

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room at City Hall, Cornelia, GA. Mayor J.C. Irby, Jr. called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, and Janice Griggs. Commissioner Wesley Dodd, Jr. was absent. Also present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson.

Jeff Cantrell, Herbert Head and Don Higgins were present. Mr. Cantrell stated he owns a building at 1087 South Main Street and he received a letter about the property being blighted. He said he has met with Tony and Wes about his concerns about the letter he received. He proposed setting up some work sessions to discuss the issue and come together to find a solution. He said he knows his roof needs to be replaced but he has trouble coming up with that much money. City Manager Anderson said he would be happy to sit down with the property owners and discuss the issue. He said he has discussed the matter with Mr. Cantrell, but not sure we can legally spend tax payers dollars to repair private property. The City Attorney would need to address that issue. Attorney Campbell said maybe the DDA could help with Façade Grant Money. He said maybe we need to look at ways to raise additional money for them to use for the Façade Grant. Don Higgins said he thinks we all need to sit down and work something out together. The mayor and commissioners were in agreement about scheduling a meeting to discuss the matter. City Manager Anderson said he will look at the calendar and some possible dates and get in touch with them to see if it works. He stated that all the individuals that received the letter in questions would receive a notice about the meeting.

Another gentleman was present but did not identify himself. He stated that he is a taxpayer that lives on Grandview Circle and he has some complaints about the infrastructure project that was just done on Highland and Chenocetah. He said CW Matthews the paving contractor was doing paving on Don Higgins private property and the sod was installed poorly it looks shoddy. He said the work above ground looks shoddy makes you wonder what's under the surface. Mr. Higgins said the subcontractor they were using for the sod has been replaced and they are going back and re-doing some of it. Mr. Anderson said they City has it's own inspector for the project and is making sure the project is being done correctly and he said he would not pay for a private persons paving.

Jennifer Franklin of Jericho Design Group, came forward to present the bid information on the new Municipal Complex. She explained how they scored the bids of the 4 contractors. She said each bid was scored according to their experience, qualifications, references, and fee proposal by the scoring system established in the Bid Advertisement. They recommended Cooper & Co. General Contractors, Inc. with a base bid of \$8,960,000 and a score of 86 points overall. She explained that this is the base bid amount and there are 6 alternates that will be discussed with the contractor at some point after the contract is awarded.

City Manager Anderson asked if there were any additional questions about any items on the agenda that it was time to go next door.

The Commission adjourned to the Municipal Room at approximately 5:55 PM.

Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk

J.C. Irby, Jr., Mayor

TY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6 PM in the Municipal Building, Cornelia, GA. Mayor J.C. Irby, Jr. called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, and Janice Griggs. Commissioner Wesley Dodd, Jr. was absent. Also present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, Jr., Downtown Development Manager Jessie Owensby, Fire Chief Billy Jenkins, Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, Police Chief Chad Smith, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson.

Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation. Mayor Irby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda – Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the February 5, 2019 Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 - 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the January 8, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Community Development Report – Jessie Owensby, Development Manager, came forward and presented her report for January 2019. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager’s Monthly Report – City Manager Anderson presented his January Monthly Report. A copy of this report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Presentation of Life Saving Award – Police Chief Chad Smith came forward to make this very special presentation. Chief Smith said on December 23rd, 2018 Officer Lindsey Velez heard the 911 Dispatch Call for the Habersham County Sheriff’s Office to respond to Chase Road concerning a vehicle fire. She was in the area and responded and upon her arrival she found the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames with the driver unconscious behind the wheel. Officer Velez ran to the burning car and somehow she was able to get the door open and drag a large unconscious man to safety. She acted with courage and selflessness to save this person’s life. She is an excellent example of what bravery and self-sacrifice means. He said she hasn’t been with the department long but he appreciates what she does for the city and the department. Chief Smith present Officer Lindsey Velez with the American Police Hall of Fame National Life Saving Award for her actions on December 23, 2018.. Assistant Chief Roberts presented Officer Velez with the Life Saving Pin and Officer Matt Arnold presented her with the Certificate. Officer Velez received a standing ovation for her act of bravery.

Introduction of New Fire Chief – City Manager Anderson asked Billy Jenkins to come forward. He introduced Billy as the new Fire Chief. Chief Jenkins has worked for the City for 26 of service, including his volunteer years and 18 years of paid service. He has done an excellent job for the city. Chief Jenkins and we are happy to announce that he has been promoted to Fire Chief. Mayor Irby presented him with a White Fire Helmet which is tradition when someone is appointed as the chief. Chief Jenkins thanked everyone for their support and he said he looks forward to working with the employees to continue improving and making the department the best it can be.

Public Forum – No comments were heard.

Old Business – None

City Attorney Campbell opened the Public Hearing concerning the City exercising Eminent Domain Powers for 756 Hoyt Street. City Manager Anderson stated that the City has an existing sewer main across the property located at 756 Hoyt Street and it needs to be replaced. In order to complete this project we need an easement from the owners' of the property. He said he initially met with the property owner and never heard anything back, so that's why we had to take this action. Greene Real Estate Services, Inc. out of Gainesville completed an appraisal of the easement and determined that the value of the easement is \$3,248.00. The city made an offer to the property owners, Thomas and Jeff Ramey, and they have refused to sell the city the easement. He said because of this he is recommending that the city exercise their eminent domain powers. This will empower the City Attorney to file a petition with the Habersham Superior Court to condemn the property described in Exhibit A. No further comments in favor of the Resolution.

Mr. Thomas Ramey said he met with Mr. Anderson 2 or 3 weeks ago and asked him to have the sewer man come over and show him where the sewer line was going to go and discuss things further but I've had no further communication with Mr. Anderson. He stated the city about a year and half ago made him spend about \$40,000 to clean the property up for no unknown reason, it was a waste of money. He doesn't feel like the value is a fair market value for the property and for the amount of money he had to spend to make parking spaces and all. Also he was on wrecker list and they threw him off wrecker list. The chief told him after all that was all settled they would put me back on the wrecker list in a year's time and they still haven't done it. He feels like he is being treated unfairly. No further comments were heard.

City Attorney Campbell closed the Public Hearing. Attorney Campbell said there is a Resolution authorizing its Attorney to exercise the City of Cornelia Powers of Eminent Domain in the acquisition of certain interests in property situated in the City of Cornelia. Attorney Campbell said we had 16 property owners in all that we needed easements from and this is the only one remaining and this project is to replace an existing line. Commissioner Bagwell asked if there is information available on the condition of this sewer line? City Manager Anderson said as best we can determine the line is over 60 years old and we have had issues in the past with backups along the line, this line runs all the way to Old Cleveland Road. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing its attorney to exercise the City of Cornelia Powers of Eminent Domain in the Acquisition of certain interest in the property located at 756 Hoyt Street owned by Thomas and Jeff Ramey; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Consent Agenda - Engagement Letter with Duncan & Kitchens for 2018 Audit – City Manager Anderson introduced the Engagement Letter for Duncan & Kitchens to perform our Audit for 2018. They have performed our audit for many years and their work has always been excellent. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the Engagement Letter with Duncan & Kitchens to perform our 2018 Annual Audit for \$17,500.00; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Municipal Complex Project – City Manager Anderson explained that we received 4 sealed bids for this project running from \$8,960,000 to \$10,742,527. The project is so large and complex that it will not be awarded based on cost only. We developed a points system which takes into account qualifications, experience with similar projects, references, cost, and whether the contractor is local. Jericho, the Architectural Firm, based on this criteria prepared a formal recommendation for their consideration. Jennifer Franklin, of Jericho, was present at the workshop meeting and she went over the procedure used in determining who they recommend and the points each bid received. They recommend the bid be awarded to Cooper & Company with a base bid of \$8,960,000 and a scoring of 86 points out of a 100. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to award the bid for the new Cornelia Municipal Complex Project to Cooper & Company with a base bid of \$8,960,000 and a scoring of 86 points; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Carter & Sloope for City Wide Speed Study – City Manager Anderson said in 2018 we discussed the need for a City Wide Traffic Study in order to determine if the existing speed limits are adequate or if changes need to be made. We put money in the 2019 Budget for this project and he provided a proposal from Carter & Sloope for \$28,200 to complete this study in order to make recommendations on our existing speed limits. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the Agreement with Carter & Sloope for a City Wide Speed Study for \$28,200; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Pickup Truck for Public Works Department – City Manager Anderson advised that the 2019 Budget has funds to purchase a small pickup truck for the Public Works Department. When looking at different options it was decided that going with a Toyota Truck would be best because the offer a lifetime warranty on the drive train compared to Ford’s Warranty of 5 years or 60,000 miles. He said we received proposals from Beaver Toyota and Milton Martin Toyota. The low bid was Beaver Toyota in Cumming for \$29,969.99. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to purchase the 2019 Toyota Tacoma from Beaver Toyota for \$29,969.99; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Pickup Truck for Fire Department – City Manager Anderson advised that the 2019 Budget has funds to purchase a new pickup for the Fire Department. The new vehicle will replace a 1999 Dodge Ram which is at the end of it’s useful life. He said we received 2 proposals from Jackie Jones Ford and Mike Jones Ford. The low bid was Mike Jones Ford for \$30,966.24. Commissioner Cook made the motion to purchase the 2019 F250 from Mike Jones Ford for \$30,966.24; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 -0.

Commissioner

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to appoint Don Bagwell as Mayor Pro Tem for 2019; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 -0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:05 pm; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

