

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 07, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, February 7, 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: IT Director, Jeremy Dundore, City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting and said we need to add one item to the agenda for Executive Session concerning real estate. City Manager Anderson went over the agenda items. Mayor Borrow ask about the awards for the Police Dept that are being presented at tonight's meeting. Mr. Anderson explained that two of our officers responded to a welfare check at the daughter's request. Upon arrival they found an elderly lady that tried to commit suicide. They were able to save her life and she is doing well now. Mr. Anderson said that Ordinance #01-23-01, Disrupting a Public School had been posted and no comments for or against have been heard. The Public hearing for a request to Re-zone and allow for a conditional use at 447 Old Level Grove from B-2 to HB. Mr. Anderson said this request has been heard by the planning commission and was approved. The property will be used for Mini storage and RV storage and a Subdivision Plat will be filed with the county if approved. The property was discussed about a High-tension Power Pole that is running through the property and that the storage units and RV storage would be a good fit for the property. The other items on the agenda that were discussed at length were the Personnel Policy Update, we have added an Accident Review board that will go over all accidents involving city vehicles and equipment. Mr. Anderson explained that Public Safety positions, Police officers and Firefighters are very physically demanding as well as being very stressful. Mr. Anderson said that if these employees could retire at 55 it would allow us to attract much better candidates. GMA has conducted a cost study, The two options are, 55 with 20 years of service and 55 with 25 years of service. Option 1 will increase our annual cost by 1.4% (54,204), option 2 will increase our annual cost by 1.13% (43,517). Commissioner Bagwell said that Sharing & Caring is asking for some signage for there business. The other items on the agenda were discussed.

Commissioner Reed made the motion to adjourn the work session and enter executive session for real estate, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell.

Approved 4 - 0

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to close the executive session, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

No Action was taken.

The workshop adjourned at 5:55 PM

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 07, 2023

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Regular Session on Tuesday, February 07, 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, Janice Griggs, Mark Reed, and Don Bagwell. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow gave the invocation and Special Guest, Larry Whitfield led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the January 10th minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Law Enforcement Awards - Chief Roberts came forward and explained that on December 28th they were called to do a welfare check at the request of the women's daughter. Officer Newkirk and Officer Hughes were able to administer life saving techniques with there training. The lady is doing well now and very thankful for the officers helping her.

City Manager Anderson gave his monthly report, he stated that American Ramp Co. has completed the new ramps for the skate park. Norfolk Southern has decided not to do the rubber rail crossing even through we would pay to have it done, their engineers will not sign off on it. House bill 29 has passed the house and now will head to the senate for approval. If passed a referendum will be on the ballot for voters to decide if we can activate our Redevelopment Powers. Mr. Anderson said he had spoken with Kevin Mullens, GDOT Engineer about Hwy 441 between Walmart and Cannon Bridge. Mr. Mullens said that they are conducting a study to come up with a solution as well as a solution to the left turn at Cannon Bridge Rd. His report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum:

Carole Lonergan came forward to speak about the taxes going up, she said that she knows we get our assessment from the county. Ms. Lonergan said that not only have the taxes went up, but the water/sewer and trash bill has tripled in the last couple of years. She said that she

thinks we need to cut some spending.

Phyliss Tutt asked if we could put a pedestrian crosswalk in front of the new CB&T restaurant. She said the cars don't stop and it is always hard to cross the road. City Manager Anderson said that it is a GDOT road, and we have asked for a crosswalk there but have been told no. Mayor Borrow thanked her for coming and said to keep checking back that maybe the answer could change.

Mrs. Shedd from Hoyt Street came forward again concerning the reopening of the Hoyt St. Bridge for a construction project in that area. Ms. Shedd said there have been 2 accidents since it has been opened. She said that she doesn't see why we are so reluctant to close the bridge and that we should listen to what the residents of Hoyt St want. Mayor Borrow explained that we had just discussed it in the work session and that some of the people would like to see it as a pedestrian bridge. Mrs. Shedd said she disagrees that she doesn't see anyone walking on the bridge that it is used as a cut-through for Fieldale. She asked when they could expect a final decision. Mayor Borrow thanked her for coming.

Old Business:

Ordinance #01-23-01 Disrupting a Public School, this ordinance has been posted and no comments have been heard for or against. Commissioner Reed made the motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Public Hearings:

Request to Re-Zone, Subdivide, and Allow a Conditional Use for 447 Old Level Grove Road from B2 to Highway Business.

Mayor Borrow opened the Public Hearing and David McNeal was present to go over the plans for the request. Mr. McNeal said it will use the property for Mini Storage buildings and RV Storage. Mr. McNeal said that this property has a high-tension Power pole that runs through it so there would not be a lot of uses for the property. The Planning Board approved the request on January 19, 2023. No other comments were made, Mayor Borrow closed the Public Hearing and said that the rezoning and conditional use does not include subdividing. Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the request from B2 to HB, and the Conditional Use, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

New Business:

Georgia Power Lighting Service Agreement for Market Corners Drive, City Manager Anderson, explained that 8 ornamental lights will be installed at Market Corners Drive. The cost is \$56,000 and a monthly fee of \$224.00. This project is a part of the road and sidewalk project planned for Market Corners Drive. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the lighting, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Personnel Policy Update - City Manager Anderson stated that our Human Resources Director, Lindsay Cannon has been updating our Personnel Policies and implementing some new policies as well, the biggest changes are that we will create an Accident Review Committee. They will be responsible for reviewing all accidents that involve a city vehicle or equipment, they will recommend changes to the employee and Department head on how it could have been prevented. The travel policy has also been updated to include mileage reimbursement and per-diem when employees are out of town for training. Also updated is the vacation rollover as well as allowing employees to donate vacation time to employee who are out on medical leave and no longer have any accrued time. Mayor Borrow stated that these policies have been reviewed by a GMA Attorney. Commissioner Cook made the motion to readopt the Personnel Policy Handbook, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

City of Civility Resolution - City Manager Anderson said the resolution pledges that we will practice and promote civility. Mr. Anderson asked Commissioner Reed to explain the resolution as he brought this item to our attention. Commissioner Reed read the nine parts of the resolution and he feels as well as the mayor and other Commissioners that we are a civil body. Commissioner Reed learned of this at the last conference he attended. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Amendment to GMA Retirement Plan for Public Safety Personnel - City Manager Anderson explained that we are always trying to find ways to fill our Public Safety positions but with high quality personnel. Mr. Anderson said that the job of Police officers and Firefighters are

very physically demanding as well as being very stressful. He said one way to be able to recruit and retain better employees is to allow them to retire at the age of 55 instead of 65. GMA conducted a cost study to determine the impact on our pension fund if we amend it. The two options are, 55 with 20 years of service and 55 with 25 years of service. Option 1 will increase our annual cost by 1.4% (\$54,204), option 2 will increase our annual cost by 1.13% (\$43,517). Mr. Anderson said there are only 26 communities in Georgia that offer public safety a different retirement program and the closest to us is the City of Norcross. Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve option 2, 55 and 25 years of service, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Agreement with Appalachian Mountain Services, Inc. – City Manager Anderson said we have \$102,000 in unpaid property taxes from 2016 thru 2021. To enter into this agreement our cost will only be for the postage for the initial intent to FiFa letters. They will pass any additional cost onto the property owner. Commissioner Cook made the motion to have Mayor Borrow sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Engineer’s Recommendation for Market Corner’s Drive Project – City Manager Anderson said we received 3 bids for the project. This project will rebuild the road using a process called full depth reclamation. It will also include drainage, curb & gutter as well as a sidewalk from Vision Drive to Pet Care Court. Garrett Paving was the low bidder in the amount of \$487,914.91, Carter & Sloope has checked references for Garrett and their subcontractors. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve Garrett Paving, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Executive Session for Real Estate – the Executive Session was held in the workshop and no Action was taken.

Adjourn – Commissioner Reed made the motion to adjourn at 6:35, Seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY HABERSHAM

CITY OF CORNELIA, GEORGIA

AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICIAL(S) FOR A CLOSED PUBLIC MEETING

While in Regular Session, the motion was made to enter an Executive Session to discuss certain matters in a closed session.

To discuss with council pending and/or potential litigation, settlement claims, administrative proceedings or other judicial actions, which is exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2(1).

A meeting to discuss the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property; authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate; enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; or enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in subsequent public vote, which is excluded from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to Section 50-14-3(b)(1)(C).

A meeting discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee, which is excluded pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(b)(2).

Discussion in Executive Session of Records that are otherwise protected from disclosure under the Open Records Act as pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3- (b)(4).

The subject matter of the Executive Session of the Regular Session was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law.

Because of events occurring during the closed session, I am unable to affirm the subject matter of the Executive Session of the Regular Session was devoted to only matters within the exceptions provided by law.

John Borrow, Mayor, City of Cornelia

Sworn to and subscribed before me this February
7, 2023

Notary Public