

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
July 5, 2022

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 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, Janice Griggs, Mark Reed, and Don Bagwell. Also, present: City Attorney, Steve Campbell, City Manager, Donald Anderson 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 2022. Mrs. Horton explained that the expenses for this quarter were \$16,434.12. she said that the charge to renew the domain name was a significance cost. Mrs. Horton said that they have entered into a Co-Op Partnership with Northeast Georgia Mountains Travel Association that will include more ads in different Magazines as well as billboards. She said they will include more social media ads this coming quarter. A copy is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager Donald Anderson went over the items on the agenda, stating that we would need to readopt the Ward Map. The Urban camping ordinance has been posted and we have not received any comments for or against. He said the water and sewer tap fees have increased 2 times in the last 12 months that total a 25% increase, we need to increase the fees by 25% just to cover our cost. Mr. Anderson explained that the County is proposing a Roads and Bridges SPLOST for 1%. He named off a project list of needs for improvements for road and sidewalks. City Attorney, Steve Campbell has reviewed the IGA with the county and approved it. Mr. Anderson said we have 37 miles of road and the cost to resurface one mile has increased by \$42,000 and the cost will continue to go up. He suggests that we sign the agreement. Mr. Anderson said we have a request for Subdivision & Conditional Use from Chee Wong. He would like to divide the property and is requesting a conditional use to build a package store. Mr. Anderson explained that it went before the Planning Board and they recommended approval, however they did have some opposition from some homeowners in the area. Mr. Anderson said that we have received some calls asking about tonight's meeting from members of Level Grove Church. City Attorney, Campbell suggested that if you don't approve it that you be specific as to why not.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the workshop at 5:50 pm.

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Debbie Turner, City Clerk

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John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA  
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The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 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, Mark Reed, and Janice Griggs. Also, present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, and City Clerk Debbie A Turner.

Mayor Borrow introduced Pastor Brian James of Level Grove Baptist Church to give the invocation and Mayor Borrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the June 7, 2022, Minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

City Manager Donald Anderson gave his monthly report, he said we are looking for volunteers to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Committee. This committee will layout the vision for the city for the next 10 years, applications can be picked up at City Hall. Mr. Anderson said we received a safety grant again this year in the amount of \$16,442.30. The funds will be used to help with the cost of installing backup cameras in 19 city vehicles, a new portable light tower, and the purchase of 2 AEDs for city buildings. The fire department graduated 4 recruits from the first ever Fire recruit school. The fire department will be fully staffed now, and we officially dedicated our 2 new fire trucks, and they are now in service. His report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum: Stanley Brooks from 1451 B C Grant Rd and Stewart Brooks in opposition to the liquor store in the Public Forum.

Mayor Borrow made the decision to move the Public Hearing ahead of Old Business.

Public Hearings:

Subdivision & Conditional Use for 1292 Level Grove Road, Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Borrow. Mayor Borrow asked James Irvin with Foothills Land Engineering to come up and speak, he represents the property owner Chee Wong at 1292 Level Grove Rd. Mr. Wong is requesting that the property be subdivided, and a Conditional Use be approved for a Package store. Mr. Irvin explained that he would like to divide the property into two lots and share a parking lot with the vape shop that Mr. Wong owns now. Mr. Irvin said that when the Brooks spoke during the Planning Board Meeting, he has created a map of the property owner and the Brooks property, and it is 1750 ft from the store to their property.

Both Stanley and Stewart Brooks spoke in opposition saying that they get enough riff raff from the Hi-Tech Convenience store as it is now, they are afraid it will make things worse. Brian James, Pastor of Level Grove Church came to speak in opposition, stating that he had looked at the state guidelines and they measure property line to property line. City Attorney, Steve Campbell read our ordinance which says we measure from building to building. Mr. James also brought up the fact that the Church has a school there and that the playground would be in the back parking lot once the new sanctuary is completed, those plans have already been approved by the city. City Attorney Campbell said that this is the first time the school has been brought up, but we would certainly need to look further into that. Lori Turpin a member of the Church wants to know if like all schools is all the Church property considered school property. City Attorney Campbell said we need to investigate what constitutes a school and how is mixed use defined. He suggests that the item be tabled until he can review all the legal factors.

Mayor Borrow closed the Public Hearing Commissioner Cook made the motion to table, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Old Business:

Ordinance # 05-22-01, Ordinance Amending Ward Map, Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to readopt the Ward map, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Ordinance # 06-22-01, Urban Camping Ordinance, the ordinance was posted, and no comments were made for or against it. Commissioner Griggs made the motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Consent Agenda:

Proclamation for Buck Snyder Day, July 23, 2022, Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

New Business:

Increase to Water & Sewer Tap Fee Schedule, City Manager Anderson said that our water meter fees have increased twice in one year costing the city 25% more. He is requesting we raise the water and sewer tap fees by 25% to cover our cost. Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the increase, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

IGA for Roads & Bridges SPLOST, City Manager Anderson explained that he is requesting we enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the County for a Roads and Bridges SPLOST, which the voters will decide in November. It will be a 1% sales tax for a 5-year period and if it passes it would generate an estimated \$44,000,000, the city will receive \$3,471.00 based on the formula of population plus road mileage. Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the IGA and the proposed project list, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Commissioner Reed asked if the mayor could explain what the consent agenda is. Mayor Borrow said these items don't require as much citizen input. Mayor Borrow read the Proclamation for Buck Snyder.

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

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Debbie Turner, City Clerk

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John Borrow, Mayor