

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 3, 2026

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5:00 PM in the Commission Conference Room, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Mark Reed, Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, and Janice Griggs. Also present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, and City Clerk Debbie Turner.

Mayor Borrow opened the meeting and said we have a couple of things to add to the agenda. Mayor Borrow stated that Commissioner Reed had attended the newly elected officials training and asked Commissioner Reed to go over something that he feels would be good for us to implement. Commissioner Reed said that they had a mock council meeting and that on the back of the agenda were the rules and police for the meeting. Blaine Wadsen was in attendance and said once again he had thoughts on the Flock Cameras. First being the safety, but also the security and surveillance of the cameras. The mayor thanked him for his input. The Mayor & Commissioner reviewed the items on the agenda. City Manager Anderson asked that a CDBG Resolution be added to the agenda. He said this resolution will allow us to apply for a \$1,000,000 grant, the grant will be used for the Whispering Woods and Garden Gate Water and Sewer Project. Mayor Borrow said it's about 5:22 and asked if anyone had anything that they would like to talk about. City Manager said that the Centennial of the Big Red Apple is coming up, he has met with Peter Madruga and Noah to discuss ideas. He said one idea Noah and Peter suggested was a parade. They discussed it and decided to have Noah put out some feelers to see if there would be interest in putting on a parade. They also discussed having a small festival along with a commemorative celebration and unveil the documentary at Common Ground. Peter is still trying to find a company that can replicate the little BRAF statues.

Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to exit the Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

No Action Taken!

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

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The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Commission Conference Room, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Mark Reed, Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, and Janice Griggs. Also present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, and City Clerk Debbie Turner.

Commissioner Reed gave the invocation, and Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the February 10th minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

City Managers Report

We planted 2 October Glory Maple trees at the site of the new parking lot on Front Street for Arbor Day on February 20th. This marks the 36th year in a row that the city has met the criteria to be considered a Tree City. The notice for the amendment to our Charter ran in the February 27th edition of the Northeast Georgian. A copy of the Tare sheet and the affidavit has been sent to Representative Anderson so he can finalize the legislation to amend the charter. We had a great turnout for our Blood Drive on February 16th. Life South collected 18 units of whole blood and 3 units of double red cells. These units have the potential to save over 60 lives. Life South was so amazed at the turnout they have already asked if we would host another blood drive in June. We held the pre-construction conference for the Ward 1 Infrastructure Project with Civil Construction & Utilities. They plan to begin working on the project on March 9th, the project will take approximately 9 months to complete. We will be sending a message to the residents in the project area before March 9th to let them know about the project and who to contact if they have any issues. I met with Norfolk Southern on February 25th about the Rosa Parks crossing arm project. They will be relocating the existing crossing arm closer to the tracks now that the spur going to the new park property is no longer in service. They do not have a timeline for the project because they are waiting on GDOT to sign off on the plans, but they wanted to make sure that the project was not going to interfere with the Amphitheater Project. I told them that we are 100% behind the project because now that Grant Place is more heavily used, we are worried that a car is not going to realize the crossing arm is down and turn in front of a train. For the time being we have installed a "No Right Turn" sign at the

intersection of Grant Place and Rosa Parks. His report is made an integral part of the minutes.

Public Forum

Ms. Tutt came forward to commend the Public Works Department on getting the Snow and Ice off the streets so quickly. Mayor Borrow thanked her.

Peter Madruga came forward to remind everyone that we are less than 100 days away from the Centennial of the Big Red Apple. Mr. Madruga said that he just wants to keep the excitement going. He presented some slides of other cities that have big apple monuments. He asked that we help to get a flyer out to the Public and would like for the Mayor or Commissioners to be part of the Documentary. City Manager Anderson told Mr. Madruga if he would get the flyer to him we would make sure it gets out.

Audrey Davenport came forward to request that the one block of Chattahoochee be extended to MLK and down to Main Street and requested a sign. City Manager stated that he was working on it. Ms. Davenport stated she applied to Georgia Planning Association to speak in March and was accepted. Ms. Davenport explained that this will be about the Brushstroke for Change Mural Project and asked that the City Sponsor the conference.

Old Business: None

Public Hearings: None

New Business:

Appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission has 4 vacancies that need to be filled. Audrey Davenport has applied to serve on the Board. The city manager recommended Ms. Davenport be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to appoint Ms. Davenport to the HPC, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority

Alex Michelle has resigned from the Downtown Development Authority. Brooke Shedd, the owner of Way to Baked has applied to fill the vacated spot. Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to appoint Ms. Shedd to the DDA, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Update to Water & Sewer a Tap Fee Schedule

Our Meter provider, Delta Municipal Supply has increased the cost for all the

large water meters. The city manager proposed that the cost for these meters be increased on our on our Water & Sewer Tap Schedule. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the increased cost to our W&S tap fee Schedule, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

Resolution Requesting Local Legislation to Begin Collecting a Technology Fee for Municipal Court.

Georgia Law allows a Technology Fee to be added to court fines to be used for technology-related needs of the court and the Police Department. The revenue from this fee can be used for the purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of equipment. This resolution is requesting that legislation be introduced to allow our Municipal Court to begin collecting a Technology Fee. Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Grant Administration for CDBG Projects

City Manager Anderson said that we received 5 responses to our RFP for the CDBG Grant Administration Services. The staff reviewed them and checked the references. Based on the results staff recommends that we use Carter & Sloope based on their experience, and their fees are the lowest. Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to approve Carter & Sloope the Grant Administration Services, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Engineering Proposals for CDBG Projects

City Manager Anderson said that we received 3 responses to our RFP for CDBG Engineering Services. After staff reviewed the responses and checked the references they recommend that we use Carter & Sloope due to their knowledge and experience. Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve Carter & Sloope the CDBG Engineering Services, seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 - 0

Bids for 2026 Paving Project

We received 4 bids for the 2026 Paving Project which includes the resurfacing MLK, Rosa Parks, and Tower Terrace. Construction of a sidewalk on Second Street to connect to Elrod Street to MLK. The low bid is from Georgia Paving, LLC in the amount of \$506,717.21. Carter & Sloope has reviewed the bids and recommends you award the project to Georgia Paving, LLC in the amount of \$506,717.21. Commissioner Griggs made a motion to award the project to GA Paving, LLC, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Proposal for Flock Cameras

The trial period for the Flock cameras is coming to an end, and they have

proven to be a very helpful tool for the police Department. The Police Chief would like to keep the cameras located at both Highway 365/Business 441 off ramps, the one at City Park on Wylly Street, and the one across from the Days Inn. The cost for the cameras will be \$14,500 for the first year and \$13,000 per year going forward. The Police Department has \$10,000 in their Forfeiture account and the remaining funds will come from their small equipment account. Commissioner Cook made a motion to keep the 4 Flock Cameras and to adjust the budget to use \$10,000 from the Police Department's Forfeiture account towards the purchase, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Automatic Aid with Baldwin for Fire Services

The City of Baldwin has requested that the existing Automatic Aid Agreement be updated to now due to new administration. The terms of agreement are the same as the existing agreement. Having Baldwin respond to structure fires as proven to be very valuable to our Fire Department, the city manager recommended approval of the agreement. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Automatic Aid Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

Community House HVAC Replacement

City Manager Anderson stated that the heating on the main level of the Community House has not been working for several weeks. Public Works tried to repair it, but it's from the 1980's so they were unable to find the necessary parts. We received a quote from Dockery's to remove the old unit and locate it in the attic and replace it with a new one. The total cost of removing and replacing it is \$21,881. Mr. Anderson said we have lost revenue because people have canceled their reservations. Mr. Anderson said that he approved the repair as an emergency repair under the procedures in our Financial Policies. We do have the money, but it will require a budget adjustment, he stated that we have \$8,000 budgeted to refinish the hardwood floors, and the rest will be paid for using some of the fund balance in the Community House Budget. Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the Bid from Dockery's of \$21,881 and make the budget adjustment, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

Budget Adjustment for Fire Department Equipment

The Fire Department would like to use \$3,000 from the Aluminum Can Fund to purchase a laptop and tablet to be used by Shift Captains to build props to be used for training. The fund was established to be used by the Fire Department to purchase equipment needed for operations. Commissioner Cook made a motion to transfer \$3,000 from line item 100-000-111113 to line item 100-3500-531600 Small Equipment, seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0

FY 2026 CDBG Resolution

Our CDBG Target area for this year is Whispering Wood Trailer Park and Garden Gate Subdivision. The project will consist of replacing water and sewer mains in these neighborhoods. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.5 million so we will apply for the maximum grant amount of \$1 million to help with the cost of the project. This resolution authorizes us to apply for the CDBG funding for this project. Commissioner Bagwell made a motion for the Mayor to sign the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Approved 4 - 0

City Manager Anderson stated that we would like to begin using i3 Vertical software for Court Services. The cost is \$3,900 up front and, \$800.00 monthly for 5 years. Commissioner Bagwell made a motion to approve i3 Vertical, seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 - 0

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM

Debbie Turner, City Clerk

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA, GEORGIA

AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICIAL(S) FOR A CLOSED PUBLIC MEETING

While in Regular Session, the motion was made to enter an Executive Session to discuss certain matters in a closed session.

() To discuss with the 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).

() 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.

John Borrow, Mayor, City of Cornelia

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day

_____, _____, 2026