

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 1, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 5 PM at the Cornelia Municipal Building Conference 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, Wesley Dodd, Jr., and Janice Griggs. Also, present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, Human Resource Director Diane Feorino, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson. Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby was not present.

City Manager Anderson introduced the items on the agenda. He said the Re-zoning Request is from Don Higgins (Mr. Higgins was present at the meeting.) for 161 Hodges Street. The building was previously a printing shop and was zoned B-2 and he is requesting it be changed to CBD. The purpose of the request is to allow for a Growler Shop to be located on the property.

Resolution is to initiate a Referendum to allow for Package Sale of Distilled Spirits. Mr. Anderson said Senate Bill 145 passed this year which amends the procedures for the Package Sale of Distilled Spirits. If the resolution is adopted, we can place it on the November Ballot for a Referendum Vote.

Ordinance 06-21-01 & 06-21-02 were discussed in detail. The proposed ordinances address the issues of large gatherings in residential areas that we are having. We need to address the parking issue, amplified music, and other issues. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to have a Public Hearing at the July 6th Meeting to get input from the citizens. It will be announced at the open meeting and advertised, so we can get as much information as possible.

Pre-Treatment Ordinance amends the Surcharge Thresholds Total Suspended Solids (TSS) to match our Industrial Pretreatment Permits. It comes as a recommendation from our Engineer, and it is just so the language in the 2 documents match. City Manager Anderson said this concerns Ethicon, Fieldale and BB&I.

Mayor Borrow said he has a conflict and wanted to request the August 3rd Meeting be rescheduled for August 10, 2021. No one had a conflict with the change.

Boys & Girls Club – Mayor Borrow asked if they had given any consideration to the Boys & Girls Club and do, we want to participate financially? City Manager Anderson said we might can find a few thousand dollars in this year’s budget. Commissioner Cook said he thinks it is a great idea but wonders if there is not a location closer to us. He said he thinks transportation will be a big issue for kids in our community. Mayor Borrow said they have been working with the School Board and it includes transportation, but he does not know if it covers the Summer Program. They hope to have at least 200 kids for the first summer program. City Manager Anderson stated he will look at the budget and let everyone know what we can afford to do.

Cornelia City Commission - Minutes of Meeting
June 1, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Mayor Borrow advised that they are having an Open House on Thursday, June 17th from 5 – 7 PM and we are invited.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the workshop at 6 PM.

Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk/Secretary
to the City Commission

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 1, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6 PM at 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, Wesley Dodd, Jr., and Janice Griggs. Also, present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, Human Resource Director Diane Feorino, IT Director Jeremy Dundore, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson. Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby was not present.

Commissioner Cook gave the invocation and Commissioner Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Borrow asked City Clerk Henderson to come forward and presented her with a framed picture, which included a Key to the City. Ms. Henderson will be retiring on June 29, 2021 after 24+ years of service. Ms. Henderson thanked Mayor Borrow and the Commissioners for their kindness and expressed her gratitude to the City for the privilege of working for Cornelia.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the May 4, 2021 Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Community Development Monthly Report – Ms. Owensby provided her report prior to the meeting. City Manager Anderson said he could answer any questions. He explained that we did receive our State Historic Preservation presentation in May for the Cornelia Commercial Historic District. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager's Monthly Report – City Manager Anderson presented his May 2021 Monthly Report. He noted that Mr. Reeder has completed construction of the Greenspace on Hodges Street for the Downtown Development Authority. The DDA is currently trying to raise funds to install brick pavers and some benches. The Appletree Alley Project should be completed this week. He noted we have received several complaints about the concrete island that has been installed in the crosswalk on Main Street. This is a GDOT requirement to help slow traffic down in the area. The Exile Concert was a great success. A special thanks to the Hospitality & Tourism Board, city staff, and all the volunteers for their work. A copy of his report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Public Forum – Carol Lonergan, a resident of Arbor Gate, stated the West end of her subdivision still floods when it rains. She said of course it hasn't been an issue recently but requested that it be checked. City Manager Anderson said the drainage pipe may be clogged and he will have it checked.

Buck Snyder, President of the Cornelia Depot Association, came forward to explain what they are currently working on. He said in Mid-June they are going to be re-doing the Caboose again and this time building a cover over it to preserve it. City Manager Anderson said he has seen their plans and they look nice. Mr. Snyder said he had heard discussion about the African American Museum and the Historical Society wanting to bring some stuff into the Train Museum. He said all their walls and display cases are full, but if there are pictures or artifacts of the railroad, they will look at it. Phillip Ballard said he has been a supporter of the Railroad Museum for 30 years and he said they are getting more artifacts all the time. He said they pick the best and store the rest. They have a good partnership with the city and the museum has grown because it just has Railroad Stuff.

Old Business – None heard.

Public Hearing – Mayor Borrow opened the Public Hearing. City Manager Anderson stated the request by Don Higgins, the owner of the property located at 161 Hodges Street is to Re-Zone from B-2 to CBD. The purpose of the request is to allow for a Growler Shop. The Planning Board held a Public Hearing on May 20, 2021 and approved the request. City Attorney Steve Campbell asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the request. Shane Mealor said he is in favor of the request that he and 2 other men are going to open a Growler Shop at this location. He said this was originally what Whistle Stop was going to be and then he switched to a Brewery. Mr. Mealor said the property adjacent to this is currently Zoned CBD. Attorney Campbell asked if there were any further comments, in favor or against the request, none were heard. He closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the Re-Zoning Request of Don Higgins for 161 Hodges Street from B-2 to CBD; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and the Cornelia Hospitality & Tourism Board; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Resolution for Referendum to allow Package Sale of Distilled Spirits – Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adopt Resolution 06-21-01, To Initiate a Referendum Election to Authorize the Issuance of Licenses for the Package Sale of Distilled Spirits; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Ordinance 06-21-01 & Ordinance 06-21-02 – Mayor Borrow stated that during the Workshop they had a lengthy discussion about our goal is to have quite and safe neighborhoods. We have come up with some ideas and need to change some of the language as written, but we also want to get more public input.

Commissioner Dodd said we need to look at the number of people, and certain days it may be allowed, we need help and want input and ideas from the public. Commissioner Bagwell said we don't want our neighborhoods turned into entertainment venues/event centers. We do not want to restrict any private family gatherings', but something needs to be done. There are so many cars parking on some of our streets in his Ward that safety vehicles cannot get through. A Public Hearing will be held at the July 6th Meeting for public input. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to table Ordinance 06-21-01, To Prohibit Large Gatherings in Residential Zoning Districts and Ordinance 06-21-02, To Prohibit Amplified Music Regardless of the decibel levels in Residential Zoning Districts; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Ordinance 06-21-03, Amendment to Chapter 40 of the Code – City Manager Anderson explained this amends the Surcharge Thresholds Total Suspended Solids (TSS) to match our Industrial Pretreatment Permits. This comes from a recommendation from our Engineers at Carter & Sloope as well as the Water & Sewer Authority. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to post Ordinance 06-21-03, Amendment to Chapter 40 of the Code; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM.

Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk/Secretary to
City Commission

John Borrow, Mayor

