

**MINUTES – CALLED MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023 by Mayor Owens.

Present at roll call: Councilmember Tucker, Councilman Burley, Councilman Morgan, Councilman Collins, Councilman Pollard, and Councilman Palmer.

City Manager Stroud, Clerk Ford, Attorney Raleigh Rollins, and Attorney Thompson (via phone) were also present.

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE

City Manager Stroud 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 a motion to amend the agenda. She asked for Item #6, the Resolution, be moved to the work session as a discussion item. She contacted the city manager and he told her what it was in relation to and the public should have the chance to have some input. Public policy is best when the public is allowed to speak. She made a motion to amend the agenda to move Item #6 (Resolution No. 2023-02-06-1 – Non-MEAG Economic Development Fund Surplus Allocation) to discussion items at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Palmer. After further comments by Councilmember Tucker, Mayor Owens explained the history of the economic development fund under consideration and purpose of the resolution. Voting in favor of the substitute motion: Councilmember Tucker and Councilmen Collins and Palmer. Voting in opposition: Councilmen Burley, Morgan and Pollard. Mayor Owens voted no and the motion failed by a 4-3 vote. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Morgan to approve the February 6, 2023 agenda as presented. Voting in favor of the motion: Councilmen Burley, Morgan, Pollard and Collins. Voting in opposition: Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer. The motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LITIGATION

A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Morgan to enter executive session to discuss litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon adjournment of executive session Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve Attorney Raleigh Rollins to submit the answer as prepared to Mr. Sykes attorney. A motion was made by

Councilman Pollard and seconded by Councilman Morgan. Councilman Palmer commented he would be voting no. Mayor Owens stated we have a city attorney, Fincher Denmark, but in the Steve Sykes case our insurance company hired an attorney to represent the City. The City of Camilla, the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem Dewayne Burley, Councilman Morgan and Councilman Pollard are all named defendants. Attorney Rollins stated he had been asked to by the City's insurance company to represent the individuals named in the lawsuit and the City. The way a lawsuit is initiated is the plaintiff files a complaint with the court. At that point the plaintiff is obligated to serve and provide a copy to each named defendant. Once named they are obligated to file an answer to the complaint within thirty days of being served. Each of the defendants either admit the allegations in the complaint, deny the allegations or say they don't have enough information one way or the other. He prepared a proposed answer and if approved will be filed in the Superior Court of Mitchell County. At that point it will be available for public review. The motion being voted on is to approve the answer as submitted. Roll call vote in favor of the motion: Councilmen Burley, Morgan, and Pollard. Voting in opposition: Councilmember Tucker and Councilmen Collins and Palmer. The Mayor voted yes and the motion carried by a 4-3 vote.

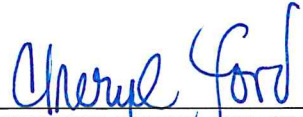
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02-06-1 – NON-MEAG (MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND SURPLUS ALLOCATION

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-02-06-1 Non-MEAG Economic Development Fund Surplus. He commented the resolution is to unencumber the money inside of the Economic Development Fund account. A motion was made by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Pollard. After discussion among the Mayor and members of Council, a substitute motion was made by Councilmember Tucker to table the item until next Monday night and have the finance director available so she can clear up any questions. Councilman Palmer seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the substitute motion: Councilmember Tucker and Councilmen Collins and Palmer. Voting in opposition: Councilmen Burley, Morgan and Pollard. The Mayor voted no and the motion failed by a 4-3 vote. Voting in favor of the original motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-02-06-1: Councilmen Burley, Morgan and Pollard. Voting in opposition: Councilmember Tucker and Councilmen Collins and Palmer. The Mayor voted yes and the motion passed by a 4-3 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned on motion by Councilman Morgan.

BY: 
KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST: 
CHERYL FORD, CLERK

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA ~ SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: 02-06-2023 TIME: 6:00 A.M. P.M.

MEETING: COUNCIL WORK SESSION OTHER: _____

	NAME	ADDRESS	SPEAKER		TOPIC OF DISCUSSION
			NO	YES	
1	Larcene Dawson				
2	Bryant Cannon		—		
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City of Camilla, Georgia
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02-06-1

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA TO DESIGNATE FUNDS IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND SURPLUS AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Camilla (“City”) has an existing Economic Development Fund, hereafter known as the Non-MEAG Economic Development Fund Surplus; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to establish that the use of the fund balance in the Non-MEAG Economic Development Fund Surplus shall be allocated for economic development projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Camilla, Georgia that the fund balance in the Non-MEAG Economic Development Fund Surplus shall be allocated for economic development projects.

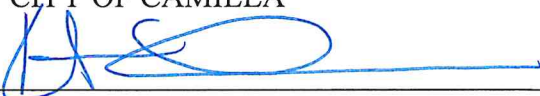
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to the extent any portion of this Resolution is declared to be invalid, unenforceable, or nonbinding, that shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution.

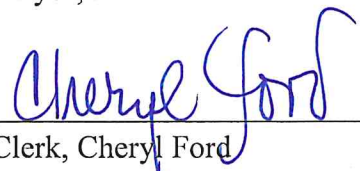
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED all City resolutions are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

SO RESOLVED and effective this 6th day of February, 2023.



CITY OF CAMILLA
By: 
Mayor, Kelvin M. Owens

Attest: 
Clerk, Cheryl Ford