

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2015

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Conference Room at City Hall. Mayor James C. Irby, Jr. called the meeting to order with the following members present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, Wesley Dodd, Jr., and Janice Griggs. Also present: City Manager Donald Anderson, Jr., Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, and Secretary to the City Commission Janie N. Henderson. City Attorney Steve Campbell was not present.

City Manager Anderson went over each item on the agenda and further explanation was provided if needed.

Judy Taylor, Habersham County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, provided the mayor and commissioners with a copy of the 2014 Audit of the Hotel/Motel Tax and the 2015 Third Quarter Report for the Hotel/Motel Tax. Ms. Taylor said the Chamber would also like to offer some activities at the Depot following the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5th. They are planning on having a Petting Zoo, Carolers, and a tent for Hot Chocolate, Cider, Coffee and Christmas Cookies everything will be free. She said they will also be promoting the event. She also noted that they were going to have a 5K Lake Russell Fun Run on Saturday, November 14th, 2015 with part of the proceeds going to the Habersham Wall of Honor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM and the Mayor and Commissioners proceeded to the Municipal Court Room for the Regular Meeting.

Janie N. Henderson, Secretary to the
City Commission

James C. Irby, Jr., Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
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The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Court Room. Mayor James C. Irby, Jr. called the meeting to order with the following members present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, Wesley Dodd, Jr. and Janice Griggs. Also present: City Manager Donald Anderson, Jr., City Planner Jeff Barron, Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, and Secretary to the City Commission Janie N. Henderson. City Attorney Steve Campbell was not present.

Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation and Mayor Irby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda – Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the amended agenda by adding, the Approval of the October 27, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes and 9. (b) New Street Lights Proposal for South Main Street from Georgia Power Company; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the October 6, 2015 Regular Commission Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the October 27, 2015 Special Called Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Public Forum – Ms. Sharon Stratton, of 326 Irvin Street, came to request sewer service for her home and she feels it is time that they were provided with sewer. She said there are only about 4 homes on Irvin Street that don't have sewer and are still on septic tanks. She said they were told years ago that they would need a pumping station. She also pointed out a Ms. Howard who has agreed to allow the line to run across her property if needed. She said she has spoken to Mr. Ethridge and that he said you might be able to run the line down the dirt road behind Fieldale and to connect to the sewer line on Faye Street. City Manager Anderson said he would contact our City Engineer and get them to draw up a more accurate proposal and he will return with an answer to the Commission at their December Meeting.

Ignatius Sterghos, said he wanted to speak about the Animal Control Ordinance. He said he and his wife have taken in stray animals for years and he went on to explain and that they would do anything for their animals. He feels that it is punishment to put an animal in a small fenced cage and that a run is better if you use the right wire ropes and pulleys. He said he has spoken to Mr. Barron and offered his services to educate the public on the proper way to install a run and the materials to use. He said he feels the ordinance will punish some for the mistake of a few individuals.

Ordinance 10-15-01, Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance – City Manager Anderson said the ordinance has been posted since the October Meeting and the only comments we have received were from Mr. Sterghos. Commissioner Bagwell said he has untangled the dog next door to him 2 times because it couldn't get to its food and water. He said we need to protect the animals and that is why he brought this ordinance forward. The ordinance is modeled after Athens-Clarke County. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adopt Ordinance 10-15-01, Amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

Proposed 2016 Budget – Mayor Irby opened the Public Hearing. City Manager Anderson provided a slide presentation highlighting the major items of the 2016 Proposed Budgets by Fund. The Proposed 2016 General Fund Budget is \$5,976,875. He noted the following: The budget is \$1,420,901 larger than 2015 because we need to replace some pickup trucks, police cars and an 11 year old garbage truck that is costing us thousands of dollars each year to keep running. These vehicles will be funded through a lease/purchase agreement with GMA to be paid back over 5 years. The police vehicles payment will be paid out of SPLOST VI Funds that are designated for this purpose. Other projects include: Level Grove Sidewalk Project-\$420,000; Purchase of Aerial Fire Truck-\$600,000; Splash Park Restrooms-\$10,000; Street Resurfacing-\$200,000. We are proposing to raise our sanitation fees to \$19 per month and no increase in our tax millage rate; we will receive \$73,800 from GDOT; \$350,000 in Grant Funds; \$500,000 from Interfund Transfer and only \$148,140 of our prior year Fund Balance, which \$52,000 of this is GDOT LMIG Funds that were received this year to be used for 2016 Paving Projects.

The 2016 Proposed Water and Sewer Operating Budget is \$23,157,800.00. It is \$1,189,985 over 2015 which will be used to fund much needed capital projects. The projects are: the New Water Plant and Reservoir-\$15,000,000; Brookside Sewer Replacement Project-\$975,000; J. Warren South Lift Station Improvements - \$200,000; Lift Station Telemetry-\$125,000; and Ethicon Water Meter Replacement-\$45,000. Most of these projects will be funded using CDBG Grant Funds and GEFA Funds. The budget does not call for any increase to our water and sewer rates and includes no prior year fund balance, but does include GEFA Loans for \$15,475,000; Grant Funds-\$1,000,000 and Fieldale Loan Payment-\$402,800. An Amendment to the

proposed 2016 Budget was presented changing Water & Sewer Office Expenses to \$911,071 a decrease of \$15,887 and Community Development Expenses to \$206,963 increase of \$15,887.

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The 2016 Proposed SPLOST Funds are projected at \$720,000 with a 2015 Fund Balance of \$419,000 for a total of \$1,139,000. The expenses for the year are: \$279,000-Public Safety Projects; \$150,000-Roads & Bridge Projects; and \$323,000-Public Facilities Projects.

The Hotel/Motel Tax Capital Improvement Fund Budget Revenues are \$160,100, which includes \$125,000 Prior Year Fund Balance; \$35,000 in current year income; and \$100 Interest Earned. The Expenses are: \$10,000 for Christmas in the Park; \$40,000 for Park Maintenance; \$5,000 for Website Maintenance; and \$5,000 for Downtown Welcome Signs.

Mayor Irby asked if there were any comments from the Public. Mr. Sterghos said he feels that they take the best interest of the citizens to heart and he appreciates everything the city staff does. No further comments were heard either for or against the proposed budget. Mayor Irby closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adopt the 2016 General Fund Budget for \$5,976,875; Water & Sewer Operating Fund for \$23,157,800; SPLOST VI Fund for \$752,000; and the Hotel/Motel Tax Capital Improvement Fund for \$60,000 as presented; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda which is the City Manager's October Monthly Report; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Inmate Housing Agreement with Habersham County – City Manager Anderson explained that currently when our police make an arrest we are required to pay the Habersham County Sheriff's Department \$38.00 per day to house our prisoner. This is an expense to our taxpayers because we have no way of recovering these funds from the prisoner. We have been working with the Sheriff to come up with a way to make the person violating the laws pay for the expense. The proposed agreement would increase all our fines by 10% and the Sheriff's Department will receive this amount in place of the \$38 per day fee. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion approve the Inmate Housing Agreement with the Habersham County Sheriff and authorize Mayor Irby and Police Chief Smith to sign the document; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Contract Award for Reservoir Dredging Project – City Manager Anderson said we held the bid opening for this project on October 22, 2015 and we had 6 companies submit bids. The low bidder is Gator Dredging out of Florida at \$1,606,410.80, which is over the budget amount of \$1,237,500. He said our engineers Carter & Sloope are working with the contractor to try and lower the cost of the project. If they are not successful and we want to stay within the budget we would only be able to complete 74% of the project based on the unit price. City Manager Anderson recommended that they award the contract to Gator Dredging for \$1,606,410.80 and we will continue to work on ways to lower the cost of the project. Commissioner Cook made the motion to award the Reservoir Dredging Project to Gator Dredging for \$1,606,410.80 and to continue to pursue ways to lower the cost; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

Smart Cover Manhole Lids – City Manager Anderson said the Cornelia Water Authority, at their April Meeting, discussed a new technology known as Smart Cover Manhole Lids. Staff members have researched these and are suggesting that we purchase 3 of them to help determine our areas of infiltration into our sewer lines. The device attaches to the manhole covers and monitors the flow in the sewer line, which will let us know if rain water is getting into the line. We have only been able to find one company that sells them and we negotiated a price of \$15,000 for 3 of the devices. They can be moved to different manholes, so 3 should be sufficient for our needs.

Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the purchase of 3 Smart Cover Manhole Lids for \$15,000 from WC Equipment Sales; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

New Street Lights for South Main Street – City Manager Anderson advised that when we were working on the sidewalk from Front Street to Wells Street it was suggested that we look into replacing the wooden power poles with the decorative street lamps. They would be the same lamps that are on the other side of the train tracks and the power would be underground. He said he met with Georgia Power and requested that they give us a price for this project. Georgia Power advised that it would cost \$17,790.00 and he recommended that we approve this project. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the cost of the project and authorize Mayor Irby to sign the contract with Georgia Power for the installation of 5 new decorative street lights; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:45 PM; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

