

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 4, 2024

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 5:00 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, City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting and went over the agenda items stating that he did not think there were any changes. They discussed the new auto mechanic ordinance, City Manager Anderson said that it was re-posted with the changes made, keeping a record of the vehicles coming in and changing from asphalt or concrete to gravel as an acceptable surface. Mr. Anderson said there have been no comments for or against. Commissioner Bagwell stated that he had some tire work done at the shop beside All Type Auto's and that it did look very bad. Commissioner Bagwell asked if he had done any clean-up to his garage and Mayor Borrow along with City Manager Anderson, Commissioners Reed and Griggs said he had moved a lot of them out, but it looked like there were still too many. They also discussed York's Garage and that it looks bad as well, but he does have the option of installing a fence. They discussed the Fire Hydrant ordinance, City Manager Anderson said that the county has asked for all the city's ordinance regarding tampering with fire hydrants. We currently do not have such an ordinance. Mr. Anderson said that we have caught some contractors in the past filling up their tanks from our Hydrants. He said that they can go about it the right way and rent a meter from us so that we can charge for the water. They also discussed the Wastewater local limits, Mr. Anderson said that he thought we had done this last year but there is no record of it. This ordinance will change our suspended solids from 200 mg/l to 150 mg/l and phosphorus from 12 mg/L to 7 mg/l. Carter & Sloope has studied our existing local limits in conjunction with our plant operations and this is their recommendation. Commissioner Bagwell asked if Fieldale is meeting their limits, Mr. Anderson said they are. They went over the re-appointment of Ken Schubring's to the GMRC Board. They discussed the last item on the agenda, funding for Habersham County Senior Center where they deliver

meals to elderly people. After an anonymous doner has stepped up they should be funded until the end of the year. City Manager Anderson stated that he had talked with our Finance Director, Melanie Chandler and she said we can sponsor them legally. Mr. Anderson said he had originally said \$10,000, but you might want to drop it to \$5,000. Commissioner Reed asked if they need our funding this year, could we not just wait until next year and then look at funding them. Commissioner Griggs said that their year ends this month. She said maybe we just look at it in January. They discussed it and decided to remove it from the agenda. Commissioner Bagwell asked if we have a representative on the housing board? City Manager said that we do have three, but we do have one opening that we need to fill. He said right now our representatives on the board are Dee Higgins and Jan Garrison. He said if any of you know someone, please let him know. Commission Bagwell stated that we had met the new owners of what used to be Creekside cleaners and they had asked for a crosswalk. City Manager Andeson stated that is what they had ask for last month but there is no sidewalk on their side of the street and if we put one at the intersection, he thinks it will be even more dangerous. At last month's meeting the decision was made to leave it for now and see how it goes when they open. Commissioner Bagwell said that the park that is located just up from them is a lovely little park, but the sign is obscured. City Manager Anderson said we are in the process of updating our park signage. Commissioner Reed said that he thinks we need a two-rail fence at the parking lot near the underpass because if you take one step too far you are dropping off about 20-foot. He said he just does not want anyone to get hurt. City Manager Anderson said that they had gone through the traffic study, specifically the part about Grand Ave, and they recommend making that a four way stop at Grand and Maple due to visibility issues. Commissioner Bagwell asked about the study of the speed. City Manager Anderson explained that they only do a safety study.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:45

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

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The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 6:00 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, City Clerk, Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow gave the invocation and Commissioner Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the May 7th minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

City Managers Monthly Report - City Manager Anderson stated that the Mural project is now complete, and the finished product looks great! We held the dedication ceremony on May 30th, and it was very well attended. I want to thank Ms. Davenport, Steve and Susan Campbell, our Public Works Department, and everyone else that participated in this project. I definitely think that this mural will become a tourist attraction and I hope that we can add more murals in the future. The Cornelia Music Festival put on by the Cornelia Hospitality & Tourism Board did not disappoint. Despite a not so favorable forecast the weather cooperated, and it turned out to be a beautiful day. All the artists were fantastic, and it was one of the largest crowds that we have ever had. The Board is already looking for a headliner for next year's show, which we hope will be the first event at our new Entertainment Venue that we expect to begin work on in the next few weeks. A copy of his report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Mayor Borrow stated that he was at the concert and commented on how everything went and that the Journey Band sounded as good as the original. He thanked the Tourism Board as well as all the city workers for their hard work.

Public Forum:

Matt Ruark-Pedestrian Safety Concerns on Hodges Street – Mr. Ruark stated that he and his wife own the new Peaches Café on Hodges Street. He said that an incident happened to him when he was crossing the street, a car came flying up the road and almost hit him. He said the person slowed down but then actually sped up when he got close to him. Mr. Ruark also said that one of the managers had stayed late one night and a child had gotten away from his grandparents, she was able to catch him before he got onto the road. Mr. Ruark gave some statistics on how many pedestrians are killed each year and that they typically happen at night. He would like to see Hodges become a one-way street or a crosswalk installed. Mayor Borrow and City Manager Anderson said that we would look into some signs letting the Public know that they are in the Entertainment District. Mayor Borrow thanked him for coming.

Carlos Matias from 297 Wood Street came before the Mayor and Commissioners to complain about the Potholes on his street. He said they are messing up the suspension on his car. Mr. Matias showed them pictures of the potholes. The city Manager said that this is an ongoing project and they have about 3 weeks left, but he said he understands, and they will get the potholes repaired. Mayor Borrow thanked him for coming.

Old Business

Ordinance #04-24-01, Mechanic Shops – City Manager Anderson explained that this is the proposed ordinance pertaining to mechanic shops that was originally posted in April. Following the discussion at the May Commission Meeting it was re-posted because of some changes that were made to the original ordinance. The ordinance has been posted and we have not received any comments for or against it, so I recommend that you adopt it. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Ordinance #05-24-01, Zoning Map Amendment – City Manager Anderson said that this ordinance establishes the Zoning for Parcel # 112C019 as R-2. As a result of this re-zoning the official Zoning Map for the City of Cornelia will be amended. We have not received any comments for or against this ordinance, so I recommend that you approve the ordinance. Commissioner Reed made the motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Ordinance #05-24-02, Annexation Ordinance, City Manager Anderson said that this ordinance annexes Parcel # 112C019 into the City of Cornelia. We have not received any comments for or against, so I recommend that you approve this ordinance. Commissioner Reed Made the motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Public Hearings: None

New Business:

Ordinance #06-24-01, Unlawful Use of Fire Hydrants, City Manager Anderson stated that this ordinance makes it unlawful for anyone not authorized by the City Manager to operate, alter, change, remove, disconnect, connect to, tamper, or interfere with any fire hydrant owned by the city. I recommend that you post this ordinance. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to post the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Ordinance #06-24-02, Wastewater Local Limits, City Manager Anderson stated that the city is required to develop and enforce Wastewater local limits governing the quality and quantity of user discharges to the city's Wastewater Plant. The city's Engineering Firm, Carter & Sloope has studied our existing local limits in conjunction with our plant operations. Based on this they are recommending that the limits for Total Suspended Solids be reduced from 200 mg/L to 150 mg/l and Phosphorus be reduced from 12 mg/L to 7 mg/L. This ordinance reflects these changes and I recommend that you post this ordinance for public comment. Commissioner Reed made the motion to post the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

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GMRC Board Appointment - City Manager Anderson explained that Ken Schubring's term as the Private Sector Representative for Habersham County on the GMRC Board of Directors is set to expire on July 1, 2024. I recommend that you vote to re-appoint Ken to the Board of Directors. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to re-appoint Ken Schubring's to the Board of Directors, seconded by Commissioner Griggs Approved 4 - 0

Habersham County Senior Center Home Delivered Meals Sponsorship - Item was removed from the agenda.

Adjourn - Commissioner Reed made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor