

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 5:00 PM at the Cornelia Community House, 601 Wylly 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. 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.

Charlie Fiveash, the new Partnership Habersham Director, came to introduce himself to the Mayor and Commissioners. He also invited them to the next monthly meeting of Partnership Habersham which will be held on February 26th (4th Wednesday of each month) at 8 AM at the Aquatic Center in Clarkesville. He said he's excited about moving to Habersham County and working with everyone. Mayor Borrow welcomed him and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

City Manager Anderson went over each item on the agenda and asked if they had any questions. No further explanations were needed.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to close the meeting and to enter into Executive Session at approximately 5:40 PM to discuss Real Estate; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to close the Executive Session and open the meeting at approximately 5:50 PM; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

The Mayor and Commission took a 10-minute break prior to the Regular Meeting starting.

Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

CORNELIA CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6 PM at the Cornelia Community House, 601 Wyly Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: 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 Director Diane Feorino, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson.

Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation and Mayor Borrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager Anderson asked that the agenda to be amended to move Item 5a. Windstream Representative after Item 2 and to remove Item 17. Executive Session. He noted that Executive Session was held earlier at the Workshop and no action was taken. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the February 4, 2020 Agenda with the noted changes; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the January 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Public Forum – Olen Yarbrough, Director of Field Operations for Windstream, came forward and introduced himself to the Mayor and Commissioners. Mr. Yarbrough said their main goal is to make our community better and he said before the end of the year they will offer an upgrade to the Kinetic Broadband service to its customers. Blake Edwards, Manager of Local Operations; Jonathan Walden, Consultant for Field Operations; and Lavern Bennett, Manager of Business Services also were present and introduced themselves. City Manager Anderson asked about the Cable Service and was it still going to be available. He said we have been asked by some of our citizens what's going to happen to the cable service. Mr. Walden said they will be doing away with the cable once the new Kenetic Service is available. Commissioner Bagwell said in his neighborhood his signal fluctuates and he hears complaints from others. Mr. Yarbrough said about 3 years ago it was bad, but it has improved, and they are offering better service. He said they want to hear from the public and they want to continue making service better. Commissioner Bagwell said the redo on their building sure looks nice. Mayor Borrow said we have a long history with Windstream, and we recognize what you are doing, and we are glad you are here. Mr. Yarbrough thanked them and said if you get calls to let him know.

Community Development Report – Jessie Owensby came forward to present the January Report. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Public Forum – Ms. Earnestine Trimiar wanted to know what was going to be done about the gutter on Elrod Street. She said the city had given her a paper to sign (easement) and then she hadn't heard anything else from them. City Manager Anderson stated we are replacing the sewer lines and installing storm drainage in that area. He said he thought Keith had tried to contact her. She stated to just have him call her that they have her number.

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

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adopt Ordinance 01-20-01, Amendment to Chapter 7 of the Zoning Ordinance, increasing building height limits from 35 feet to 50 feet in B-1 and B-2 Zoning Districts; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Commissioner Cook made the motion to adopt Ordinance 01-20-02, Amendment to Chapter 10 of the Zoning Ordinance, removing the landscaping requirements for commercial parking lots and follow the Minimum Development Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Consent Agenda – None

Old Business - None

Bids for Emergency Generators - City Manager Anderson advised that we have received permission from GEFA to use the remaining loan proceeds from the Water Meter Project to install generators at the Hazel Creek Raw Water Pump Station and the Utility Maintenance Shop. He said we received 2 bids for the project with the low bidder being Earl's Electric Service out of Royston in the amount of \$155,309.58. Carter & Sloope have checked the references on both and recommend that we award the project to Earl's Electric Service. Commissioner Cook made the motion to award the bid to Earl's Electric Service for \$155,309.58 for the Emergency Generators for the sites stated; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0.

Bids for Water Plant Pickup Truck - City Manager Anderson explained that the 2020 Budget allocated funds to purchase a new pickup truck for the Water Plant to replace a 2001 Chevy S-10. He said we received 3 bids for a 2020 Ford F150 with the low bid being Jacky Jones for \$28,810. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2020 Ford F150 from Jacky Jones for \$28,810 for the Water Plant; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Polymer System for Wastewater Plant – City Manager Anderson explained that the Polymer System for the Belt Press was originally installed during the 2008 Upgrade Project. He said it is beginning to clog on a regular basis which creates a mess to cleanup and is a waste of polymer. The 2020 Budget has funds allocated to replace our existing system with a more efficient one. We received 2 quotes for the project, which is a better technology than available in 2008 and the new system will allow us to use less polymer saving in chemical cost also. The low bid is from Cedar Chem in the amount of \$25,788.25. Commissioner Griggs made the motion to approve the purchase of the Polymer System for the Belt Press at the Wastewater Plant from Cedar Chem for \$25,788.25; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Mini Excavator for Utility Department – City Manager Anderson stated the 2020 Budget has funds allocated to replace our 2002 John Deere Mini Excavator. The annual maintenance cost is unfeasible, we spent \$3,981 in 2019 for maintenance and repairs. The excavator is used heavily for almost all the repairs and projects of the Utility Department. We received 3 bids and the low bid was from James Short Tractor for \$29,832.23. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2020 Kubota U27-4 Mini Excavator from James Short Tractor for \$29,832.23; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 -0.

2020 Paving Project – City Manager Anderson advised that we received one bid for our 2020 Paving Project from Garrett Paving out of Athens in the amount of \$403,827.50. The roads to be paved are Elrod Street, Slayton Street, Circle Drive, Grier Street, Yonah Street from Main Street to Highland Avenue, Skyland Drive from Dolson Street to Highland Avenue, and the Basketball Court at City Park. The project also calls for repairs to the roads in Alston Ridge Subdivision. The budget is \$410,000 to be paid for with a combination of LMIG Funds and SPLOST Funds. Attached is a letter from Carter & Sloope recommending that the award be given to Garrett Paving. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to award the contract for the 2020 Paving Project as stated in the amount of \$403,827.50; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Bank Proceeds for Appletree Alley Project – City Manager Anderson explained in 2013 we began discussing a Streetscape Project in the Appletree Alley Parking Lot, which would cleanup the area and make our Downtown more appealing. At that time the estimated cost of the project was \$467,000 and was listed as a SPLOST Project in 2014, but that SPLOST was unsuccessful. In the 2015 SPLOST we did not list it as a project because we had other more pressing needs that had to be addressed. Since that time, he said we have been trying to secure funding for the project and have secured \$110,000 in funds from USDA and Georgia Power. We have met with DCA several times to discuss ARC Funding and Redevelopment Funding. He said they have stated that the project does not meet the criteria for either of these grants. Our engineer's estimate for the project now is \$787,700. The Downtown Development Authority sold the old bank building and they gave the balance of the proceeds, after closing cost, to the City in the amount of \$160,970. He said we are requesting that these funds be allocated to this project, which have been deposited into the Community Development Fund at this time. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the allocation of the \$160,970 from the sell of the old bank building to the Appletree Alley Streetscape Project; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Bids for Furniture for New Municipal Complex – City Manager Anderson advised that we received 3 bids for the furniture for the new Municipal Complex. He explained only 1 company, Office Creations submitted a price for every item, Holcomb's Office Supply submitted pricing for 35% of the items and Ayers Office Products excluded 48 items. However, the way that the RFP was written perspective bidders did not have to bid on every item because it says that we will look at each line item and award based on the lowest bid per line item. This process is proving to take longer than we thought, so what City Manager Anderson asked was for approval not to exceed \$325,000. He said we need to get the orders placed as soon as we determine the cost for each line item, so that it will be here when the buildings are completed. The budget for furniture for the project was \$350,000, so it will be within budget. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the expenditure, not to exceed \$325,000, for the furniture for the New Municipal Complex; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Commissioner Griggs made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:50 PM; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0.

