

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2019

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 5:00 PM at the Cornelia Community House, 601 Wylly Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor J.C. Irby, Jr. 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 Manager Diane Feorino, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson.

City Manager Anderson introduced Janice Alexander, Outreach Manager, with the Georgia Department of Human Services. Ms. Alexander came forward and explained that their agency offers many services and they are trying to let the Public know about the different services available. The first person she introduced was Elaine Harkins, Habersham ADRC Director, for Legacy Link Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Harkins explained all the services her agency covers. Next Ken Ruddell, Parental Accountability Court Coordinator (PACC), was introduced. Mr. Ruddell explained that they are a Division of Child Support Services. He explained that the PAC works with the parents to get chronic non-payers to make regular payments and keep them out of jail. Other Services offered include: Mental Health, Clinical Assessments, Substance Abuse and Drug Treatment, Job Assistance/Placement, Coaching, Mentoring and Volunteer Work Opportunities. In an 18 month period he said they collected \$133,000 in support and kept 95% of the parents out of jail. The program is funded by the State. Cara Kitchen, County Director for Family and Children Services (DFCS), and Jessica Garner, Supervisor of Foster Care came forward to talk about their agency services, which include Adoptions and Foster Care, Child Protective Services, and Office of Family Independence (SNAP, Medicaid, TANF). Commissioner Dodd asked if they have an adequate number of Foster Families in Habersham County. Ms. Garner said they only have 22 families and there is a need for more. She said they try to pair the children with extended family first and then with foster care. The last thing they want to do is to place them with a family outside the county, which would require the child be changed to a different school system. Ms. Alexander thanked the Mayor and Commission for allowing them to come and speak about their programs. The Commissioners thanked them for taking the time and coming to the meeting to provide the information.

City Manager Anderson asked the Mayor and Commission if they had any question about the items on the agenda. No one had anything further to discuss.

The Workshop Meeting was closed at 6 PM.

Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk

J.C. Irby, Jr., Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
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AUGUST 6, 2019

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6 PM at the Cornelia Community House, 601 Wylly Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor J.C. Irby, Jr. 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, Jr., Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson.

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

Approval of the Agenda – Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the August 6, 2019 Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the July 2, 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Habersham County Representatives Presentation on need for New Jail – Stacy Hall, Habersham County Chairman, came forward to speak first. He said the current jail is over-crowded and when it was completed in the 1990's it was non-compliant. He said they have been working on this matter for over 2 years and they are going to let the voters decide by Referendum Vote on November 5, 2019. Sheriff Joey Terrell stated they had an assessment completed by Precision Planning, Inc., an engineering company and architectural design firm with extensive work in constructing jails for other clients. They found approximately 70 non-compliance issues as defined by the American Correctional Association Standards for Adult Correctional Facilities and by the Georgia Standards for Adult Pretrial Detention Facilities. The current jail does not allow for the proper classification of inmates, which results in behavioral problems and safety concerns for prisoners and staff. He explained that there was also an evaluation of the current jail to determine if the facility could be modified and renovated to accommodate the expected growth of the inmate population. Sheriff Terrell said there are 3 possible scenarios considered: No Jail Expansion- Do nothing, maintain the current jail and continue to house out-of-county when the inmate population exceeds capacity.; Expand and Modify Current Facility – Renovate the current jail to meet projected inmate population growth.; and New Construction – Construct a new jail on currently available site to meet projected inmate population growth. The report concluded that there is no feasible way to expand or renovate the existing jail to become compliant with state and federal regulations. After evaluation of all the options Precision Planning recommended that Habersham County move forward with funding and development of a new jail. He presented a slide presentation of the proposed project. He noted they estimate their cost for housing inmates outside Habersham will be \$600,000 this year. County Manager Phil Sutton passed out a handout outlining the need for the new jail. He stated the estimated cost is \$31,628,143 and are proposing a 1.38 millage rate increase to cover the annual cost.

Community Development Manager Monthly Report – Jessie Owensby came forward to present her July Report. She also highlighted upcoming events for August. A copy of this report is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager's Monthly Report – City Manager Anderson presented his July Monthly Report. A copy of this report is made an integral part of these minutes. He noted that our 2018 Fiscal Year Audit is completed with no findings. Joe Kitchens our auditor will be at the September Commission Workshop to answer any questions.

Public Forum – City Manager Anderson stated that if they were there to speak about the Berry Street – Grand Avenue Intersection to wait till the Public Hearing at which time they can make their comments. Ms. Carol Lonergan asked if she could ask about the jail project. City Manager Anderson said those questions need to be directed to Habersham County they just came tonight to introduce the project to the Mayor and Commission.

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Public Hearing – City Manager Donald Anderson opened the Public Hearing to discuss the options to make the intersection of Berry Street and Grand Avenue safer. He said we had Carter & Sloope our City Engineers do a study and they came up with two proposals. He explained those proposals to the Public. Ms. Sue Martin Popham, lives at 138 Grand Avenue, said she has been there for 77 years and safety is an important issue. She explained that she spent 8 hours on a week day and monitored the traffic and a total of 100 vehicles went down the street that day. She said they all stopped at the Stop Sign and they appeared to be going 25 MPH. Then she did a weekend day and 75 vehicles went down the street with no issues. She stated, “ If it’s not broken then don’t fix it. Not for the change.” Wade Hasty, 113 Thomas Street, said he’s only been here about 9 years and he faces the island. He said he observes a lot of cars not stopping and not complying with the Yield Sign. He said no reason to change but ask police to come more often they could make some money. Mary Beth Rice, lives at 533 Maple Street, she’s only been here 5 – 6 years, but said she loves Cornelia. She said she loves everything about Cornelia, the pet park, the new lights on the walking trail, and her neighborhood. But it’s a growing town and new people are moving in and they aren’t as familiar with the streets. It’s a safety concern we need to do something on Berry Street at the intersection with Grand Avenue. Neil Chambers , 490 Maple Street, said it is a safety issue and something needs to be done. She said she has 2 new drivers and 2 active bikers who love to visit their Grandparents Ann & Jim Bruce on Grand Avenue. She said her and her Dad have worked out a way to watch them from each street to insure their safety. Karen Shea, 135 Grand Avenue, said she actually has a drive off of Grand Avenue and Berry Street. She stated the one-way on Grand Avenue is not a good idea but she thinks something needs to be done. Ann Bruce, 120 Grand Avenue, said the island is not being taken care of it needs to be landscaped and taken care of by the owner. She said if the City could take that over she would be willing to make sure it’s maintained. City Manager Anderson closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Dodd suggested trying a “Yield Sign” going up the hill on Berry Street where it intersects with Grand Avenue maybe that would help. Attorney Campbell said we had the same issue at Hodges Street where it intersects with Level Grove Road. He said we solved that problem with a Yield Sign with some guidance on it; such as “Traffic Yields to Level Grove Road” or something similar. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to install a Yield Sign such as “Traffic Yields to Grand Avenue” on Berry Street where it intersects with Grand Avenue; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Consent Agenda – Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes: Approving the Water Sale Agreement with Baldwin for \$4.38 per thousand gallons from \$2.98 per thousand. This is the first time that our wholesale water rate has increased since 2012. The increase is due to the increased cost of producing water as well as the debt service associated with the new Water Plant and Reservoir, and adopting a Resolution Requesting Sales Tax Info from the Department of Revenue which designates City Clerk Janie Henderson as our Official Designated Officer; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4- 0.

Wyly Street Drainage and Water Line Project – City Manager Anderson stated one of our Stormwater Projects for this year is to construct a retaining wall and pipe the ditch at the Chenocetah Water Tanks on Wyly Street. This project also requires the relocation of the Water Main going to the tanks because it is actually exposed and on top of the ground. We are proposing that City Staff perform the work and our cost for materials will be approximately \$112,000 as opposed to \$225,000 if we contract it out. He explained that a portion will be paid out of Stormwater Fees and the balance out of Water Fund. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the Wyly Street Drainage and Water Line Relocation Project to be completed by City Staff for cost of approximately \$112,000 for supplies and materials; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Police Department Cameras – City Manager Anderson said we need to replace our Body Cameras and In-Car Cameras used by our police officers. He said in this day and age the officer’s cameras have become one of the most important pieces of equipment that a Police Officer has. Our current cameras are no longer under warranty, so when we have issues we have to pay the company to fix them. Recently we went several months without working cameras due to a video server issue. We have priced several options and more importantly the Chief has spoken to other Police Departments to see which company is the best. An explanation of the benefits of the Watch Guard System which is recommended is attached. One of the main benefits is it would eliminate the need for us to have our own server because all the data will be stored in the Cloud. The upfront cost is \$97,530 and then there will be an annual storage fee of \$12,375. He proposed 2 payment options; 48-month GMA Lease/Purchase with estimated annual payment of \$26,453.04 or we can pay the full amount out of SPLOST Funds and budget for the annual storage fee. He noted that we will be able to surplus our old equipment in order to recoup some of the cost. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to pay for the \$97,530 total cost out of SPLOST Funds and budget for the annual storage fee; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Fire Department Cascade System for new Fire Station – City Manager Anderson said we are responsible for providing the Cascade System for the new Fire Station, which is the equipment used to fill the air packs used by the firefighters. The system has to be ordered now because it takes 12 to 14 weeks and the contractor needs the specifications to know how to set up the room that it will be located in. We received 2 quotes; Municipal Equipment Company for \$37,512.04 and Breathing Air Systems for \$42,171.05. We would like to go with Breathing Air Systems because it’s the same equipment used at our North Station and it fills 6 bottles at a time vs 4 bottles by the other system. He noted this equipment will be paid for from the Bond Proceeds for the Municipal Complex Project. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the purchase of the Cascade System for the new Fire Station for \$42,171.05 from Breathing Air Systems and paid out of Bond Proceeds; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to close the meeting and enter Executive Session at approximately 7:20 PM to discuss Real Estate; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to close the Executive Session and open the meeting at approximately 7:40 PM; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Mayor Irby stated a Real Estate matter was discussed, but no action was taken.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adjourn at approximately 7:45 PM; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

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 into an Executive Session to discuss certain matters in a closed session.

- () 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).
- (X) 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.

James C. Irby, Jr., Mayor, City of Cornelia

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
 6th day of August, 20 19 .

Notary Public