

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 5, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 4 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 and Janice Griggs, Don Bagwell was not present. Also, present: City Manager, Donald Anderson, and City Clerk, Debbie Turner. The purpose of the Work session at 4 PM was to interview the applicants for Ward 1 Commissioner.

Jeff Wilson - 177 Chenocetah Court, he is a teacher at Habersham Central and has a CrossFit business in downtown Cornelia. Mayor Borrow, ask what his vision is for the future of Cornelia, Mr. Wilson said he has been able to see the growth of Cornelia and would like to see that continue and he hopes to be a positive part in that growth. Mr. Wilson said that Wes had talked with him about running just before he started treatments, and this is that opportunity that had discussed. Mayor Borrow ask if he would be able do the Newly Elected Officials training. Mr. Wilson responded yes; he would be able to do the training. Commissioner Cook ask if he would work for all the people and not just Ward 1, Mr. Wilson said he wants to whatever he can to help all the citizens of the city.

Tracy Robar - 242 Chenocetah Court, she works for the City of Gainesville as an engineer in Water Resources but plans on staying in Cornelia. Mayor Borrow ask what her vision was for the City and what she thought we doing right? Ms. Robar said she loves seeing what is going on in the city and wants to serve in some compacity even if it is not on the commission. She said that we need more mouthpieces for the community, but Cornelia is doing great with the revitalization in downtown. Ms. Robar commended the city on the new Cornelia Water Plant saying she was very impressed. Mayor Borrow ask Ms. Robar if she would be able to attend the Newly Elected Officials training, she said absolutely. Commissioner Cook ask if she was interested in serving just ward 1 are the whole city? She said that she thinks that we need to function as one and yes, she would serve all the citizens. Commissioner Griggs said as a representative of Ward 1 would she be able to take calls at any time. Ms. Robar stated that she has no problem with talking with anyone and wants to be able to help wherever she can.

Mark Reed – 395 Chambers Ave. he is retired and was the Mayor of Baldwin for 13 years. Mayor Borrow ask what his vison is for Cornelia? Mr. Reed said he thinks the infrastructure is very important and sidewalks in his area would be great. Mr. Reed also mentioned he would like to see the train stop here. He also said the concerts that the city hosts the traffic plan should be studied. Commissioner Cook ask if he was interested in only Ward 1 are the city. Mr. Reed said that he feels that he does know more about his ward but that every citizen should be treated with respect. Commissioner Griggs commented that being in office before he knew about taking calls at home. He said yes: he would take calls.

All applicant resumes are made an integral part of the minutes.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the interviewing workshop at 5 PM and opened the regular workshop session.

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 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 and Janice Griggs, Don Bagwell came later. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, Human Resource Director, Diane Feorino, Jessie Owensby, Community Development Manager, Jeremy Dundore, IT Director, Melanie Chandler, Finance Director and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mary Beth Horton, President of the Habersham Chamber of Commerce, was present to give the third Quarter Hotel/Motel Tax Report for 2021. A copy is made an integral part of these minutes. She explained that instead of a print ad, advertising is done through social media as well as Instagram throughout out this month. She gave an update on Chamber renovation project and said it is at a standstill for now. She said the inspections showed a lot of issues and the cost to bring it to code versus building new will need to be looked at in more depth. Mayor Borrow ask if there was an update on the Gateway Sign, Ms. Horton said the sign is here and we are waiting on DOT to sign off.

City Manager Anderson went over the items on the agenda stating that Peter Madruga will give a short presentation on the history of Cornelia. Melanie Chandler will also answer any questions on the audit. City Manager Anderson explained that tonight is the first of three public hearings for the Millage Rate, the other two hearings will be held November 2nd, 12 PM and 6 PM. Mr. Anderson also went over the consent agenda as well as the appointment of Ward 1 Commissioner. Mr. Anderson explained the resolution to Exercise Redevelopment Powers, he said that we need to adopt a resolution and it will be sent to our State Representatives to enact local legislation. As well as it will become a referendum that will be voted on in the March 2022 election. He explained that we have been researching Tax Allocation Districts to improve infrastructure needed for economic development projects. Mayor Borrow said that if this resolution is passed it would allow us to collect the taxes and those funds won't go into the general fund but rather be used for specific projects. Mr. Anderson said that it would have to be certain areas. This tax allocation will be for specific areas and that would also have to be approved by voters, he explained that it is a combination of the county and BOE giving up those funds for a certain amount of years and that it is used for new development projects. Mr. Anderson discussed the website Design stated that we did an RFP to design our website and we had 3 companies respond. Jeremy Dundore reviewed all three and checked the references he recommends that we go with Diversified Technologies.

The Mayor and Commissioner Griggs and Commissioner Cook talked about appointing one of the three candidates, they thought that since Commissioner Bagwell was absent for the interviews, they might need to table it. Mayor Borrow and City Manager Anderson said they felt all three candidates were strong applicants and anyone of them would be good. Commissioner Bagwell arrived and the Mayor and Commissioners discussed the interviews that were conducted.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the workshop at 6 PM.

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 07, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 07, 2021, at 6 PM in the Cornelia Municipal Building Court Room, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, and Janice Griggs. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, Human Resource Director, Diane Feorino, IT Director, Jeremy Dundore, Jessie Owensby, Community Development, Melanie Chandler, Finance Director and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow gave the invocation and Commissioner Cook lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the September 10th minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0

City Manager Anderson gave his monthly report. He stated that we have been approved for \$750,000 CDBG grant for infrastructure in several low to moderate income areas. The DCA will hold the check presentation ceremony here on October 28th at 9am. Level Grove Road was opened for the BRAF but it will close again for about a month on October 11th to complete the installation of the storm drain. The downtown landscaping was completed and per the contract they will replace the flowers twice a year. They will be back at the end of the month to replace the spring flowers with fall flowers. City Manager Anderson said that according to the 2020 census our population has increased from 4,160 to 4,403. A copy of his report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Community Development Monthly Report – Ms. Owensby came forward to present her monthly report. She said there is a lot of grants that she is working on as well as the Historic Preservation Committee completing the guidelines. Ms. Owensby also said that the BRAF was a huge success. Mayor Borrow commended her and her team for a fantastic job. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Public Forum – Ron Hicks who lives at 357 Foster Street came forward to ask if something could be done about the speeding on Chambers Ave. He said he is concerned that a child or a pet is going to be hit, He asks if we could get some signs posted. Mr. Hicks was also concerned about the flooding on Chambers Ave when we have excessive rainfall. He would like for us to look at putting in a bigger culvert pipe.

Peter Madruga came forward with a presentation on the History of Cornelia: He spoke on Habersham Education and research program. Mr. Madruga stated that history dies when you stop talking about so the goal is to keep the conservation going. His organization is using several ways to keep the history alive such as: Podcasts featuring people from our community, Archiving Images, documentaries, and the virtual veterans wall of honor. He shared ways that the public could help such as sponsor a documentary and donating. The Mayor thanked him for his presentation saying it was spectacular.

Melanie Chandler presented her report for the 2020 audit saying it was a clean audit and there were no issues. She informed the Mayor and Commissioners that the financials are on the website and wanted to know if anyone had any questions.

Public Hearing Regarding the Millage Rate- City Manager stated that this is the first hearing regarding our millage rate. He said our tax digest increased by \$17,211,37 from last year, so if we keep the millage rate at 8.5 our revenue will increase by \$102,984. Mr. Anderson said that a home with a fair market value of \$80,000 will see an increase of \$19.14 and a home valued at \$200,000 would see an increase of \$51.04. We will hold two more hearings, November 2nd at 12 PM and 6 PM on the millage rate. No Action Taken

Consent Agenda - Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 -0

Appointment of Ward 1 Commission Seat, Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to appoint Jeff Wilson to Ward 1 for the remainder of Wes Dodd's seat, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 -0

Resolution to Exercise Redevelopment Powers, City Manager Anderson explained that we have been researching Tax Allocation Districts to improve our infrastructure that is needed for economic development projects. Mr. Anderson said we need have a resolution to enact our redevelopment powers which will be sent to local legislation as well as doing a referendum that will be held March 2022. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 - 0

Website Design – City Manager Anderson said we our 3 responses to our RFP to build a new website. Jeremy Dundore, IT Director, has reviewed and recommend that we go with Diversified Technologies for a cost of \$19,500. and annual maintenance fee of \$5,000 for 5 years. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to award Diversified Technologies the contract, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor