

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5 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 Manager, Donald Anderson, and City Clerk, Debbie Turner. City Attorney, Steve Campbell was absent.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting and asked Ellie Van Doorman, President of the Chamber of Commerce to give her quarterly report. Ms. Van Doorman said that she is working with UGA Small Business Development to find out how many short-term rentals there are in Habersham County and specifically Cornelia Ms. Van Doorman gave a handout out showing the total expenditures that amounted to \$25,362.57. Ms. Van Doorman said that the biggest expense is for the website and the H2O campaign. She said they are also responsible for the Habersham Tourism website as well as dealing with the publishers for the ads. She asked if anyone had any questions on the spreadsheet. A copy of her report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Mayor Borrow said that item #9 (Bid for Zoning Ordinance Re-Write) will be removed. City Manager, Donald Anderson went over the agenda items. They discussed the two ordinances that were posted from the September meeting and Mr. Anderson said that no comments have been made for or against either one. Mr. Anderson said that Commissioner Reed had said that he has had several complaints about speeding on Thomas Street. Commissioner Reed thinks if we make the intersection of Berry and Thomas Street four way stop it will help with the speeders. They also discussed speeders on Grand Avenue, Commissioner Reed thinks if the intersection of Grand and Maple is made a four stop it might help with the problem. After discussing the two proposals the consensus was made that a Public Hearing should be held on these two items to get the public input on the issues. They discussed the quote on the new Public Safety Director Truck. Mr. Anderson said that the truck was budgeted for this year, however Hayes has informed us that Dodge will not build the truck. We can get the same truck from Jacky Jones and pick it up immediately. \$49,000 was budgeted but the cost would be higher at \$53,742. He is requesting to

amend the budget so that the truck can be purchased. The meeting adjourned at 5:40.

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Debbie Turner, City Clerk

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John Borrow, Mayor

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The Cornelia City Commission met in a Regular Session on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5 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 Manager, Donald Anderson, and City Clerk, Debbie Turner. City Attorney, Steve Campbell was absent.

Mayor Borrow ask Guest Bradley Cook to give the invocation and Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to Approve the Amended Agenda, removing Item 9, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the August 1st minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

City Manager Report: City Manager, Donald Anderson presented his monthly report, he said that a Camera was installed at the Hoyt St. Bridge for 7 days. From August 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> the same five people were seen walking across the bridge a total of 60 times. Mr. Anderson stated that we had received our tax digest from the Assessor's office. Our digest increased by \$24,306,698, this means if we keep our millage rate at 8.5, we will see a revenue increase of \$215,107. He stated that we should have a draft of the budget available before the millage rate is discussed at the October meeting. Mr. Anderson said that our Final Comp Plan Public input meeting is Thursday at 7PM. Mr. Anderson also stated that our CDBG application has been approved. We will receive \$1 million to help with the cost to replace water and sewer lines in Alpine Trailer Park. A copy of his report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum - Bradley Cook came forward to explain a new program Rotary is starting called SAFE PARK Habersham. Mr. Cook explained that there are a lot of Homeless Mother's with their children who are looking for a place to park at night. This program will allow them to have a safe place at a Church to park. They will go through an intake Interview to see if they meet the criteria. Mr. Cook said they are working with Ninth District to be able to identify these women and everything is kept

confidential. City Manager, Anderson asked if the local police department would know when these mothers are using the parking spaces. Mr. Cook said yes, they would be notified and that he is scheduled to be at all the City and County meetings to talk about the program. Commissioner Cook asked if a Church were to let a mother park there would they need access to anything like a restroom and how long would they be allowed to park there. Mr. Cook said that yes two of the members on the committee are Pastors and they are working with them to see what would be needed and they would be allowed to park there for 4 days and then reapply. The mayor thanked him for coming.

Audrey Davenport came forward to let the Mayor and Commissioners know that the grant application was submitted on time to the Georgia Council for the Arts. Ms. Davenport said that she also submitted a document to the Mayor & Commissioners for the design of the mural. Commissioner Cook said that he liked the designs much better than the first ones. Commissioner Reed said that he thought the new ones were all good. Mr. Anderson said that he and Ms. Davenport came up with a community outreach program which was part of the grant application. Mr. Anderson said that they thought the idea of a Tim loves Tink campaign would be a good idea. T-Shirts have been made as well as buttons that will be handed out at the BRAF.

Wade Hasty from 113 Thomas Street came forward to address the Mayor and Commissioners about the speeding on his street. He said there are a lot of people that walk for exercise and children playing. He said that the brush on the NE side of the street needs to be cleaned up so that the sight distance is better. He said this is a safety factor and a stop sign needs to be placed there so that the people coming off Grand Ave know they must stop. Mayor Borrow thanked him for coming and said it would be discussed in the New Business tonight.

Melissa & David Holbrook from 385 Berry Street came forward to also address concerns on Berry Street and Thomas Street. Ms. Holbrook said there is limited sight distance turning right from Thomas to Berry St. She also said that they observed some cars going higher than the speed limit. Ms. Holbrook would like to see a speed bump or a sign letting people know that it is a dangerous intersection. Mayor Borrow thanked them for coming.

**Old Business**

Ordinance # 08-23-01 - City Manager, Donald Anderson explained that this ordinance pertains to Murals and creating rules and regulations for Murals. The ordinance was posted and there have been no comments to date. Commissioner Reed made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Ordinance # 08-23-02 - City Manager, Donald Anderson explained that this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance will remove Self-Storage facilities as an allowed use in the B-2 Zoning District. The ordinance was posted on August 1<sup>st</sup> and there have been no comments for against to date. Commissioner Cook made the motion to adopt the amendment to the B-2 Zoning District, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

**Public Hearings** - None

**New Business**

Bid for FY 22 CDBG Grant - City Manager Anderson stated that we only received one bid from Higgins Construction in the amount of \$1,938,770 for the FY 22 CDBG Project. This bid is about \$500,000 over what was budgeted so City staff and our engineers were able to remove some of the items and some work would be done in house. All of this would lower the cost to \$1,596,370 and with the engineers' fees the total would be \$1,875,870. The grant is for \$850,000 so \$875,870 would come from the Water/Sewer fund and \$150,000 from the Stormwater Utility Fund. Commissioner Reed made the motion to award Higgins Construction the project, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Bid for Zoning Ordinance Re-write - This item was removed from the agenda.

Budget Adjustment for Walmart Grant - City Manager Anderson stated that the Fire Department received a grant from Walmart for \$1,000. However, it can only be used to purchase smoke detectors to be given to residents. The budget Grant Revenue line item 100-0000-33.1500 will need to be increased as well as the Fire Dept's Fire Safety line item 100-3500-52.3650 for \$1,000. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the amended budget, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Intersection of Thomas & Berry Street – City Manager Anderson stated that this item was concerning speeders. It was discussed in the workshop and decided that a Public Hearing should be held to get the Public’s input. Commissioner Reed made the motion to hold a Public Hearing on October 10<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0

Intersection of Grand Avenue & Maple Street – City Manager Anderson stated that this item was also concerning speeders. Commissioner Reed suggested that we make the intersection of Grand Ave. and Maple a four way stop. Commissioner Reed made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on October 10<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0

Quote for Public Safety Director Truck – City Manager, Anderson stated that this item was approved in December of 2022 to purchase the truck from Hayes. They have now informed us that Dodge will not build the truck. Jacky Jones has the same truck on their lot and can be picked up immediately. Mr. Anderson explained that \$49,000 was budgeted for 2023, however the budget line item for new equipment would need to be amended to \$53,742. Commissioner Cook made the motion to amend the line item, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0

Resolution to Amend, Restate and Terminate the City’s GMA 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan – City Manager, Donald Anderson explained that we no longer offer GMA’s 457 plan, and no one longer participates in the plan we can terminate it. Commissioner Reed made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0

Adjourn - Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 – 0

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Debbie Turner, City Clerk

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John Borrow, Mayor