not certain it is allowable when talking about TSPLOST like borrowing from the reserve money and the TSPLOST money is, by referendum, to be used for paving. When it comes in, what do we do. If they don't replenish that fund and the fund is expended she wants to make sure the citizens are aware this is our savings account and keeps our utility rates manageable and level. She asked the city manager to explain the graph because it is visual there comes a time when they are in trouble. Mayor Owens asked what her reference for 27% increase is. Councilmember Tucker

COMPETITIVE TRUST FUNDS – STREET PAVING (cont.)

replied it is based on the fact on the amount of utilities revenue we get in the city and backing out Tyson and only looking at the residential load. She wanted to factor in what it would mean to the resident, not commercial. Mayor Owens stated he wanted to make sure the public understands these are her numbers and isn't scientific. Councilmember Tucker stated it is math. Mayor Owens stated it is an assumption of hers and Councilmember Tucker responded it is based on the budget. Mayor Owens stated Walmart is on our grid and the flower shop is on our grid. To say the only folks going to bear any particular cost increase would be [Clerk's Note: inaudible comment]. Councilmember Tucker stated she wanted to be sure the citizens are aware without a rate stabilization fund, which is the equivalent of our own personal savings account, when you do not have that it is going to be where we have to increase rates. If you do not have a reserve, you have to increase rates. She asked if that was correct and Mayor Owens replied no. Councilmember Tucker said if you do not have a reserve you must increase rates. Mayor Owens responded that is not true and wants to make sure for the record she is not referencing anything other than her own math as it relates to a 27% increase. Councilmember Tucker replied it is math based on the revenue of the electric load of the city backing out Tyson. City Manager Sykes stated the chart was prepared after the work session and a couple things discussed that helped him narrow down these two options. The top option presented was his recommendation in the previous memo and he referenced a 1% moderate annual increase. One percent annually will help get rates where they are now to where they need to be eight years out where the rates are paying for the cost of power. Today they are not. It also identified that \$7.6 million out of the rate stabilization fund is what it would take to cash flow us until they got there. Without the rate stabilization fund they do not have electric rates to where it will pay our way in electric. The second example was based on a comment made by the Mayor about his opposition for any rate adjustments in the electric system. If you took that approach and did not adjust the electric rates for the next eight years, you end up using not \$7.6 million but \$13.2 million out of the rate stabilization fund. At the end of the 8th year, if you don't use any other rate fund, you are \$1.6 million short. The question at that time is do you do a \$1.6 million adjustment to your rates. Currently we are charging \$14 million a year for electric revenue. Of the \$14 million about \$9 million is from Tyson and means everyone else including Walmart and McDonald's is paying \$5 million. Tyson is very significant and paying the lion share of the fixed cost on our power. Eighty percent of every dollar that you pay for electricity, eighty cents of that dollar is fixed costs - Plant Vogtle, Plant Hatch, Plant Wansley. If we sell no electricity tomorrow you still have eighty percent of the costs and load is very important to keep rates down for our citizens. The second scenario is if you take the position we do not adjust our rates and do not grow load, and the only way not to raise rates is to grow your load, if you take the position of no rate adjustment and do not grow your load, he thinks they run out of rate stabilization money and get to the end of the pot of gold. They are stuck with not enough revenue to pay their way and only looks at eight years. Plant Vogtle is a 40-year asset and we have power plants that are 30 year assets. Council needs to take a longer look at this and it is not just an eight year look. He thinks asking ECG to do a rate study is important to Camilla. Long term he thinks they need to do that and his only caution is they don't spend the money they need to stabilize rates before they know what that amount is. Councilman Morgan stated he had a comment and what he finds most troubling

COMPETITIVE TRUST FUNDS – STREET PAVING (cont.)

with the comments on how we are choosing to spend, he finds it hard this council had no vision for the city to grow when they made these reserve funds. He hates the narrative is being presented as if there is only one account when there are two. From what he is hearing they are pushing back because they don't think the city is going to grow or they don't want to put in the effort as a council to think outside the box, be creative, and begin to look at alternative options to begin to pay for these things. As the city manager just stated this a four-year load and at some point the money was going to run out anyway. Are they going to step up to the plate today and tomorrow and begin to figure out alternative methods of making sure our bills are paid. In his opinion that begins by investing in the city and the question is about to be called to approve this funding to pave streets in Camilla. Councilman Palmer stated in Steve's comments we still have the obligation of Vogtle and will have debt service for forty years. The other fund being mentioned was for that debt service whenever it starts we have part of that money in reserve so our utility rates will not go up so significant to hurt our low income, fixed income, moderate income people in town and is the reason it is there. That day is coming and if the Council votes to spend the money set aside to pave streets that we will be getting money for in the fall, he cannot see the logic. Councilman Morgan stated the logic is to pave streets in a faster manner than before and is a result of this Council not adequately paving streets in this city's history. If the streets had been paved we would not be at this place but the streets are not paved. Councilmember Tucker asked for the city attorney to address her concerns about the TSPLOST and if legal to pull money from our competitive trust fund for something voted on by the citizens to use the TSPLOST for. Councilman Morgan stated that is not the question and the question is to spend the money out of the unrestricted account and is up to the Council's discretion. If the city attorney says we can, we will reimburse the account. Councilmember Tucker asked if it was a legal option to do that. City Attorney Coleman stated they can use the money in the competitive trust and the question was can they use TSPLOST or SPLOST money to pay it back. When you vote on SPLOST you designate projects under TSPLOST and SPLOST. The question is, and he has a mixed answer, maybe you can and may you can't. He could not find a case about it at all. The ACCG has a manual and seem to say although not expressly authorizing SPLOST so long as strict accounting of the SPLOST funds is maintained, you can do it. He called GMA to see what they thought and they had not heard of it before and don't think you can do it. Some judge will decide that case someday. If they do it there will be some risk and sees the logic on both questions and is what judges decide. Mayor Owens asked if he was talking about the reimbursement piece and City Attorney Coleman replied yes. Mayor Owens stated this is the point Councilman Morgan touched on. If we can't put the money back in the competitive trust they will find other projects to use it for within the realm of TSPLOST. As the city manager and Mayor Pro Tem pointed out there are two ways to increase revenue in terms of electric: grow your load and have more customers, partners, homes, businesses. The idea is the economic growth of this town is squarely within the responsibility of the policy makers sitting around the table. Earlier in the meeting they talked about what happens when they take their hands off the wheel. Strange things start to happen but when they are serious about growing our city, they are going to have to make an investment. When you decide to add a bedroom, bathroom, or pool to your home, odds are you are going to increase the property value of your home because you

COMPETITIVE TRUST FUNDS – STREET PAVING (cont.)

made that investment. On a larger scale, a macro scale, this is the same thing. At some point they are going to have to start investing in themselves. They are going to have to start investing in this city. He agrees with the councilwoman in terms of the genius of putting some of this money aside. He reminded everyone it was about a year and a half ago they had a conversation about the economic development fund. There was about \$700,000 sitting in it and not touched in years. Our city manager at the time, and he is paraphrasing, when they were about to build the hangar the money was sitting there doing nothing. That was \$700,000 in the economic development fund. Since that comment a couple of things have happened and you can see it downtown. We took \$150,000 and transferred to the DDA to start fixing up the facades downtown. People are commenting how our downtown is looking better and that is thinking outside the box. There are things they are going to need to do in this post-COVID economy that are extremely important. They cannot operate as if it is 2010, 2015, or 2018. COVID has forever changed the global economy and they need to get ahead of that. Southwest Georgia sends out, whenever someone is going to build something, a development regional impact. If another surrounding city is building something they have to let surrounding cities know they may see increased traffic or whatever. There is a city within a 30-minute drive of Camilla and they are talking about the construction of 600 single-family residential housing units on 74 acres of land. The build out is going to be \$14 million. For some reason that developer has decided a \$14 million investment in this city is going to be worthwhile. Six hundred is a lot of load. Imagine when they start fixing up and investing in Camilla we get developers who want to come here and do that. This is not the time for fear. When you are bold, risk will always be a passenger. We would not be the greatest country on the face of this earth if not for taking chances and believing in themselves. Whereas he can understand the concerns and to the Mayor Pro Tem's point, he wants everyone to understand there are two accounts. The unrestricted account has \$9 million in it right now and the restricted account, as of September, there was \$6.2 million and have taken \$1.2 million out of that. Right now there is a total of \$13 million and does not believe anyone sitting around the table is suggesting they spend it all. If they are talking about street paving now, in April they will have another conversation about this particular fund, the unrestricted fund. The idea is, to the city manager's point, there is about eight to ten years of funds. If they are not getting this city hopping in five or six years, they have a serious problem. He is suggesting they start investing now so in two to three years, whatever the concern is in terms of loss, they are going to make that up by growing their load. Councilman Palmer stated you cannot grow your load that quick and they do not need to jeopardize their saving account. The money is coming in the fall of the year with TSPLOST. City Manager Sykes stated they are getting about \$47,000 monthly on the TSPLOST funds and \$45,000 a month on the SPLOST funds. Councilman Palmer stated he does not see the urgency to pull money out and we have money coming in. We can't put in back in there and shouldn't be and have a lot of pie in the sky here. City Manager Sykes stated the memo is just a word of warning and hopes the Mayor is right and they do experience growth because it will relieve the need for rates. If they bank everything on growing and it doesn't happen, you will have spent \$13 million, both the fixed and the flexible, the entire amount, and the rates will not be where they need to be. They will have a very hard choice in how to close the gap. Councilmember Tucker asked if other cities have used this and had success. Albany used their

COMPETITIVE TRUST FUNDS – STREET PAVING (cont.)

competitive trust fund. City Attorney Coleman replied they did. Councilman Pollard stated they are still standing and thriving. Mayor Owens commented the city manager stated he hopes he is right that they see growth. As the Mayor of their town, he is banking on them, not on failure. He has confidence in them. They have a motion and a second to use roughly \$384,000 out of the unrestricted competitive trust which has \$9 million in it now for street paving (pre-paving). Once the TSPLOST, LMIG, and SPLOST money comes in they can decide if the money is able to go back inside that account or future projects. The question on the floor is using \$384,000, contingent on what the bid is, for paving for 2022. Voting in favor of the motion: Councilmen Burley, Morgan, and Pollard. Voting in opposition of the motion: Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer. Mayor Owens stated they have three councilmembers that stated they would use the money out of the fund and it takes four affirmative votes to pass. The Mayor votes yes to use the fund. The motion carried by a 4-2 vote. Councilman Morgan asked how soon do they expect the bids to go out for the streets. City Manager Sykes stated his anticipation is the project can begin in May. He sent the list of all streets to the engineer and he is preparing plans to go out for bid. They are required to put them on the State registry because it is over \$100,000 for thirty days. By the time the plans are available for bid, thirty days has passed, and a notice to proceed issued, assuming Council takes action at its' May meeting, construction could begin in May to complete those project to include two sidewalk projects. Councilman Pollard asked for a list and City Manager Sykes stated it was emailed to them today.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Sykes stated most of the projects in the report were action items and they are familiar with them. The council chamber renovation project is nearing completion and anticipates by the end of month will be completed. The Council will have the ability to begin holding meetings again in council chambers and available as early as the work session in April. He pointed out the airport hangar construction notice to proceed has been awarded. The contractor is waiting on delivery of the steel package so he can begin construction. This is the second airport hangar project. For the demolition and renovation project they are having success right now with owners of property that are vacant and dilapidated taking responsibility for their property either by demolition or repairing. They are on track to have the ten units with little impact on city funds. Public Wi-Fi projects are completed and Council prerogative to expand the downtown Wi-Fi program. Wi-Fi at the splash park would be a good place. There are four left without an expansion and the initial build-out allowed for eight. It is building on the downtown grid. Also included in the packet are the cemetery spaces sold through March 9th.

Councilman Morgan asked in the conversation with regard to marketing and communication, he and the city manager had a conversation about the possibility of collecting information when residents sign in to the Wi-Fi and if the capability was possible. City Manager Sykes stated it is possible to put a request for information at the log in. Councilman Morgan stated it could be an optional email so as a city they could begin communicating more effectively with residents. If that is an option he asked the Council if that is something they are interested in doing with the Wi-Fi hotspots. It doesn't have to be discussed today and something to think on. He asked about the CDBG paving and if complete. City Manager Sykes replied the paving is complete.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (cont.)

Councilman Morgan asked what came with the paving and commented he did see any stripping. City Manager Sykes stated he would find out if that is yet to be done and supposed to meet with the contractor on Tuesday to go over the punch list of items so the CDBG can be closed out. They want to close the CDBG out so it will help us when our next application is graded. He will get an update and if the contractor doesn't provide it, the city can hire someone to do the stripping. Councilman Burley asked about Toombs Park and noticed they started putting in the playground equipment and a timeline when they would be finished. City Manager Sykes stated it should be this week and the equipment has been installed. They have engineered material to put down for safety. What is not part of their project is the fencing around it and we have hired a fencing contractor to come in as soon as they are completed and put up a pedestrian gate, equipment double gate, and a fence around the perimeter. We will not open up the park until the fence is completed so it will be safe. Councilman Burley commented he noticed as he rode through yesterday they had no caution signs or roping anywhere. Kids were on top of the piles of dirt and thought it dangerous for them to be out there trying to play on the equipment and it is not ready. City Manager Sykes stated it is and will make sure that doesn't happen, similar to what they have done at the splash park. Councilman Burley asked if they were going to get more lighting because he noticed in the afternoon you cannot see anything where the playground equipment is and real dark out there. City Manager Sykes stated they could certainly do that with security lighting. Parks close at dark and don't open until daylight. You don't need the lighting for the playground to be used because it is closed anyway. Councilman Burley commented if you don't have good eyes you can't see the equipment because it is dark and up under the trees and quite dark out there. City Manager Sykes stated that is something that can be done to provide more lighting for safety and security. Councilman Burley stated under the pavilion you can't see anything under there. City Manager Sykes replied those lights are there but get busted out quite often. They are trying to figure out how to do a non-vandalizing type of light fixture and have not figured that out yet. Councilman Pollard asked for the date of completion. City Manager Sykes replied Southern Outdoor is the contractor we bought the playground equipment from. They are supposed to spread the mulch out once the concrete sets. When they put the equipment in the ground they have to set it in concrete and give enough time to cure and set. Once it is done and they test it and it is strong enough, they will go ahead and spread the engineered material. Councilman Pollard asked for the expected date to open the splash park and City Manager Sykes responded Memorial Day weekend.

Mayor Owens commented the only thing he would point out is related to the budget amendment. What they will have is potentially a discussion related to a potential called meeting later this month. He knows the deadline to get to DCA is March 31st. He asked if the Council had any objection, and in the memo he [city manager] stated it would be sent in without the amendment, until the actual deadline or transmission to the State is to be put on standby pending on what the Council is going to do in terms of meeting again to discuss: (1) the amendment itself; (2) any corrective actions; and (3) how do we prevent this in the future. Councilman Palmer stated the main thing is we do not need to be deceptive. If we need to be doing something now and between December 31 we need to be doing it. Mayor Owens stated there are six members of the Council and there has to be a discussion. As he can recall last Monday, this item was not even supposed to be discussed this evening. That has been interrupted and the information has been presented to the public even though last week we said we would not be discussing it now and that has to be

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (cont.)

addressed. Councilmember Tucker asked if they were going to have a called meeting rather than put on the agenda and resolve tonight. Mayor Owens stated this is not about delay, but due diligence. What some on the Council are interested in is whatever caused this, they want to make sure it does not happen again. If there is accountability, they want to make sure that happens. If there is corrective action that needs to be done, they want to make sure that happens. They are going to take their time and not rush into it this evening as discussed last week. He asked if there was any issue in terms of waiting until the Council is ready to address this issue, presumably before March 31st. City Manager Sykes stated they would mail the audit in as it stands at the end of the month and if the Council has addressed it with a budget amendment, it will be sent in. If the Council has not addressed it with a budget amendment they will send it in and wait for their finding they want to send back. Just as long as they can FedEx overnight they can wait until the 29th to make sure they get it in by the deadline, the 31st. Mayor Owens stated there are two ways they get a called meeting: the Mayor calls it or by three councilmembers. He suspects between now and the end of the month they will have that conversation and it will be a public hearing. The people will be invited to hear about their money. He suspects that to happen before they get to that particular point.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Owens made the following comments: One of his duties is to appoint members to the Housing Authority Board. In the past, there have been questions and one way to answer questions is to search our minutes. He announced he re-appointed Jimmy Jones to a five-year term ending December 31, 2026 and re-appointed Maggie Harris to a one-year term ending December 31, 2022.

He stated tonight we witnessed a couple of things. They witnessed the Council deciding when it comes to the people's money, they are going to do their due diligence. They are going to do what it takes to make sure when communicating to the public, it is what they mean. The biggest policy document they have is the budget and if they can't communicate that correctly, that is a problem. Tonight they watched the Council say they are holding themselves accountable to make sure that is done and they will do their due diligence and let the chips fall where they may. There will be transparency in the city. The second thing, for the first time in about twenty years, the City of Camilla said tonight officially if we need something, if the City of Camilla needs a product, and you are a business in Camilla or Mitchell County, we want to hear from you first. This is how they grow the economy, by taking care of the businesses in your city and county. Tonight they decided before they go to another city for anything, they are going to look and see if they have a business in Camilla or the county that can do the same work. If they can, our preference is to work with them. That has not been done in two decades, at a minimum, and this is how you grow your economy. Tonight they decided for the first time in a while they are going to use our resources from everywhere we can to start investing in our city, which translates to investing in our children and seniors to make sure we have a city worth living in, visiting, playing in, the whole nine. He is tired of weekends coming and downtown Camilla is bare while Camilla cars are in other cities. We are going to put a stop to that and we are going to start investing in our city so we have folks coming here. And they are serious about that. Lastly, this Council approved a COVID-19 vaccine incentive. You can't have a healthy economy if your citizenry isn't healthy. This is more than about vaccines, this incentive is an economic growing tool. One of the things

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

in a post-COVID world is what is happening in that city. We care enough about our citizens that we are prepared to do whatever is necessary to get our folks to consider getting this vaccine. It is not a mandate but an incentive and he is extremely happy the Council took this move. Long-term he thinks it will pay dividends. He wants the Council to continue, if they can, to work together. Differences of opinion does not mean we have to be different people and it is okay. They will not always agree but they can disagree with grace and respect going forward.

City Manager Sykes stated this is his last opportunity to thank the citizens of Camilla and the fine staff that works for the City of Camilla. There are a lot of really good things and as you look around town you see changes. There are exciting changes on the way and he is happy to be a part of that and knows the staff is happy to be involved in seeing growth and activity in the community. He did not want this moment to pass without acknowledging his appreciation to this town. They opened their arms and welcomed him here and he has a newfound love and admiration for the city of Camilla. This is the last public meeting he will be attending and wanted to take the opportunity to say those words. Mayor Owens stated one of the things they would do is move forward. He is very, very anxious about the future of this town and what they will achieve together going forward. 2022 is going to be a good year. Councilmember Tucker asked when the called meeting would be for the purpose of executive session for personnel matter. City Clerk Ford replied it is scheduled for March 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Councilmember Tucker commented she certainly did want to let the night end with it being his [city manager] last meeting and not have appreciation from the Council. There are members of the Council that very much appreciate his service, professionalism, expertise, and wisdom and it has benefited the City of Camilla greatly over the years. She is sorry that there have been times when he didn't have all the appreciation he so deserved and certainly hopes he will always have the feeling of being welcomed to come back to Camilla. There are members of this Council that treat him with respect and a class that he deserves. Councilman Palmer stated they appreciated all his expertise he lent them while here and they can't show him enough thanks for that. At the end of the day this will be our loss and someone's else gain wherever he may land. He knows he will be on both feet and good luck. Councilman Burley commented he appreciated the city manager, with his transition as a new councilman, he made things easy and gave him information he needed and appreciates him and wishes him well in his endeavors. Councilman Morgan stated he greatly appreciates his service to the city and those things he shared and taught this Council. Councilman Pollard stated he came in at the same time he did and they have been through the long-haul. He wished him the best in his endeavors and whatever the future may hold and to make the best of it. Mayor Owens stated it is the overall consensus of the Council is – they wish him well.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on motion by Councilman Morgan.

BY: _____
KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CHERYL FORD, CLERK

**MINUTES – CALLED MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
MARCH 22, 2022**

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 by Mayor Owens.

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

City Clerk Cheryl Ford was also present.

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Mayor Owens 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

On motion by Councilman Pollard, seconded by Councilman Burley, the motion to approve the Called Meeting agenda for March 22, 2022 passed by a 4-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard to enter Executive Session. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote. Mayor Owens announced to the public they would be entering Executive Session for a personnel matter and the live feed for Facebook would stop. Upon adjournment of the Executive Session the live feed on Facebook will resume.

Upon adjournment of Executive Session, Mayor Owens stated they are continuing the Called Meeting of the City of Camilla. They just came out of Executive Session where no action was taken. He stated they will continue with today's agenda as presented and he would be asking for a motion to consider a letter of reprimand for City Manager Steve Sykes. For the purpose of the minutes and the public he will read the letter and ask for a motion from the floor. Mayor Owens read the letter [attached] addressed to City Manager Sykes. He stated the letter will be made a part of Mr. Sykes' employment file and the letter will be signed by him. He asked for a motion to approve the letter of reprimand as presented with authorization for the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Pollard. Councilmember Tucker stated she would like to comment on the letter just handed to them a few moments ago and their first time seeing it. In reviewing the letter she made notes and comments to the City Council: this is the most vindictive attempt she has ever seen by a city council to disgrace the character of a 30+ (thirty plus) year local government professional. City Manager Sykes has had an exemplary

career with the City of Thomasville and the City of Camilla. The actions by Mayor Owens is only to continue his narrative of his personal displeasure with the city manager. She is strongly opposed to this approach and finds it in very poor professional taste by this Council. When the vote is taken she requests her name be noted on the letter as being in opposition. Each time it mentions City Council, it is less Councilmember Tucker's vote. She wants it to be clear to all the City of Camilla has lost a very seasoned city manager due to Mayor Owens' inability to let the city manager do the job he was hired to do. Councilman Palmer added he wrote absolutely no to this and it is a witch hunt on behalf of the Mayor and has no intentions being a part of it. He wants the record to show he votes no and agrees with Councilwoman Tucker, this is an embarrassment to the City of Camilla. Councilman Morgan stated it is a sad day when accountability in government is labeled as a witch hunt and he wants the public to know this Council is taking the operation and business of the city, and all things that include our budget, very seriously. The letter of reprimand is being used only as a level of accountability as they begin to submit their final budget numbers to the State. While they appreciate the service of the city manager, years of experience do not prevent individuals from making mistakes. As they can see, it has happened and the Council is doing their due diligence correcting and addressing the mistakes that happened. Mayor Owens stated they have a motion and a second to approve the letter of reprimand for City Manager Steve Sykes as presented with authorization for the Mayor to sign. Voting in favor of the motion: Councilman Burley, Councilman Pollard and Councilman Morgan. Voting in opposition of the motion: Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer. He stated they had a vote of 3-2 and as required by the Charter, the Mayor votes in the event of a tie or when a majority is needed for or against an issue. In this case the Mayor votes to approve the letter of reprimand for City Manager Steve Sykes. The motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Pollard, seconded by Councilman Morgan, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

BY: _____
KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CHERYL FORD, CLERK

AGENDA ITEM #6 - ACTION ITEMS

April 11, 2022

Councilmember Tucker

- a. 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.

MOTION: _____

SECOND: _____

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

By: _____
Kelvin Owens, Mayor

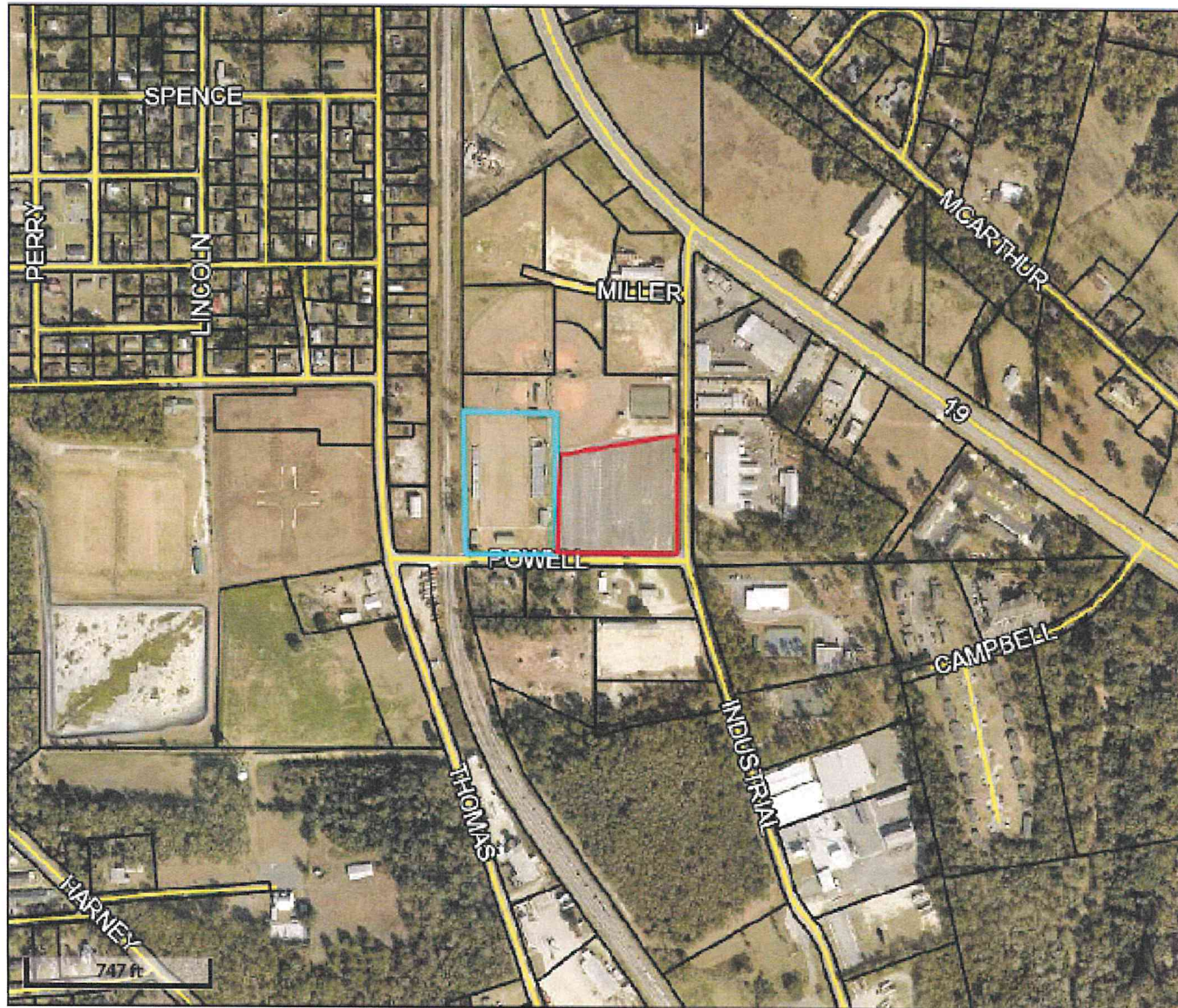
(S E A L)

Attest: _____
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



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 Soldier; 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.

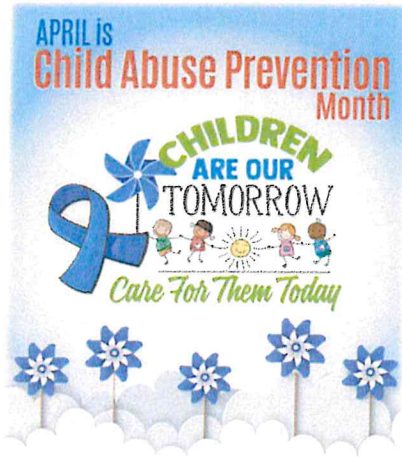
This 11th day of April, 2022.

Kelvin M. Owens, Mayor
City of Camilla

Cheryl Ford, Clerk

Proclamation

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

Cheryl Ford, Clerk

Proclamation

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

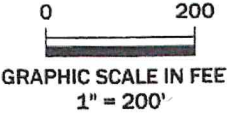
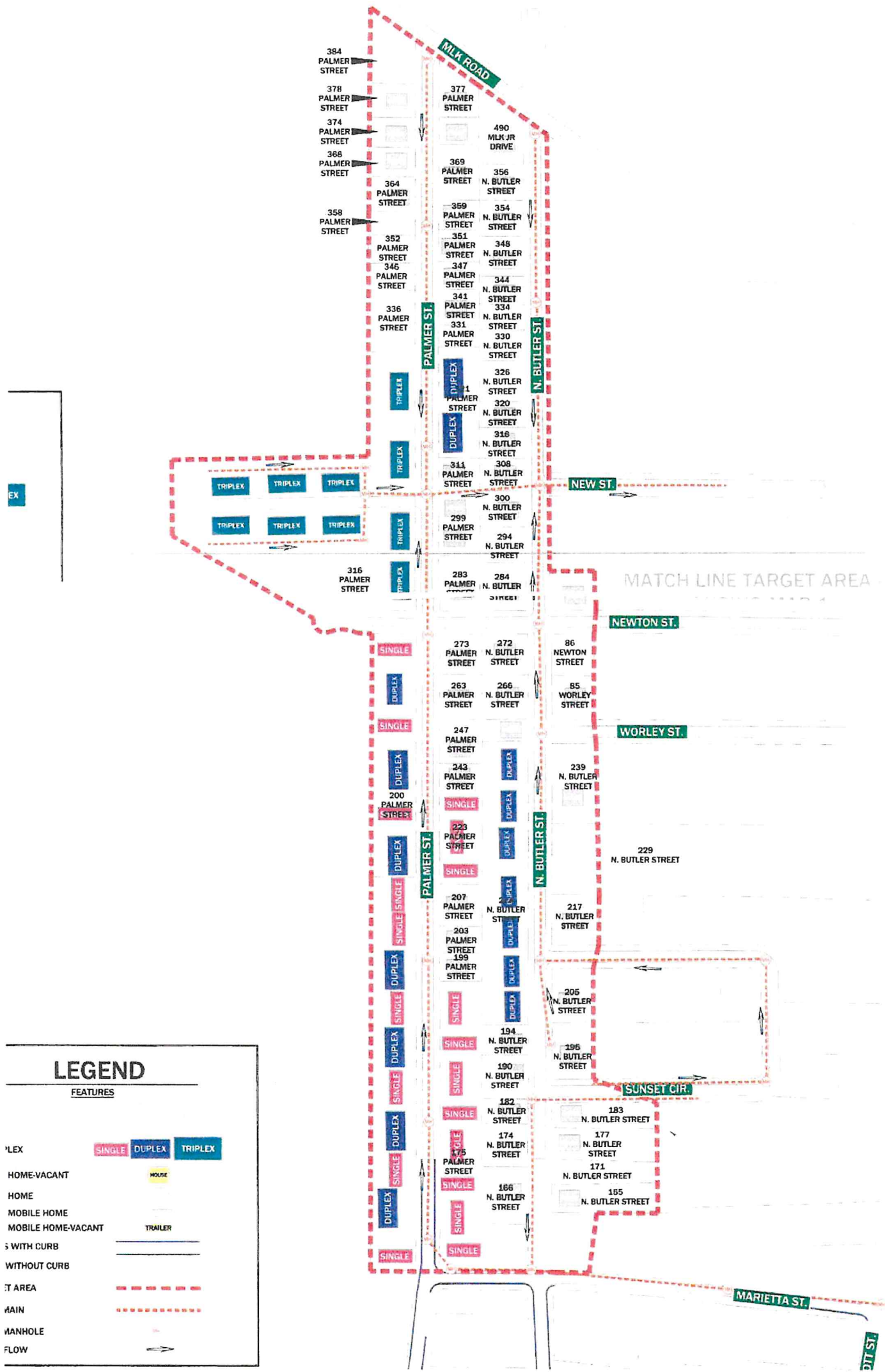
Georgia Cities Week

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

Cheryl Ford, Clerk



TARGET AREA - HOUSING MAP

STILL WATERS

1301 VETERAN WAY UNIT 2, LEBANON, CA 94542-2208 (916) 570-1100
WWW.STILLWATERSNG.COM

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

FOR THE

CITY OF CAMILLA

MITCHELL COUNTY, GEORGIA

FY2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

A - HOUSING MAP 2