

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
July 11, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, July 11, 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 and ask Mr. Anderson to go over the items on the agenda. He said that Cagney Meads had resigned from the Downtown Authority Board and ask that Jamie Keller be appointed to fill her term. She is the co-owner of Sugartopia, Mayor Borrow said he thought that she would be a good candidate. Mr. Anderson explained that we are applying for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to build a park and amphitheater. We are asking for help from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) with the grant application. There is no charge for preparing the application, however if we receive the funding the cost will be \$25,000 to administer the grant. He also explained that the GEFA loan for the Reservoir project needs to be modified to extend the completion date of the project, he explained that we have completed the new reservoir, but we have not been able to complete the modifications to the old reservoir. After speaking with Marty Boyd from Carter & Sloope we hope to have the plans to Safe Dams for review in the next few months. Since we are not ready to bid the project, we will need to modify our promissory Note and Loan Agreement to extend the completion date until May 1, 2024. As there was nothing else on the Agenda the Mayor ask if anyone had anything else they would like to discuss. They did discuss some properties that they had concerns about. Commissioner Cook mentioned a property in is ward on Cox Street. He said that the man is supposed to be building a home on the property but has not done so and now the property is littered with trash. Commissioner Bagwell also had some concerns about a home in his ward that has a privacy fence. He said there is trash all in the back yard and is concerned that it has become rat-infested. Old tires along with aluminum cans all over the back yard. They discussed what code enforcement could do to address these concerns. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45

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Debbie Turner, City Clerk

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John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA  
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The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 11, 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.

Mayor Borrow gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the June 6th minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

City Manager's Monthly Report: City Manager Anderson stated that the repairs to Hodges and Main Street have been completed except for the paving. The cause of the sink hole was from an old water line replacement project from 2014 in which the contractor did not compact the trench properly. A Geo-technical Engineer recommended that all non-compacted soil be removed, and the trench has been back filled with 57 stone wrapped in geo-technical fabric. Mr. Anderson said that in the spring we held a fire hydrant decorating contest. Level Grove Elementary, Cornelia Elementary and South Habersham Middle school were asked to participate, we had over 600 entries and 3 designs were chosen. Local artist, Annabelle Jackson painted the Hydrants, and they are located on the corner of Front and Main Street, Irvin, and Main St. and on Clarkesville St. across from the Depot. Mr. Anderson said that in April we were contacted by the State Visitors Center that they were out of rack cards. He said that the Cornelia Hospitality & Tourism Board created new rack cards and they will be distributed to the 12 visitors center located around the state. Mr. Anderson stated that we had 8 members of the public show up for our Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting. Some of the concerns were the need for a multi-purpose recreational facility and revitalization of our existing neighborhoods. We will hold 2 more public meetings before the plan is finalized in August. The Community

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Development Department, the Downtown Development Authority and the Entertainment District Committee put on a very successful Summer Nights Festival in June. There were over 50 vendors set up on Hodges St. and Clarkesville St. The crowd was estimated to be about 1000 people. A copy of his report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum (Comments Limited to 3 Minutes) No comments heard.

### **Old Business**

None

### **Public Hearings**

None

### **New Business**

Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority - The Downtown Development Authority has nominated Jamie Keller to fill the vacancy created by Cagney Meads resignation. Jamie is the co-owner of Sugartopia. She will fill the vacated term until it expires in December 2023. Commissioner Reed made the motion to appoint Jamie Keller to the Downtown Development Authority, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Agreement with GMRC for ARC Grant Application and Administration - Mr. Anderson said that we are applying for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to build a park with an amphitheater. He said that he has requested assistance from the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission (GMRC) with the grant application. There is no charge for the grant application, however if we receive the funding the fee will be \$25,000 to administer the grant on our behalf. He asks that you authorize the mayor to sign the agreement with GMRC to prepare and administer the grant on our behalf. Commissioner Cook made the motion to authorize Mayor Borrow to sign the agreement with GMRC, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Modification to GEFA Loan # WS12L18WR - Mr. Anderson explained that this GEFA loan is for the Reservoir Project. He said that the new

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reservoir project has been completed, but the modifications to the old reservoir have not been. Marty Boyd from Carter & Sloope hopes to have the plans to Sade Dams within a few months. Since we are not ready to bid the project, we need to modify the Promissory Note and Loan Agreement to extend the completion date to May 1, 2024. Commissioner Cook made the motion modify the loan, seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Adjourn - Commissioner made the motion to adjourn the meeting a 6:11, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

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Debbie Turner, City Clerk

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John Borrow, Mayor