MINUTES – CALLED MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 17, 2022

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2022 by Mayor Owens.

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

City Manager Steve Sykes, City Clerk Cheryl Ford, and City Attorney Coleman were 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 Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilman Morgan, the motion to approve the Called Meeting agenda for February 17, 2022 passed by a unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. A motion was made by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Pollard. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. Mayor Owens announced to viewers on Facebook at this time the feed would be closed. No action will be taken in Executive Session and if any action is taken, it will be seen on the second video.

After coming out of Executive Session with no action taken, Mayor Owens stated they would continue the City's business. He asked for a motion to accept the letter of resignation from City Manager Steve Sykes effective April 1, 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Twitty and seconded by Councilman Morgan. Councilman Morgan thanked City Manager Sykes and wanted him to know he appreciated him and learned a lot from him during his time on the Council. Mayor Owens stated, assuming the Council approves and accepts the letter of resignation from the city manager, he wants to make sure the Council and the public understands that city government will continue to run. He also pointed out in the context as we move forward as a city and finding or locating a new city manager in the future, it is important for the Council and the community to understand we are one community, one Council, and regardless of who sits in the seat as city manager, there will be differences of opinion. They will not always agree but thinks it is important to say sitting around the table they are more than a collective group of individuals

EXECUTIVE SESSION (cont.)

and more than a particular group of a race – they are one City Council. He asks the public and the Council when they see, read or hear any of the stuff that seeks to divide what we are doing in this town, in the context of us looking for a new city manager, to reject it and continue to believe in this beautiful city and the things we plan to do for our children, our seniors, and the community as a whole. The motion passed by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Palmer voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Pollard, seconded by Councilman Twitty, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

BY: _____
KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CHERYL FORD, CLERK

CITY OF CAMILLA
SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: FEBRUARY 17 2022 TIME: 3:30 ☐ A.M. ☒ P.M.

MEETING: ☐ COUNCIL ☐ WORK SESSION ☒ OTHER: CALLED

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February 15, 2022

Dear Council Members,

Please accept this letter of resignation of my position as City Manager of the City of Camilla effective April 1, 2022.

In recent weeks it has become increasingly apparent to me, that due to the current makeup of the city council that I do not have the support from the mayor and enough city council members to continue to be effective and successful in my role as City Manager. The actions taken by council members at last night's city council meeting confirmed my decision to resign.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Camilla and a pleasure to work with such an outstanding team of city employees for the past 4 years.

I wish nothing but success in the future to the City of Camilla.

Sincerely,

Steve Sykes
City Manager