

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
JANUARY 9, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023 by Mayor Owens.

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

City Manager Stroud, City Attorney Denmark, and Clerk Ford 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

A motion was made by Councilman Pollard to approve the January 9, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan and passed by a 5-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2022 Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Morgan. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Wallace Williams.

ACTION ITEMS

MAYOR PRO TEM NOMINATIONS – OATH OF OFFICE/SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Mayor Owens asked for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem for calendar year 2023. Councilman Morgan nominated Raimond Burley. There being no other nominations, a motion was made by Councilman Pollard and seconded by Councilman Morgan to close nominations. A motion to appoint Councilman Raimond D. Burley as Mayor Pro Tem for calendar year 2023 was made by Councilman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Pollard. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote with Councilman Burley abstaining. The oath of office was administered by Judge Greg Williams to newly appointed Mayor Pro Tem Raimond Dewayne Burley.

COMPLAINT FROM STEVE SYKES (former city manager)

Mayor Owens asked for a motion to allow Attorney Raleigh Rollins to notify Mr. Sykes through his attorney the named defendants in the complaint have been served. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Pollard. Mayor Owens stated Mr. Sykes, from

COMPLAINT FROM STEVE SYKES (former city manager – cont.)

Thomasville, Georgia and the City's former city manager, has filed a complaint against the City of Camilla, the Mayor, and Councilmen Burley, Morgan and Pollard. Usually when you are told a complaint has been filed a sheriff or processer does that but in this case Mr. Sykes has given the ability for our attorney to acknowledge service. For this type of claim, an insurance claim, our insurance carrier hires an attorney to represent the City. It has nothing to do with the City's attorney and is a separate attorney hired by our insurance company. Mr. Rollins worked with us before on another matter and this is a separate matter. The defendants have to acknowledge they know the complaint is there and they have been served. The motion is to give our attorney the authority to tell Mr. Sykes, through his attorney, we know this has been filed and they have been served. Attorney Denmark commented the City will not be served nor will the other defendants. The law requires the actual hand delivery of the lawsuit and that will not happen because of the agreement between the lawyers to acknowledge service. The actual service of the lawsuit will be dispensed with. Roll call vote in favor of the motion: Councilmember Tucker and Councilmen Burley, Morgan, Pollard, and Palmer. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01-09-1 – 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Mayor and Council reviewed an ordinance to fix and publish qualifying fees for offices subject to election in the year 2023. Said offices are Councilmember-District 1/Post 1; Councilmember-District 2/Post 1; and Mayor. Qualifying fee for the Mayor is set at \$108.00 and \$72.00 for Councilmember. The Council recommends adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-01-09-1, to waive the second reading, and authorization for the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilman Morgan, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01-09-1 – AUTHORIZATION FOR HEDGING NATURAL GAS THROUGH MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA (MEAG)

The Mayor and Council reviewed a resolution authorizing hedging of natural gas through the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. The resolution provides for the use of hedging strategies to mitigate price risk associated with market conditions for residential and commercial customers, poultry growers, industrial and other large end-users. The use of hedging is limited to twelve months or less. The Council recommends approval of Resolution No. 2023-01-09-1 and authorizes the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Morgan. Mayor Owens commented this resolution is going forward and the hedging approved last year for Alltech was twenty-four months. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS – SEASONAL POWER INTERRUPTION

City Manager Stroud asked permission to bring this item back to them at the February work session. A motion to postpone this item until the February work session was made by Councilmember Tucker and seconded by Councilman Morgan. The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01-09-2 – PACKAGE SALES OF DISTILLED SPIRITS

The Mayor and Council discussed at their January work session an opportunity to issue a call for a referendum for package sales of distilled spirits with said referendum being held in conjunction with the November 7, 2023 municipal election. The Council recommends approval of Resolution No. 2023-01-09-2 and authorizes the Mayor to sign. A motion was made by Councilman Burley and seconded by Councilman Morgan. Mayor Owens commented in the past they had resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01-09-2 – PACKAGE SALES OF DISTILLED SPIRITS (cont.)

and ordinances related to drink by the pour. For package stores in Camilla this is the first time in a very long time they have an opportunity to vote on this. For decades they have been sending thousands, if not tens of thousands, of dollars to neighboring cities and counties. Regardless of thoughts related to the consumption of alcohol, these are tax dollars leaving our city on a daily and yearly basis when we have an opportunity to have those funds to use for quality of life for our citizens. Councilman Palmer stated he is opposed to this, and knows the law has changed, but it should be citizens and not the Council doing this. The Council should not be doing this and it is like pouring it down someone's throat and will vote against it. Councilmember Tucker stated she realizes it gives an increase in revenue and we have leakage that goes to Pelham and Newton and it is the pro of it, the revenue side. She asked if law enforcement or the police chief have given any indication of negative impacts. City Manager Stroud stated at his last staff meeting they talked about it and no negative issues identified by the fire or police chiefs. Mayor Owens commented the change in the law a couple of years ago came from the state legislature. It would indicate if the state legislature is changing this particular law it was what they were hearing from their constituents. They added in the law not only can a citizen request it, and dropped the threshold from 35% to 20% of signatures, but also added through ordinance or resolution the governing authority or city councils can put on the ballot. The decision to have package stores in Camilla remains with the citizens. Some believe it is time for the citizens to answer the question. Councilman Pollard commented they are being proactive instead of reactive. Voting in favor of the motion via roll call: Councilmember Tucker, Councilman Burley, Councilman Morgan, and Councilman Pollard. Councilman Palmer voted no and the motion passed by a 4-1 vote.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Stroud reported on budget summaries, ARPA, TSPLOST, and SPLOST. After talking with department heads they came up with an infrastructure plan and what he believes are real good projects, cost estimates and funding sources. For the upcoming LMIG paving project he expects funds to be in the bank next week.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Owens commented he had an opportunity to watch, observe and participate in the historic swearing in of Dougherty County's new commission chairman, Lorenzo Heard. During the meeting, celebration, and swearing in ceremony information was shared specifically related to pearls of wisdom. They were given to the incoming chairman from the Rockdale county chairman and also given to the community. He stated there were three D's he would be sharing: he asked them to not be distracted; not to take detours and reminded everyone there would be folks and signs on the side of the road trying to wave you off your path to get you off the highway; and to not be discouraged. Do not be discouraged and remain encouraged. It is important for everyone to understand and hear him - the City of Camilla is moving forward. There will be no retreat, no applying the brakes, they are moving full steam ahead. As they approach the celebration of Dr. King's birthday, he read part of a speech Dr. King gave: Cowardice asks the question 'is it safe'. Expediency asks the question 'is it politic'. Vanity asks the question 'is it popular'. Conscience asks the question 'is it right'. On some positions it is

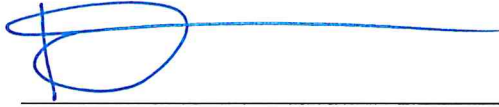
MAYOR'S COMMENTS (cont.)

necessary for the moral individual to take a stand that is neither safe nor politic nor popular but he must do it because it is right.

ADJOURNMENT

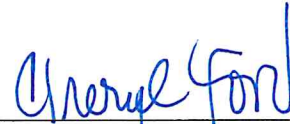
The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on motion by Councilman Morgan.

BY:



KELVIN M. OWENS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CHERYL FORD, CLERK

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA ~ SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: JAN. 9 2023 TIME: 6:00 ☐ A.M. ☒ P.M.

MEETING: ☒ COUNCIL ☐ WORK SESSION ☐ OTHER: _____

	NAME	ADDRESS	SPEAKER		TOPIC OF DISCUSSION
			NO	YES	
1	Walter Anderson	1047 Thomas St Camilla	✓		
2	Wallace W. Williams	110 Thomas St Camilla	✓	✓	City Water
3	Janet Sullivan	Fire Dept			
4	Akera Sawyer	1204 Broad Street	✓		
5	Brittney Sessions	298 N. Gregory street	✓		
6	CHARLIE DIXON	6879 Old Ga. Hwy 3	✓		
7	Larlene Dawson	199 N. Ellis St.	✓		
8	Naomi Conell	134 Brinkberry St	✓		
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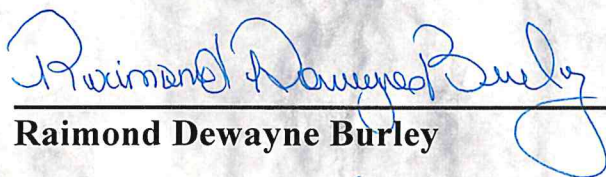
City of Camilla
P.O. Box 328
30 East Broad Street
Camilla, Georgia
31730

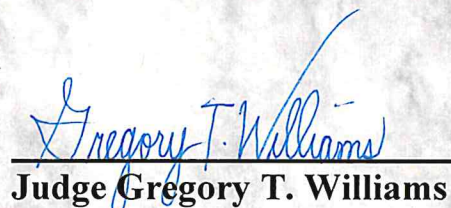
MAYOR PRO TEM OATH OF OFFICE

**State of Georgia
County of Mitchell**

"I, Raimond Dewayne Burley, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully perform the duties of Mayor Pro Tem of this city and that I will support and defend the charter thereof as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of America. I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or authority thereof. I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state which I am by the laws of the State of Georgia prohibited from holding. I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia. I have been a resident of District 1 and the City of Camilla for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state and by the municipal charter. I will perform the duties of Mayor Pro Tem in the best interest of the City of Camilla to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward, or expectation thereof."

This 9th day of January, 2023.


Raimond Dewayne Burley


Judge Gregory T. Williams

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01-09-1

AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND PUBLISHING QUALIFYING FEES FOR OFFICES SUBJECT TO ELECTION IN THE YEAR 2023; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a)(1) provides the governing authority of any county or municipality, not later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan or general election is to be held, shall fix and publish a qualifying fee for each office to be filled in the upcoming primary or election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Camilla, in addition to complying with this code section, intends to adequately notify the citizens of the City in order to encourage public participation in the electoral process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Camilla, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. In the election to be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November in the year 2023, the qualifying fee for the Mayor shall be \$108.00 and the qualifying fee for City Council District 1, Council Post 1 and District 2, Council Post 1 shall be \$72.00.

Section 2. The City Clerk shall publish in the legal organ of the City of Camilla prior to February 1, 2023, the ad attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

SO ORDAINED, this 9th day of JANUARY, 2023.



CITY OF CAMILLA

By: [Signature]
Mayor, Kelvin Owens

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk, Cheryl Ford

First reading: JANUARY 9, 2023

Second reading: WAIVED

“EXHIBIT A”

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Camilla provides notice, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a)(1), that in the election to be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November of 2023, the qualifying fee for the Mayor shall be \$108.00 and the qualifying fee for City Council District 1, Council Post 1 and District 2, Council Post 1 shall be \$72.00. The qualifying fee shall be paid at the time a candidate qualifies.

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01-09-1

RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR HEDGING NATURAL GAS THROUGH MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY OF GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the City of Camilla is a Member (the "Member") of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (the "Gas Authority") and has entered into a Gas Supply Contract, (the "Gas Supply Contract"), with the Gas Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Member acknowledges that natural gas prices have historically been very volatile, and the use of hedging as provided for in the Gas Supply Contract can help mitigate price risk to the Member; and

WHEREAS, the Gas Authority's staff has studied the use of hedging strategies to mitigate price risk associated with market conditions for residential and commercial customers ("R&C Customers"), poultry growers ("Poultry Growers") and for industrial and other large end-users ("Industrial Customers"), and the staff has heretofore determined that it was feasible and desirable from a competitive standpoint to offer such hedging strategies to Members; and

WHEREAS, the Gas Authority has developed elective hedging programs under the provisions of the Gas Supply Contract to offer to Members to manage price risk associated with service to R&C Customers, Poultry Growers, Industrial Customers and other end-users; and

WHEREAS, under the Pricing Policy approved by the Board, Members are billed based on spot market prices adjusted for any hedges elected by the Members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

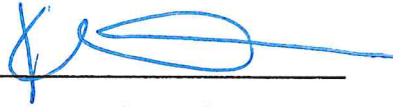
Section 1. Approval of Hedging. The governing body of the Member hereby approves the use of the Gas Authority Member elective hedging programs under the Gas Supply Contract that enable the Member to offer hedged prices to its R&C Customers, Poultry Growers, Industrial Customers and other end-users ("Member Elective Price Hedging"). [The Member hereby elects to limit its Member Price Hedging authority under the Gas Supply Contract to hedges of 12 months or less].

Section 2. Hedging Elections and Transaction Confirmations. The governing body of the Member hereby authorizes the **Mayor or City Manager** of the Member (the "Authorized Member Representatives") to complete the election forms and/or transaction confirmations to enter into Member Elective Price Hedging and to deliver such election forms and/or transaction confirmations on behalf of the Member as its authorized act.

Section 3. General Authorizations. Incorporation of Recitals and Ratification of Actions. The Authorized Member Representatives are hereby authorized and directed to take such further actions and execute and deliver such certificates or other documents, agreements or instruments as shall be necessary or convenient to effect any Member Elective Price Hedging

contemplated by this Resolution. The preambles hereto are hereby incorporated herein by this reference and approved, and all actions of the Authorized Member Representatives in the review and finalization of election forms and transaction confirmations under Member Elective Price Hedging are hereby ratified and approved.

Signed: _____



Title: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____

1-12-2023

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF MITCHELL
CITY OF CAMILLA

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01-09-2

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF CAMILLA ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT TO ISSUE A CALL FOR REFERENDUM ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE SALE OF DISTILLED SPIRITS IN THE CITY; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the duly elected governing authority of the City of Camilla, Georgia (the “City”) is the Mayor and Council thereof; and

WHEREAS, the current laws of the City prohibit the package sale of distilled spirits within the City; and

WHEREAS, in order to authorize the issuance of licenses for the sale of distilled spirits in the City, O.C.G.A. §3-4-41 requires that same be initiated by a referendum election initiated upon an ordinance or resolution from the governing authority of any municipality or upon a written petition containing the signatures of at least 20 percent of the registered and qualified voters of any municipality being filed with the election superintendent of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Georgia law, the City desires to pose the question concerning licensing of package sales of distilled spirits within the City by referendum election initiated upon a resolution; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Camilla, Georgia, will be positively impacted by the adoption of this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY FULLY RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Camilla, Georgia, and by the authority thereof as follows:

Section 1: That pursuant to O.C.G.A. §3-4-41, the City's Elections Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to issue a call for a Referendum election to authorize the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits, to be conducted in conjunction with the General Municipal Election on November 7, 2023.

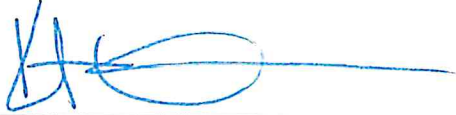
Section 2: The City's Elections Superintendent shall call and conduct a referendum election as provided for in Chapter 2 of Title 21, the "Georgia Election Code," for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the municipality or county, as the case may be, the question of whether the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits in the political subdivision shall be permitted or prohibited.

Section 3: That said call for the Referendum Election shall be noticed by publishing the date and purpose of said Referendum Election in the City's legal organ no earlier than September 4 and no later than October 7, 2023, and also that the same be advertised in the City's legal organ once a week for two consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date of the Referendum election.

SO RESOLVED, this 9th day of JANUARY, 2023.

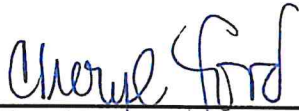
(Signatures on Following Page)

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA




Kelvin Owens, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cheryl Ford, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney

