

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 10, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, August 10, 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: Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, Janice Griggs, and Commissioner Wes Dodd attended virtually. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, Human Resource Director, Diane Feorino, Jeremy Dundore, IT Director and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mary Beth Horton, President of the Habersham Chamber of Commerce, was present to give the second Quarter Hotel/Motel Tax Report for 2021. Ms. Horton explained some of the advertising for this fall and 2022. She said the Gateway Signs has delivered half of the signs. The renovation of the Chamber Building was discussed at length, but currently they are at a stand still and she will keep us updated. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager Anderson introduced the items on the agenda. Ordinance 06-21-02 was tabled at the July 6th meeting This ordinance would add Amendment 11 under Section 30-20 to prohibit Amplified Music that can be heard 100 feet from a residential district. Commissioner Dodd ask if a 100 ft was reasonable? City Manager Anderson explained that he and the Mayor had a decibel meter in his office and it was at 60 decibel just with them talking. Commissioner Bagwell said it is more about the parties that go on for 8 to 10 hours that are the problem. City Manager Anderson said that maybe just shedding some light on the situation has helped. Commissioner Bagwell said that it does seem to have tapered off some.

Proposed Changes to the Zoning Ordinance: City Manager Anderson explained that when we created the Highway Business Zoning District several uses that were allowed in areas are no longer allowed. The Planning Board held a meeting on July 15, 2021, and recommended we adopt the amendments to the zoning ordinance. City Manager Anderson said that we might need to look at having an architecture look at updating some of our standards, what we have now is about 16 years old. There was discussion on what our ordinance allows now as far as the façade of buildings. City Attorney said the reason some of the rules regarding exterior walls was put into place was because of vinyl siding.

Resolution to set Speed Limit at Chenocetah Tower – City Manger Anderson stated that several of the residents have requested to lower the speed limit just around the tower. Currently there is no posted speed limit, so it defaults to 25 mph. As the road is only one lane at that location, they want it lowered to 15 mph.

Brookside Drive Stream Bank Repair – City Manager Anderson said that we had several trees that fell and dammed the stream. Trees have been now removed, but as a result it has

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caused some yards to wash away. To repair the resident's property gabion baskets and rip rap will need to be installed. City Manager Anderson said we have one quote from Higgins Construction for \$56,720.00 and it will be paid out of the Stormwater Fund. Commissioner Dodd ask how much we have in the Stormwater fund, City Manager Anderson said there is almost \$500,000 in funds. Commissioner Dodd said he feels it has been very good for the city to have those funds for projects like this one.

COVID Reward Bonus – City Manager Anderson proposed a bonus for all employees who worked during COVID as we never shut down the City. He said it is an allowed use from the American Recovery funds that we have received. Mayor Borrow said that not much more is essential than Police and Fire as well Water and Trash service. There was discussion on how many employees we need, and Human Resources Director said she needs 3 for Police, 1 in public works and 3 in Public Utilities, she stated that we are just not getting applicants.

Quotes for Hazel Creek Raw Water Pumps – City Manager Anderson said that we are not able to pump our 4 million gallons a day from Hazel Creek. He stated that the existing pumps were installed in 2007. He said because they are so old sediment has caused the pumps to be worn out. City Manager Anderson said we have 3 quotes; low bidder is CC&A for a cost of \$42,723.72 and they have completed a lot of projects for us with no problems. It will be paid out of the R & E fund or the American Recovery Funds which is allowable use.

Ordinance # 08-21-02, Amendment to Noise Ordinance – City Manager Anderson stated that this is in response to a lot of complaints from citizens. If your vehicle exceeds 95 decibels, you would be in violation. There was discussion about the loud cars coming through neighborhoods and on Main Street.

Bids for Downtown Landscaping – City Manger Anderson said we have received two bids and the low bid is from Landscape Management out of Gainesville for a total of \$46,233.44. Commissioner Griggs ask if that included all the islands downtown, City Manager Anderson said it includes all downtown as well as Appletree Alley.

Bids for Fence around the Reservoir – City Manager Anderson said we have requested bids for a fence around the reservoir. We received one bid from Franklin Fence. We can get a 6ft. chain link fence with barbwire on top of the fence for \$111,925.64 or an 8 ft. chain link fence for \$132,523.89. Mayor Borrow ask if it would go all around the reservoir? City Manager said that it would go around the reservoir and there will be access points with gates. Recommendation would be to go with the 6ft fence.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the workshop at 6 PM.

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 10, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 10, 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. Wesley Dodd, Jr., was virtual. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson, Human Resource Director, Diane Feorino, IT Director, Jeremy Dundore, and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation and Commissioner Griggs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the May 4, 2021, Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Mayor Borrow made an award presentation to Jake Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy has served on the City Planning Board and acted as President of the board for 25 years. Mr. Kennedy is moving from our area. Mayor Borrow thanked him for his selfless service for all these years and wished him well.

Community Development Monthly Report – Ms. Owensby was absent. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager's Monthly Report – City Manager Anderson presented his July 2021 Monthly Report. Mr. Anderson stated that like most employers we are having issues hiring people and that we are going to implement a hiring bonus. He stated that each new hire that makes it to 90 days will receive \$250.00 and at 6 months they will receive another \$250.00. Mr. Anderson also said we received our 1st installment from the American Recovery Act, the second installment will come in June of 2022. The funds must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026. City Manager Anderson stated that our LMIG grant from GDOT will increase from \$61,000. To \$67,744.86 in 2022. A copy of his report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Public Forum –

Howard Farmer from Chatham Ave. addressed the Mayor and Commission on why we don't have a Police Officer at the meetings. He said that when we are talking about issues that directly affect them an officer should be present. He stated that he has called them before regarding a noise complaint, and they came and just rode through but did not stop. He said he thinks they should take the citizens word versus them having to hear it for themselves.

Hazel Williams from the corner of Hoyt and Henderson came forward to say the music is so loud at her house she can hear it over her TV, also saying that her house literally shakes. She said she does not mind the parties, but that something needs to be done about the noise.

Old Business:

Ordinance 06-21-02, Amendment to Chapter 40 of the Municipal Code - City Manager Anderson stated the Ordinance was tabled at the last meeting. City Manager Anderson stated that the amendment is to add item 11 under section 30-207 to prohibit amplified music that can be heard from 100 feet from the property in a residential zoning district. Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to post for public comment, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0.

Public Hearing: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, opened the Public Hearing. City Manager Anderson said that the Planning Board had met on July 15, 2021, recommending making amendments to the Ordinance. City Attorney read the items that would need to be changed in the ordinance, Mayor Borrow ask if there were any comments, he explained that it is just cleaning up some zoning issues. City Manager said these items will affect only Industrial and Commercial property. Public Hearing was closed, Commissioner Cook made the motion to post, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3-0

Consent Agenda: None

Resolution to set Speed Limit at Chenocetah Tower – City Manager said that some of the residents that live around Chenocetah have complained that cars are going way too fast, it is only a one lane Road. It is being recommended that the speed limit be set at 15 mph. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to set the speed limit at 15 mph, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0

Brookside Drive Stream Bank Repair – City Manager Anderson explained that because of the heavy rainfall in October of 2020, a couple of trees had fell and dammed up the stream. He said that the trees have been removed but it has caused some residents yards to wash away. To repair the owner's property, we will need to install gabion baskets and rip rap before we can backfill. Higgins Construction quoted the job for a cost of \$56,720. The project will be paid from the Stormwater Utility Account or the American Recovery Funds. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 -0

COVID Reward Bonus – City Manager Anderson told the Mayor & Commissioners that one of the allowed uses for the American Recovery Act Funding is an award for essential workers who

worked throughout the pandemic. As the City never shut down and all workers continued to work, he would like to give a \$250.00 quarterly bonus for current employees and will go back to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters for 2020 as well as this year. The bonus will remain in effect until COVID is no longer a threat. Mr. Anderson said our offices never closed during the Pandemic, not one department was closed. Commissioner Bagwell said he could not think of a better way to spend the money. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 - 0

Quotes for Hazel Creek Raw Water Pumps – City Manager Anderson stated that we are unable to pump our full 4 million gallons per day from Hazel Creek due to the conditions of our raw water pumps. The pumps were installed in 2007. He said because of sediment in the creek the impellers on the pumps are worn out. Of the three quotes that we received CC&A is the low bidder for a cost of \$42,723.72, this project was not budgeted for so the funds will be taken from the R & E Fund. Commissioner Cook made the motion to award CC&A the project, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0

Ordinance # 08-21-02, Amendment to Noise Ordinance – This ordinance would prohibit the sound level of private motor vehicles on public right of way that exceeds 95 decibels. City Manager said we have numerous complaints about loud vehicles. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to post, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0

Bids for Downtown Landscaping – City Manager Anderson said we had a Landscape Architect create a plan for us to replant all flower beds, remove any vegetation and replant all the beds. We received 2 bids Landscape Management Co., and Spartan Management, LLC. City Manager Anderson said that Landscape Management is the low bidder at \$46,233.44. Commissioner Cook made the motion to award Landscape Management Co., seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 3 – 0

Bids for Fence around the Reservoir – City Manager Anderson said we had solicited bids to put a fence around the old reservoir. We had one bid from Franklin Fence for two different types of fences, one for an 8 ft chain link fence at a cost of \$132,523. and one for a 6 ft chain link fence with barbwire on the top at a cost of \$111,925.64. He said we have people using the reservoir for recreation use and they will still have access if they purchase a key from the city. It will also prevent people from throwing trash into our reservoir. City Manager recommends the 6ft fence. Commissioner Griggs made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3-0

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 PM.

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.

(x) 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).

X 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 4th day
of May 2021.

Notary Public