

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 5:00 PM in the Cornelia Municipal Building Conference Room, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor, John Borrow, called the meeting to order and the following Commissioners were present: Tony Cook, Janice Griggs, Mark Reed, and Don Bagwell. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting at 5:05 and said there is one amendment to the agenda. City Attorney, Steve Campbell explained that the Zoning Procedures law has changed. The City must designate a person to accept service on behalf of the Planning Commission and City Commission for any appeals of their decisions, this person must be available during business hours. The city Manager, Donald Anderson, said he would like for you to designate him as he is here during normal business hours. Mr. Anderson went over the items on the agenda. He went over the public hearings and explained that we do not currently have anything in our sign ordinance that defines Murals. Mr. Anderson said that we need to create rules and regulations on murals. Commissioner Bagwell said that within 2 or 3 years the paint is peeling and that it just gets to looking bad and the artwork gets lost. Mr. Anderson explained that within the ordinance who ever does the artwork would have to keep it up for 5 years. Mr. Anderson also went over the Public Hearing for Storage Facilities; he said that now storage facilities are an allowed use in the B-2 Zoning District. If approved, Storage Facilities would only be allowed in the HB district. Both items were approved by the Planning Board on July 20, 2023, to recommend amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. They went over the other items on the agenda. Field Representative, Conner Land from Congressman Clyde's office was there to discuss his findings on Norfolk Southern and the railroad crossing. Mr. Land said that with all his discussions with Norfolk Southern that they thought when they agreed to fix the crossing the Hoyt Street bridge would be torn down as part of the deal. Commissioner Bagwell and City Manager Anderson both said that was never part of the deal. Mr. Anderson said that he thinks they have no intention of fixing the railroad crossing unless we allow them to tear down the bridge. He said that is evident since the last three times they have said the crossing would get fixed at the last minute they cancelled the project. Commissioner Bagwell said that basically they are making people

suffer and holding us hostage because they want the bridge torn down. Mr. Land asked what the bridge is going to be used? Mayor Borrow said that we closed the bridge and that it is being used as a pedestrian crossing. The mayor said that multiple Public Hearings have been held in the past about the bridge. Some want it closed, others want it to be used as a pedestrian bridge, he said that we must listen and make the best decision for everyone. After quite the discussion about Norfolk Southern and the bridge everyone agreed that a meeting should take place. City Attorney Campbell cautioned that we should have a decision about the bridge before we sit down with them, or the meeting would be pointless. Senator Bo Hatchett entered the workshop and he said that he agreed with Mr. Land. Norfolk Southern wants the bridge down. He said that he has spoken with the GDOT Commissioner, and they are still willing to help with the cost of the rubber crossing if we need it. City Manager Anderson said he would instruct Jeremy Dundore (IT) to post a camera at the bridge to see how much foot traffic there is. He said we would have the numbers by our special called meeting on Tuesday, August 15th at Noon and they could discuss it then.

The workshop adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

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AUGUST 1, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Cornelia Municipal Building Conference Room, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor, John Borrow, called the meeting to order and the following Commissioners were present: Tony Cook, Janice Griggs, Mark Reed, and Don Bagwell. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation and Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Reed made the motion to Approve the Amended Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 -0

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the July 11th minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

City Manager's Monthly Report: Mr. Anderson said that Garrett Paving completed the asphalt work on Main Street, so the project is now complete. Garrett Paving has also completed this year's paving project which included Banks St., Dolson St., and Sunrise Circle. They have begun installing the curb and gutter and sidewalks on Market Connors Drive. Mr. Anderson said that we have been working with Pebble Ministries to create a Story Trail at City Park, it will be active later this month. A reception to celebrate the project and the author of the first book will be held on August 27th at 2:00 PM at the Community House. A copy of his report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum (Comments Limited to 3 Minutes) Emily Pahuamba, President of HOPE: Hispanic Organization Promoting Education came forward to thank the Mayor and Commissioners for their support in 2022 at the BRAF. Ms. Pahuamba said that the event was a great success.

Audrey Davenport came forward and said she was excited to see the FY24 Vibrant Communities Grant on the Agenda for tonight and looks forward to explaining her vision and the ways the grant can help the city.

Old Business - None

Public Hearings

Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to Create Regulations for Murals - City Manager, Donald Anderson explained that our sign ordinance does not have any regulations regarding murals. He explained that Murals are art and not a signs. Rules and regulations need to be created pertaining to Murals. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Borrow opened the Public Hearing for comment, Audrey Davenport came forward to speak in favor of this ordinance. The mayor closed the Public Hearing. Commissioner Reed made the motion to post the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Murals, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to Remove Storage Facilities as an Allowed Use in the B-2 Zoning District - City Manager, Donald Anderson said that currently Self-Storage Facilities is an allowed use in the B-2 Zoning District. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to post the amendment to the ordinance. Approved 4 - 0

New Business

FY24 Vibrant Communities Grant (Audrey Davenport) Ms. Davenport came forward to speak to the Mayor and Commissioners about applying for the Georgia Council for the Arts grant. She said that Murals can give cities an identity and it is art. Ms. Davenport said she has a vision for the Underpass that she thinks would be a perfect structure for a mural. She also said that she has other places in town that could work for a Mural. City Manager Anderson asked the Mayor and Commissioners if he could work with Ms. Davenport to apply for the grant, he also said that this is a 50/50 grant. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to appoint Mr. Anderson to work with Ms. Davenport to apply for the grant, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Georgia Re-leaf Grant - City Manager, Donald Anderson explained that the Georgia Tree Council is accepting applications for their Georgia Relief Grant Program. Mr. Anderson explained the funding can be used to assist with the cost for Community Tree Plantings or Tree Giveaway events. The application is due on August 31st. Commissioner Reed made the motion to authorize City Manager Anderson to apply for the grant, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Set Date for Called Meeting to Award CDBG Project - City Manager, Donald Anderson said that our 2022 CDBG project bids on August 8th. In 2024 the CDBG application deadline is moving back to April. That would mean 75% of the grant funding must be spent by April 30, 2024. Commissioner Reed made the motion to set August 15, at noon to award the project, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept Service of Zoning Decision Appeals - City Attorney, Steve Campbell explained that the law has changed, and it now requires the city to designate a person to accept service on behalf of the Unified Planning Commission and City Commission for appeals to their decision. This person must also be available during normal business hours. This resolution would designate City Manager, Donald Anderson. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to designate Mr. Anderson as the person with authority, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Commissioner Reed made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor