

### City Manager's Annual Report for 2024

We began 2024 with the mayor and I attending a meeting of water providers in our region to discuss the possibility of creating a Northeast Georgia Water Authority. To date there has not been a follow up meeting regarding this matter.

We celebrated Arbor Day on February 16<sup>th</sup> by planting Trees on property owned by the city located on Moss Street. The trees were funded with grant funds from the Georgia Tree Council's Releaf Program. We also received the Tree City designation for the 33<sup>rd</sup> year in a row!

We engaged the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to update the Downtown Master Plan to include the site of the proposed Amphitheater. This site plan has been used by our engineers to develop the plans for the project.

In March we hosted a cleanup around our drinking water reservoir. We had 9 volunteers help with the cleanup and they picked up 300 pounds of garbage.

In April we completed the Market Corners Drive Road and Sidewalk Project. The project also included Georgia Power placing decorative streetlamps along the road. The new road is a huge improvement over what was here before.

Also, in April we submitted our Supplemental LMIG application to assist with the 2025 Paving Project. We received an additional \$91,000 from the state to help with the cost of the project.

In May we completed the Tim Loves Tink Mural Project on Front Street. This project was a combination of community involvement and our Public Works Department. The project was funded in part by a Georgia Vibrant Communities Grant. The end result is a beautiful mural that has turned into a tourist attraction for downtown.

Also, in May the Cornelia Hospitality & Tourism Board held another successful Music Festival. This year's Music Festival will be May 17<sup>th</sup> and will be the first event at the new Entertainment Park.

In June we finalized the agreement with GDOT for their portion of the rail crossing project.

Also in June, local artist Annabelle Jackson completed this year's Fire Hydrant project. We painted 3 fire hydrants in downtown with designs from students at Cornelia Elementary, South Hab Middle School, and Tallulah Falls School.

In July we helped Mrs. Johnson remove the boat from the property that we purchased from her for the new park. We also relocated the locomotive to behind the caboose on Clarkesville Street.

Also, in July we received notice that we received a \$1 million ARC Grant to help with the cost of the new Amphitheater.

The mayor and I met with representatives of the U.S. Forest Service about their plans for Chenocetah Tower. They have applied for grant funds to make repairs to the tower and cleanup the trees around the tower. This will be a 3-year process with the first step being the creation of the plan.

In August Norfolk Southern finally completed the long-awaited rail crossing project. While they were performing the work Congress Clyde made a visit to downtown to see the site of the Amphitheater. He spent a good deal of time visiting with the rail workers. He also toured our downtown and was very impressed with its transformation.

Also, in August we received notice that we once again received a \$1 million CDBG Grant. This year's grant will be used to help with the cost of the East Walnut Street Water Main Project. We also received 2 GEFA loans totaling \$4.6 million. These funds will be used for the Old Level Grove Water Line Project and the Hazel Creek Pumping Station Project.

Code Enforcement began working with Ninth District regarding the growing homeless population in the city. Nonth District offers a host of services to Homeless People that we were not aware of. These services include Workforce Development, a mobile clinic, and assistance with temporary housing.

In September we once again held a very successful Big Red Apple Festival! The weather was perfect, and thousands of people flocked to downtown for the event.

Hurricane Helene roared through the area causing some trees to fall. The storm knocked power out to most of the area, but Georgia Power was able to get the power restored quickly.

In October we received notice that the Historic Preservation Division approved the Amphitheater Project. Once we received this notice Carter & Sloope kicked it into high gear on the plans and we were able to put the project out for bid on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

The new Fairfield Inn opened its doors on October 29<sup>th</sup>! I have spoken with the owners, and they are picking up a few more customers every day.

In November we officially kicked off the Christmas season with the Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony and the second annual Dashing Though the Lights 5K. Once again over 100 runners took part in the event.

In December we hosted the annual Habersham County Christmas Parade. The parade showcased over 30 floats and despite the cold weather it was very well attended. Baldwin will host the parade next year.

Also, in December we received the Notice to Proceed from ARC for the Amphitheater Project. City workers have begun the demolition of the existing buildings and cleaning up the property. The contractor should begin the grading portion of the project sometime this month.

Projects to look forward to in 2025 include Phase I of the Amphitheater Project. We hope to complete the improvements to the old reservoir which was originally funded in 2012. The much-needed expansion to the Wastewater Plant should go out for bid in March. This will expand our capacity from 3 mgd to 4.5 mgd. We have several economic development projects in the planning phase that will continue to make Cornelia the economic engine of Habersham County. These projects along with the dedication of our city employees give me the confidence to say that 2025 will once again be another successful year for the City of Cornelia.

Donald Anderson

City Manager

### **Public Safety Departments**

### Fire Department 2024

- 15 employees
  - o 3 admin. Positions
    - Chief
    - Fire Marshal
    - Exe. Assist to Fire Chief This is a new position was created to relieve the Fire Chief and Operations Staff from spending valuable time in an office instead of in the field.
- **Fire Marshal** conducts fire investigations, enforces Fire and Life Safety Codes, and works closely with Building and Code Enforcement. He also oversees Fire Safety Education.
  - o **2024** 
    - 6 Investigations
    - 112 Inspections
    - 25 Certificates of Occupancy Issued
    - 11 Plan reviews
- Training (240hrs each)
  - o Total of 3,673 hours
- Operational Responses (Calls)
  - o Total 1,449 (+80)
    - Fire Related Calls 606
      - No incident found/Unintentional Alarm/Malfunctions/False 106
      - Motor Vehicle Accident w/wo Injuries 128
      - Dispatched and cancelled enroute 64
      - Search for person/Assist Police/Public Service/Lock out/in 42
      - Brush/Grass/Forest/Wildland Fire 14
      - Water/Steam/Smoke Scare 23
      - Building Fire/Chimney/Cooking contained 14
      - Gas leak/spill/Carbon Monoxide Incident 13
      - Overheat/Arcing/Short circuit 19
      - Outside rubbish/trash/Unauthorized/Authorized Burning 33
      - Vehicle/Camper Fire 1
      - Bomb Scare 1
      - Extrication/Rescue; Vehicle or Elevator 5
      - Animal problem/rescue 1
      - Assist Invalid/Welfare Check 116
      - Lines/Tree Down/Weather Related Incident 26
    - Medical Calls 814
      - EMS Calls excluding MVA with injury 525
      - Assist Calls (Med Crew, Invalid) 235
      - Dispatched and Cancelled enroute 28
      - Unintentional Med Alarm 7
      - Patient Refused Treatment/Transport 6
      - Walk into Station 13

### Info

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### Goals from 2023

- Trained with the PD concerning major scenarios; training was in the Cornelia Elementary School
- Working closer with the water department concerning Fire Hydrant testing
- o 11 of the 14 operational staff are certified Car Seat Technicians
- Increased the Volunteer and Part-time employee list
- Was able to sponsor and host a grant funded EMT B course for the CFD and CPD and surrounding agencies.

### Goals

- o Training, increase the proficiency and effectiveness of each FF
  - Train with the PD to develop a cooperative training class relating to major scenarios.
- Continue to revise/compose Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines to remain in compliance with yearly changes.
- o Train employees in a Drone Certification Program
- o Get the last 3 operational staff certified as Car Seat Technicians
- Increase the Part-Time and Volunteer employee list
- Begin anticipating the need to upgrade/remodel the North Station. Station
   22 HVAC replacement and purchase of generator
- To have EMT B's on shift to be able to provide medical assistance that only can be provided by EMT's

### **Court Services 2024**

### Clerk of Court

- o Cases 1,734
- o Fines \$65,758.00

### Probation

- o Fine collection \$101,359.00 (+10K)
- o Community Service Hours 2,824hours, (\$20,474)
- o Total added cases for the year: 226
  - Closed successfully: 196 (+41)
  - Closed unsuccessfully: 9 (-13)

### City Marshall Department 2024

### Code Enforcement

- Cases 310
- o Closed 368, with 9 citations issued.

### Building

- o Permits Issued 140
- o Fees Paid- \$58,287.37
- o Plan Reviews: 54
- o Residential Insp: 255
- o Commercial Insp: 150
- o Erosion Insp: 210
- o New Home Permit: 27
- o Residential C.O.s: 24
- o Commercial C.O.s 5

### Goals

- Paul-
  - Start Level 3 Code Enforcement through Gace
  - o Complete Certified Fire Marshall, Fire Plan review
  - o Complete Certified Fire Inspector 1 and 2
  - o Continue Code Enforcement Certification through ICC- 6 test.
  - Continue Master Inspector Certification
  - o Drone Pilot
    - Chris
      - Complete Level 1 Certification for Code Enforcement through GACE-1 Conferences Remaining
      - Complete Residential Combination Inspector- 4 test.
      - Complete International Zoning Code 1 test.
      - Complete Residential Plans Examiner

### Achieved Goals

- o Paul General Plans Examiner, Certified Building Offical
- o Chris Completed several Tests and a Conference remaining on course to achieve all

### Police Department 2024

### Uniform Patrol Division

Calls for service: 13,016 (+2,815 28%)
 Incident Reports: 1,370 (1,169 2024)

Accidents: 436 (312 in 2023, doesn't include GSP)

o Citations: 1,283

### Criminal Investigation Division

o Cases: 65

Arrests: 25
Ex. Cleared: 16
Inactive: 24
Unfounded 15

### Training Division

■ Total Hours: 4008 (+2,310; opportunities online and 4 were academy)

- All Officers Received Training
  - Emergency Vehicle Operations
    - Active Shooter
    - Handcuffing Refresher
- Individual Training
  - Some are enrolled in the FD EMT class
  - Instructor attended "Alert AIR Instructor" to work with police and fire in active shooter events
  - Several received FTO and Supervision training classes

### Car Seat Program

- Distributed 113 car seats
- Educated 158 individuals
- Hosted a 24-hour CPST class, and assisted with classes in Baldwin, Cumming and Lumpkin County
- Through Probation's Offender Program, 40 car seats were distributed to Circle of Hope and were used to supplement the Child seat program.
  - Car Seat Events held
    - Special event for Hispanic Mothers at Cornelia Elementary
    - At HCHS for students looking into the field of Child Education

### o 2024 Goals

- 1. Develop and implement a community program where citizens sign up to help law enforcement by giving access to residential cameras to help fight crime. This was launched and shortly after RING was sued by an activist group for supplying surveillance to LE. We still have the program but it's more of an awareness and not something that citizens can sign up for.
- 2. Review and update the pursuit and emergency driving policies as well as all levels of use of force. DONE

- 3. Continue development of a training program for officers that assure that firearms qualifications, emergency driving, self-defense, first aid, department policy review, emergency fire suppression techniques taught by our fire department, arrest, detention, stops, searches and seizures. DONE
- 4. Developing and implementing an individualized training and development program
  for each officer. We have a running list of classes that officers need to meet the criteria
  for the PSD pay incentive and predict several officers will achieve these in 2025.
- 5. Develop and implement night shift Corporal positions to ensure night shift has a first line supervisor. This will be done with the intent to expand to day shift as the department grows in the coming years. The Chain of command was restructured and the two-night shift corporals where promoted. They both left for more money. Currently working on replacements.
- 6. Develop and implement a non-competitive achievement-based non-supervisory rank to coincide with the Public Safety Directors educational supplement program.
- O This has been implemented. No one has completed the pre requisite
- 7. Develop and implement a social media management program that allows for post to be auto posted. After taking social media training, new ideas on professional grade graphics and post have been implemented. The cost of the social media management program for auto posting in beyond the means of the just the PD. That money can be better served elsewhere.
- o 8. Officers will attempt to respond to all calls for service in a timely, yet safe manner
- 9. Get our traffic position filled focused on accident reduction. Traffic position has been filled.
- 10. Fill our vacant Drug Investigator position with the focus of reducing drug and gang activity in our area. Position has been filled and is also an FBI taskforce person.
- 11. KEEP PATROL FULL. Our officers are constantly being offered jobs and poached for more money and we are in a constant state of running short-handed and utilizing over time.
- O 12. Start the process to get Miriam to be a certified interpreter- The requirements for this have changed and its my understanding speaking with the Clerk of Court that the interpreter has to be a contract person and not a employee of the City. As of right now this is being tabled.

#### 2025

Same

### 2024 Annual Report

The Cornelia Utilities Department has operated safely, efficiently and 100% compliant with state and federal regulations. The success of this department is largely due to the dedicated, competent staff and the support of Cornelia's Mayor, Commission and City Manager.

The Cornelia Utilities Department has faced many difficult and complex challenges which were met with innovated ideas and a committed workforce.

Vitally important factors for doing our part in accomplishing the goal of earning the City of Cornelia a reputation of professionalism and leadership in Northeast Georgia are:

- 1. Employee safety, training and morale.
- 2. Effective multi-level communication.
- 3. Ensuring consumer confidence.
- 4. Complying with present regulatory guidelines and making preparation for more stringent future regulations.
- 5. Maintenance strategies of aging facilities and distribution/collection system.

### Facilities Operational Success Summary

The Water Treatment Plant and Water Pollution Control Plant both had zero violations and were 100% compliant with State and Federal limits in 2024.

### 2024 Annual Report

### COST BY DEPARTMENT

Department	WO Qty	Labor	Part	Supplier	Tool	Misc	Total	Cost %
Water Plant	2	\$351.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$351.50	0.10%
Wastewater Plant	570	\$6913.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6913.15	1.91%
Meter/Billing	110	\$9433.50	\$64.51	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$9538.01	2.64%
Water	186	\$53019.50	\$28767.87	\$0.00	\$7536.50	\$4347.56	\$93671.43	25.89%
Sewer	74	\$19902.50	\$7857.24	\$0.00	\$3812.00	\$0.00	\$31571.74	8.73%
Asphalt	5	\$20197.00	\$73478.90	\$0.00	\$1636.00	\$0.00	\$95311.90	26.34%
Storm Water	41	\$16530.00	\$19046.21	\$0.00	\$3284.50	\$13843.98	\$52704.69	14.57%
Water Plant 1439	522	\$6688.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6688.00	1.85%
Wate/Sewer	12	\$6802.00	\$5528.00	\$0.00	\$972.00	\$0.00	\$13302.00	3.68%
Lift Station	162	\$30476.00	\$4467.99	\$0.00	\$239.00	\$15114.00	\$50296.99	13.90%
15	1	\$1444.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1444.00	0.40%
Report Totals	1685	\$171757.15	\$139210.72	\$0.00	\$17520.00	\$33305 54	\$361793.41	

# Water/Sewer Maintenance In-House Large Projects and Accomplishments

- ➤ In-House Cost Trimming of Wood St. Project (Approximate \$60,000)
- Project at Wastewater Treatment Plant, clearing trees and installing new infrastructure
- > Started project at Johnson Railway, disassembling building
- > Hazel Creek clean-up project
- Water main replacement project at Lowes/Longhorns
- > Re-routed sewer line at Dairy Queen
- Storm project behind El Patron on Stonecypher St.
- Brookside St. creek project, removing trees
- > 1088 Main St, Sewer line replacement
- New distribution shop renovations
- Water Plant project. Clearing and installing drain pipes
- Installed 71 Meters
- > Training on new vac truck
- Asphalt projects around the city
- Prep open/close Splash Pad
- > Routine lift station inspection and preventive maintenance
- > Routine maintenance of storm Infrastructure

### Work Order Summary

Water Break repairs - 83	Locates - 995				
Sewer Blocks - 55	Meters on/off - 801				
Storm Projects - 48	Lift Station Maintenance-1015 hrs				

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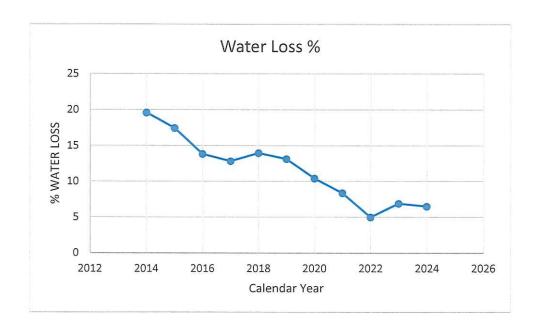
### **Water Treatment Department**

The water plant recorded 67.56 inches of rain for 2024.

**Drinking Water Quality** 

Strategic Target Parameters for Excellent Water Quality

	Control of the Contro				The state of the s					
	15'	16'	17'	18'	19'	20'	21'	22'	23'	24'
Settled Turbidity NTU	0.73	0.92	0.64	0.87	0.80	1.08	0.75	0.79	0.46	0.56
Filtered Manganese MG/L	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Filtered Iron MG/L	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01
Water Produced MG	860	851	817	844	949	1033	1025	1006	1000	1047



### Water Treatment Plant In-House Projects and accomplishments

- > Completed 2023 COC Water Loss Audit as required by the Georgia Water Stewardship Act.
- Completed annual flow meter verification for 2024 Water Audit.
- Completed 2023 Consumer Confidence Report.
- Completed Bi-Annual Water Quality Report.
- Completed 2024 Dam Inspection Reports.

### 2024 Annual Report

- Completed quarterly QC/QA on spectrophotometer and finished water CL\_17 analyzer as required by EPA Method 334.
- Received 2024 GAWP Gold Award.
- Completed 2023 Dam Inspection Reports.
- Completed quarterly QC/QA on spectrophotometer and finished water CL\_I7 analyzer as required by EPA Method 334.

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### Water Pollution Control Plant Department

### **Major Accomplishments**

- WPCP DMR 99.9% Compliance (Everything but Flow)
- ➤ GA EPD Annual Plant Inspection 100% Compliance
- ➤ GA EPD Pre-Treatment Program Audit 100% Compliance
- ➤ Toxicity Testing on Effluent 100% Compliance

- DMR/QA Certification for Lab
- Installed new Utility Water Reuse line to plant & belt press
- Developed design concept with Carter & Sloope for 2025 Plant Upgrade

### Work Orders for WPCP

Generated Work Orders	605
Completed Work Orders	587
Back-log Work Orders	18

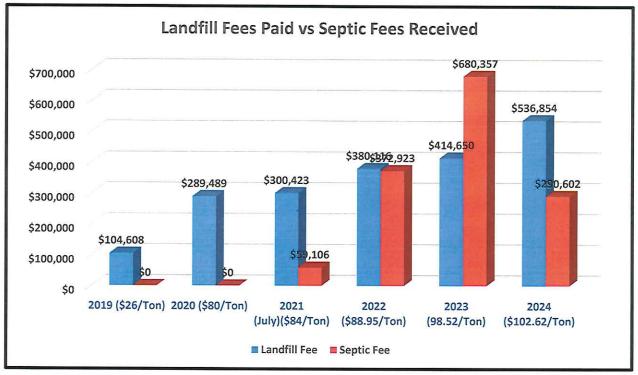
### **Commercial Grease Traps**

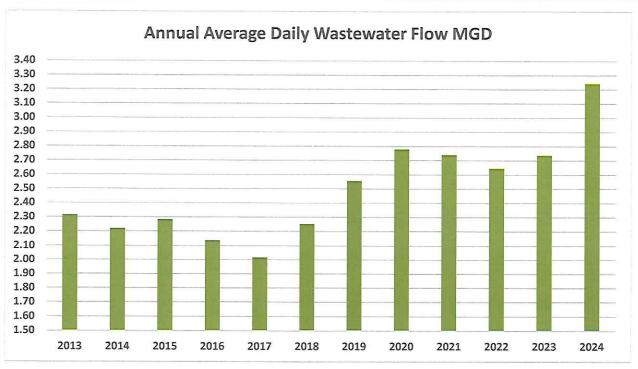
Grease Traps Scheduled for Pumping	175
Grease Traps Pumped	175
Non-Compliant	0

### **Annual Treatment Totals**

Flow MGD	1,195.8		
BOD Tons	1,410.6		
TSS Tons	1,842.3		
Solids to Landfill Tons	5,054.3		
Dry Solids Removed Tons	928.8		

2024 Annual Report







### **Public Works**

### **Yearly Report 2024**

Below is a list of all projects and tasks performed during the year of 2024:

- ➤ The backdoor sanitation route was completed on a weekly basis, removing about 124 tons of garbage.
- ➤ The chipper route was completed regularly removing 90 loads of chips.
- > The leaf vac sucked leaves around the city as needed removing 60 loads of leaves.
- > The grass was maintained on city properties and right-of-ways.
- Weed killer was sprayed on all curbs and gutter, sidewalks, and right-of-ways on a regular basis.
- The street and sewer right-of-ways were bush hogged on a regular basis.
- ➤ All city flower beds were maintained and new flowers and trees were planted around the city.
- > New mulch was spread in all the city parks and flower beds as needed.
- > All city parks were checked and cleaned on a weekly basis.
- Downtown was checked and trash picked up on a regular basis.
- All city buildings and grounds were maintained, and repairs were made as needed.
- ➤ All city parks were maintained, bushes trimmed, and repairs made when needed.
- > Repairs were made to all public restrooms as needed.

- > Pot holes in city streets were fixed as needed.
- Street signs were repaired and replaced as needed.
- All speed humps, parking curbs, and striping were painted and maintained as needed.
- The street sweeper was used to clean curbs, gutters and suck out drop basins regularly.
- Equipment was maintained on a regular basis.
- > We prepared for, held, and cleaned up after all major events held by the city.
- We put out and maintained all Christmas decorations and lights around the city.
- > We worked at the recycling center hauling brush to the burn pile and compacting the containers.
- The chip and leaf pile was pushed off and brush pile burnt regularly.
- Repairs were made to sidewalks around the city as needed.
- Shoulders of the streets were built up and repaired, and ditches were dug out where needed.
- We worked any storms that required any street maintenance.
- > We cleaned up after storms when any damage was done.
- We cleaned, made repairs, and painted all city property that were vandalized.
- We cleaned up fallen trees and cut down dead ones as needed.
- We made repairs to the board walks in Big City Park, replacing rotten sections.
- > We cleaned up the creek bank on Level Grove Road.
- We went around pruning and trimming all the bushes that needed it around the city.
- > Repairs were made to playground equipment and other city properties around the city after it was vandalized.
- ➤ The sidewalks downtown and other places around the city were pressure washed.
- ➤ The pavilions and buildings at Big City Park and Jim Smith park were pressure washed.

- > The trees along the walking trail in front of Walmart were pruned.
- ➤ We worked at the fire station 2 making repairs to the furnace, walls, water lines, leaking roof and built a new wall to close in the refrigerator room.
- > Routine repairs were made to all city buildings and properties as needed.
- > Stumps were ground in several places around the city.
- > Parking curbs were replaced around the city as needed.
- > We helped drive the dump truck for the W.W.T.P. while they didn't have a driver.
- > Underground power was installed at the old water plant in preparation for change over.
- > Rotten crossties were replaced in Alston Ridge.
- > A shed was built for the new green space on Moss Street.
- We helped Miss Davenport paint the mural.
- > The underpass was repainted.
- > We built a free expression wall at Library Park and took it back down.
- > We worked in Big City Park improving the drainage.
- > We worked on the PD training center making major repairs and replacing a porch.
- We crack sealed serval streets in the city.

### Mechanical

- ➤ Tires replaced 170
- ➤ Services 230
- > Truck and equipment repairs 468
- > Miscellaneous tasks 38



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Jessie Owensby Community Development Department January 7, 2024 Annual Report- Accomplishments

### Planning & Zoning

- 1. Reviewed and approved 22 sign permits and two additional sign plan reviews
- 2. Wrote 7 zoning verification letters
- 3. Completed four annexations, 1 conditional use, and 3 minor subdivision applications
- 4. Completed 23 building plan reviews
- 5. Coordinated and Facilitated field trip of city of Cornelia for GICH team
- 6. Coordinated and Facilitated field trip of city of Gainesville for GiCH team
- 7. Coordinated and attended two GICH retreats
- 8. Developed and presented one presentation at GICH retreat on "state of housing in Cornelia"
- 9. Spoke on housing panel at Partnership Habersham meeting
- 10. Partnered with CVIOG Design studio to develop potential site plans, design, and renderings for amphitheater
- 11. Worked on code enforcement at MLK
- 12. Updated Zoning Map for 2024
- 13. Translated applications, documents, and permits into Spanish
- 14. Updated Common Code Violations infographics
- 15. Facilitated, participated, and edited Zoning Ordinance rewrite (still in progress)
- 16. Obtained Certified Zoning Inspector Certification (Fatback currently studying for this)
- 17. Attended Winter GAZA Conference in February with Paul, Christopher, and John Ballard
- 18. Attended Plan First meeting for PF communities
- 19. Coordinated and attended Planning and Zoning Training in April with 12 attendees from Cornelia
- 20. Sent Jason Lewallen to Community Planning Institute in February
- 21. Sent Portia Burns and Jimmy Thompson to Mural Presentation
- 22. Attended DCA webinar on housing
- 23. Attended Supportive Housing Institute training with Suzanne Dow and Mike Fisher
- 24. Attended Soil and Erosion webinar
- 25. Coordinated and attended GICH Spring and Fall retreats with GICH team
- 26. Sadly, we lost our dear friend, John Ballard, at the age of 48 to cancer, so we have an opening on the planning commission. Additionally, we have a planning commissioner who has not attended a meeting in 13 months and has not responded to emails or phone calls, so we would like to open that position for applications.

### **Economic Development**

1. Attended Georgia Power CREATE conference on Small Business Development with Ellie Van Doornum, Jeremy Spradlin, Mark Musselwhite, Colby Moore, and Amanda Fulmer

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- 2. Partnered with Jose de Leon Reliable Consultants to empower local Hispanic business owners with the same small business development tools as everyone else
- 3. Attended monthly meetings and work sessions with GA Power CREATE team
- 4. Amended 2018 Urban Development Plan
- 5. Presented for and obtained 2024 Main Street Accreditation
- 6. Developed housing presentation for community speaking engagement
- 7. Hired Mark McCoy for Museum Assistant and has done very well!
- 8. Updated infill and redevelopment property data
- 9. Applied for federal transportation grant for Rails to Trails project
- 10. Gave city tours to five different interested developer groups
- 11. Ordered materials for downtown beautification project coming in 2025
- 12. Developed and delivered economic development presentation for Leadership Habersham group
- 13. Facilitated annual DDA retreat and developed 2025 Work Plan
- 14. Welcome new DDA members Zach Staggs, Frank Wolf, and Lindsay Dilbeck and WELCOME back to the Chair position to Heath Barrett. DDA has one opening currently
- 15. DDA completed 75 hours of training in 2024
- 16. Worked with SBDC to present "Marketing for AI" class in 2025
- 17. We opened 21 new businesses city-wide, 15 of those were in downtown. Those 21 businesses created 121 new jobs
- 18. Downtown has a 15% vacancy rating-83% of vacancies are one owner
- 19. 36 Residential/Commercial Rehabilitation Projects
- 20. 25 Private investments

### **Community Development and Special Projects**

- 1. We were awarded an ARC grant for the amphitheater in the amount of \$1 million
- 2. Nurtured several partnerships to work on and complete projects including:
  - a. Local columnist for Gov't education articles
  - b. Chamber of Commerce for Habersham Professional Women's Group, Leadership and Youth Leadership Habersham, Total Resource Campaign, CREATE team, GICH team, field trips, Young Professionals, Ambassador's Program
  - c. Piedmont University for alumni and student relations, internships, advertising projects, art projects, etc.
  - d. Kiwanis for Toys for Kids and Bingo
  - e. Rotary for Fried Apple Pie and Dashing Through the Lights 5Ks
  - f. Hospitality and Tourism Board for summer concert series, advertising, Christmas tree auction, etc.
  - g. Tallulah Falls School for Habersham Professional Women's Group, Capstone evaluations, Youth Leadership interviews, Midmester interviews
  - h. Board of Education for CTAE Work Based Learning program, internships, field trips, partners in education
  - i. De Leon Reliable Consultants and Viera Services for Spanish translations of documents and development of Small Business Development Series in Spanish

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- j. Was awarded \$1.35 million in Federal Discretionary Spending from Senator Warnock's office for the Rails to Trails trailhead project
- k. UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government for design and renderings of amphitheater
- l. Ninth District Opportunity to work with homeless population and GICH team
- 3. Designed new park signage for all parks- Ordered for Big City Park and Jim Smith Park
- 4. Designed new banners for downtown and for Market Corners Drive at the new Fairfield Inn
- 5. Researched and developed Comprehensive list of grant opportunities complete with deadlines, match requirements, and associated projects to use funding for
- 6. Developed and delivered presentation on the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership by John Maxwell to the Habersham Women's Professionals Group
- 7. Began working on federal transportation grant for the Rails to Trails project for 2025
- 8. Special dedication of community-painted mural funded partially by the city
- 9. Attended GMA Grants webinar xs 3
- 10. Attended AARP grant webinar
- 11. Attended Rural Development Economic Development webinar

### **Tourism and Special Events**

- 1. Weekly Meetings with Noah
- 2. 784 Community Events
- 3. 875 volunteer hours