

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 2, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, June 6, 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, Mark Reed, Don Bagwell. Also, present: City Manager, Donald Anderson, City Clerk, Debbie Turner. Commissioner Janice Griggs was absent as well as City Attorney, Steve Campbell.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting and ask Ellie Van Doorman, President of the Chamber of Commerce to give her 1st quarter report. Ms. Doorman gave a handout out the total expenditures that amounted to \$27,511.08. She also passed out some magazines that we have in paid ads in now. Atlanta Magazine, Hello Habersham, North Ga. Vacation Guide and North Ga. Living. Ms. Doorman said that we also have digital billboards as well as TV spots. She also went over how the impressions have tripled and that she will continue what the past President had started and try and improve upon it. A copy of her report is made an integral part of the minutes.

The first item on the agenda to discuss was the sign for Level Grove Rd. Mayor Borrow said that Jaymar Signs had asked if he could bid on it. He said that it makes metal signs as well as vinyl ones. There was some discussion about it, but it was eventually decided that we should go with Habersham Metal. City Manager Anderson went over the other items on the agenda, explaining the need for new tasers for the Police Department. Mr. Anderson also explained the resolution and adoption for GMA 457(b) Deferred Compensation, he said we must reinstate the program for a period of 60 days. At the end of the 60 days, we can make another resolution to terminate the program. They also discussed Purchasing the Wastewater Plant back from the Water & Sewage Authority at a cost of \$10.00. The City has been leasing the plant from the Authority for \$900,000 per year to generate revenue, the final payment was made in March. The Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 6, 2023

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

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

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to Approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 - 0

Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the May 2nd minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 - 0

City Manager Report: Mr. Anderson stated that the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee have reviewed the 267 responses at the monthly meeting. They will host a second input meeting on June 22nd in the Courtroom. Mr. Anderson said that he received a email from a lady named Cornelia Kocher from Switzerland regarding a recent visit in Cornelia. While traveling from Atlanta to Gatlinburg and decided to stop in the town that shares her name. She had lunch and toured the depot, she said she was very pleased with her experience. Mr. Anderson said that once again with the Memorial Day Holiday some people were confused about the trash pick-up. He said we have made every effort to let people know the only Holidays that FCS takes off are Thanksgiving and Christmas, he said we will continue to work letting the citizens know. Mr. Anderson said that last week we discovered a sinkhole between Hodges St. and Appletree Alley. After opening it up further to investigate, we discovered that storm water has been following the trench of our water line that was installed in 2014 causing the dirt to wash out under the pavement. To find and fix the problem it will require excavate the area from Hodges St. and Appletree Alley to locate the problem. Traffic will be detoured until the problem can be completed. Work will begin Monday June 10th and A Press Release has been issued letting the public know of the detour. A copy of his report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum: Ray Barrett came forward to complain about a party that happened on Hiawatha. He said the noise was so loud that he called the Police Department, it did get quiet for a little bit but then it started back up. He then ended up calling 911 and finally the music stopped. He also complained about the loud mufflers that are on some cars, he said he was told that code enforcement does not have meters to read them. Code Enforcement does not have them, but the Police Department does, and they would issue the ticket. Mr. Barrett also complained that the mechanic shop at 229 S. Main Street has too many parked cars there and he also passed out bags of dirt from the location saying that the owner is dumping oil at the back of the shop. Howard Farmer did not approach the podium but spoke from the audience that he had called EPD, and they will be here next week to look at the site. Mr. Barrett stated that he thinks the ones that are doing this have too much privilege and that the ones that were born here and live here should be considered more. Mayor Borrow reiterated his concerns and said that code enforcement has addressed the parking at that location. Mayor Borrow thanked Mr. Barrett for coming.

Old Business:

Proposal from Habersham Metals for Level Grove Wall Sign: City Manager explained that this item was tabled at the May Meeting to get a new quote to exclude "Let the Tracks Lead you Here". He said that the new quote drops the price from \$34,170 to \$31,870. Commissioner Reed made the motion to un-table the Item, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the new quote, seconded by Commissioner Cook. The funds will come from Hotel/Motel Tax.

New Business:

Appointment of Private Sector Member to the GMRC Council- City Manager Anderson said that Ken Schubring currently serves as the Private Sector Member on the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission for Habersham County. His term will expire at the end of June. Habersham County has asked that all cities vote to re-appoint him. Commissioner

Reed made the motion to re-appoint Ken Schubring, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 - 0

Purchase of New Tasers for the Police Department - City Manager Anderson stated that the Tasers the Police Dept. have now are so old we cannot order parts for them anymore. The cost to replace all the Tasers with the latest model Taser 7 is \$37,940.45. We can sign a lease to purchase agreement with Axon Enterprises and pay over a 5-year period at \$7,588.17. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the lease/purchase agreement with Axon Enterprises at a cost of \$7,588.17 per year, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 3 - 0

GMA 457(b) Deferred Compensation Resolution & Adoption Agreement - City Manager- City Manager Anderson said that the city used to offer employees the option to invest in a 457(b). In 2014 we changed to ICMA 457(b) deferred Compensation Plan. We kept the GMA plan because we still had employees that had money in it. As of now we no longer have any assets or anyone that participates so now we can end it. However, we must first reinstate it for a period of 60 days by a resolution. At the end of 60 days, we can adopt another resolution to terminate the Program. Commissioner Reed made the motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 - 0

Resolution to Abandon a Portion of Unopened Straight Street - City Manager Anderson stated that the Resolution and Certification of Abandonment will abandon a portion of Straight Street is currently not opened. The portion to be abandoned is tracts A, B, C and D. These tracts will default to the adjacent property owners, Donald C. Howard, Jeffery S., and Vickie L. Murray. Commissioner Reed made the motion to adopt the resolution and Certification of Abandonment, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 - 0

Purchase of Wastewater Plant from Cornelia Water & Sewerage Authority- City Manager explained that when the Water & Sewerage Authority was created in 2012 the city quit claimed the Wastewater Plant to it. The city has been leasing the facility from the Authority for \$900,000 per

year. This was to generate revenue to pay off its loan and the final loan was paid off in March of this year. Per the terms of the agreement the city has the option to purchase the Wastewater Plant back from the Authority for \$10.00. In April the board agreed to sell the plant back to the city for \$10.00. Commissioner Reed made the motion to buy the Wastewater Plant back, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 - 0

Adjourn - Commissioner Reed made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 - 0

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor
