

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 2, 2022

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, August 2, 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, IT Director, Jeremy Dundore and City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting stating that we need to amend the agenda, City Manager Donald Anderson said that under the old business for the conditional use we need to un-table and reopen the Public Hearing. Mayor Borrow asked City Attorney, Steve Campbell to explain what he provided, he said that if it was just the Church that clearly the liquor store would be within the distance requirements. However, with Level Grove also having a school they would need to decide what is defined as school grounds. Mayor Borrow said it is not a state accredited curriculum but there were teachers there and they do have day classes. Commissioner Reed and Commissioner Bagwell both thought that the distance requirements would be too close. The others were undecided, City Attorney Campbell said that it will be a hard decision either way, but you must go by what the law says. City Manager went over the other items, saying we would need to amend the agenda to add the Berry Street and Chenocetah Drainage Project. He went over the 2021 CDBG Bid Results as well as the bid results for Sanitation Service to privatize the service. Commissioner Cook asked if there was a guarantee that the trash would be picked up, he said that he had heard some negative comments about the low bidder FCS Sanitation Service. Mr. Anderson said that they are now picking up trash for a lot of other surrounding cities and we have 90 days to get out of the contract. The city will still provide the leaf and brush pick-up and we will keep our trash cans. City Manager, Anderson explained the add on to the agenda, stating that when the water main was installed it was filled with a lot of rip rap and now when the water flows it goes into the street. The solution would be either to pipe the ditch at a cost of \$80,061.5 or a concrete flume at a cost of \$67,191.50. The second issue is on Chenocetah Drive between Wyly and Habersham Terrace, a concrete flume would need to be installed on the Water tank side at a cost of \$17,100. allowing the water to flow into the new storm drain. Both projects will be paid for out of the Storm Water fund.

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

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

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The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 2, 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 gave the invocation and Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the July 5, 2022, Minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

City Manager Donald Anderson gave his monthly report. Mr. Anderson stated that Higgins Construction is almost finished with the Chenocetah Retaining Wall while improving the appearance of this entrance into town. Our utility billing software was switched back to SmartFusion and there were some issues which delayed the bills, but the due date was extended, and all issues have been resolved. Mr. Anderson said there is a chronic leak on Irvin St. near Fenders Diner. It is an old, galvanized pipe that began leaking about 6 months ago. There is now a second leak under the underpass, the Water/Sewer crew has finally been able to figure out where it is coming from. However, work will still be needed to be done due to the leak being fed by a 4-inch water main that is not on any city map. Mr. Anderson said we received notice from the Census Bureau that they have received our request to re-calculate our population due to a discrepancy in the number of homes that our records showed in April 2020. GMRC and the county GIS are supplying them with the data we requested. His report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum:

Brenda Garcia from Yonah St. came forward in opposition to the proposed rezoning on Irvin and Galloway. She said there are a lot of older people in these areas, and they are well maintained. She said she would like to continue to see the uniqueness of Cornelia.

Habersham Historical Society Presentation- Ms. Audrey Davenport came forward to thank the Mayor and Commissioners for their support of the 50th celebration in 2023 as well as the upcoming BRAF. Ms. Davenport laid out her initiative, stating that after meeting with Emily Pahuamba, President of HOPE: Hispanic Organization promoting Education she said that they discovered that BRAF was the same month as National Hispanic Heritage Month. This led them to team up to promote an event that would represent the communities. Ms. Davenport

would like to have an appointed representative from Cornelia as well as the other cities to be involved in Design and have each municipality featured. She stated that all the other cities are involved in support as well. Ms. Davenport introduced Emily Pahuamba, she said she is a senior at Habersham Central High School, on the swim team and has just been accepted in the Chamber's Youth Leadership Program for 2022-2023. She said she is looking forward to working with everyone to make the event a community effort to promote the Hispanic community. She said that in the past she has felt very unrepresented, Mayor Borrow said that he and the Commissioners realize the importance of the Hispanic community and look forward to bringing awareness to them. Ms. Davenport said she hope that this will bring diversity, equity and inclusion and acknowledgement that this is unlike any event that has been done in the county before.

Old Business:

Subdivision & Conditional use for 1292 Level Grove Road- Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to reopen the Public Hearing, Commissioner Cook seconded. Approved 4 - 0 Pastor Brian James came forward to say that Level Grove Church is still in opposition to the Liquor store. Commissioner Reed asked in terms of the school grounds what does he consider as school grounds and how many children are there as well as how long has there been a school? Mr. James responded by saying all the Church grounds are considered as school grounds, there are approximately 120 students, and it has run for about 15 years. Mayor Borrow ask if anyone had anything further to add and with no one coming forward the Public Hearing was closed. Commissioner Reed made the motion to deny the request based on the distance requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0 Commissioner Cook abstained from the vote.

New Business:

2021 CDBG Bid Results-City Manager Anderson, explained that there were 2 bids, and the low bidder is Higgins Construction in the amount of \$834,495. We have two grants one is a CDBG grant for \$750,000 and the other for \$75,000 from Northeast Georgia Housings Authority. This project will be completed with only \$9,459.00 from city funds. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to accept the low bid from Higgins Construction, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0

Minutes of Meeting – Cornelia City Commission

August 2, 2022

Page 3 of 3

Bids for Sanitation Service-

City Manager Anderson stated that we received 3 bids for residential sanitation service for the city. He said that the low bidder is FCS Sanitation out of Toccoa at \$13.35 per month per household. He explained that this is a one-year contract renewable every year up to five years. The city or FCS may terminate the contract after 90 days' notice. The change in service would not occur until October giving the residents time to be notified of the change. The city will still pick-up brush and limbs. Commissioner Reed made the motion to accept the bid from FCS Sanitation, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0

Quote for Data and Controlled Access at Public Restrooms-

City Manager Anderson explained that we received a quote from Omega Technology Group in the amount of \$23,442. to provide data and controlled access to our public restrooms. Mr. Anderson said that the technology is needed due to vandalism and homeless living at the public restrooms. He said once the system has been installed, we will be able to install cameras **OUTSIDE** the restrooms as well. Commissioner Cook the motion to approve the bid from Omega Technology, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0

Berry Street and Chenocetah Drainage Project

Mr. Anderson said he would like to amend the budget to complete 2 drainage projects. Berry Street between Main and Oak Street, there is a ditch on the side of the road that was poorly constructed, it was filled with rip rap and now the water flows out of the ditch into the road. Higgins Construction is already under contract, and we have received two quotes, first one is for them to pipe the ditch costing \$80,061.50, the second quote is regrading the ditch and construct a concrete flume at a cost of \$67,191.50. Mr. Anderson said the road is very narrow and once the project is completed, they will be able to widen the shoulder. The second project is on Chenocetah Drive between Wyly St. and Habersham Terrace. This project will also need a concrete flume to be installed on the water tank side, which will allow the water to flow into the storm pipe on Wyly. The cost of this project is in the amount of \$17,100. Both projects will total \$84,291.50 and it will be paid out of the Strom Water Fund which has a balance of \$437,423. Commissioner Reed made the motion to accept the bid from Higgins Construction, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor