

**MINUTES – CALLED MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
JANUARY 12, 2023**

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023 by Mayor Owens.

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

City Manager Stroud, Clerk Ford, 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

On motion by Councilman Burley, seconded by Councilman Pollard, the Called Meeting agenda for January 12, 2023 passed by a 5-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Burley to enter executive session for discussion of a real estate acquisition. The motion passed by a 5-0. Mayor Owens commented they would return to the called meeting if any action is to be taken.

Upon adjournment of executive session Mayor Owens asked for a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign commercial property documents related to the building located at 69 West Broad and commonly known as the Blue Anchor contingent upon the city attorney's approval. The sales price, \$249,000 (two hundred forty nine thousand dollars), also includes equipment in the building. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard. Councilman Palmer stated he had not seen a contract and asked when it would come forward. The city manager replied today. Councilman Palmer asked for a copy of the appraisal and commented the purchase price is excessively high recommends it be reviewed by another appraiser. For that kind of money, and its' city money, another appraiser should review the appraisal for accuracy. An environmental inspection should also be done on the property since it is commercial property and next door to property that used to be a service station. It was deemed to be clear but there was an auto parts business located there for many years. He asked for the details and plans for the property. Mayor Owens replied one of the things they will have to do as a Council is to discuss, assuming a majority of the Council is ready to move forward with the purchase. They know there will be food and the concept is to improve the quality of life for our

citizens and revitalize downtown. The building is located at a key location in the downtown area and the primary purpose is to be an economic growth driver in a downtown clearly in need of fresh blood for us to grow and potentially be a magnet in the region. Food will be served and the concept of quality of life and bringing life to our downtown area will be the primary focus. For the environmental study done next door a few years ago, the Blue Anchor has been operating for a time so they know food and folks have been visiting that building long before today. He is very confident it is a good piece of property. Councilman Palmer stated the paper said the property was going to be purchased for the citizens of Camilla to generate income for the citizenry and that tells him the City is going into the restaurant business. Mayor Owens commented he could not speak of the whims of the newspaper and how they get their opinion. We are living in a post-pandemic world and by the very nature of the pandemic economies have been altered. Right now we have businesses operating one way before the pandemic, started operating a certain way during the pandemic, and figured out they will keep operating the way they did during the pandemic. Economies in general have changed and they will have to find innovative ways to generate income for their citizens without raising utility rates or taxes. It is likely they will have some type of public/private partnership to help generate revenue for the city and the concept itself is not new. After further discussion among the Mayor and Council regarding the use of and purchase of the building, a roll call vote was taken. Voting in favor of the motion: Councilmen Burley, Morgan, and Pollard. Voting in opposition: Councilmen Collins and Palmer. The Mayor voted yes and the motion passed by a 4-2 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned on motion by Councilman Pollard.

BY: 
KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST: 
CHERYL FORD, CLERK

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA ~ SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: JAN. 12 2023 TIME: 12:30 A.M. P.M.

MEETING: COUNCIL WORK SESSION OTHER: CALLED

	NAME	ADDRESS	SPEAKER		TOPIC OF DISCUSSION
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