

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2018

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, January 09, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Conference Room at City Hall, Cornelia, GA. Mayor Irby called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, Wesley Dodd, Jr., and Janice Griggs. Also present: City Manager Donald Anderson, Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, Jessie Owensby, Community Development Mgr. and City Attorney Steve Campbell. City Clerk Janie N. Henderson was not present. Members of the public were: Brentt Cody, Blake Rainwater Assoc., Heath Barrett, DDA Chairperson, Lauren Ivester, Higgins Realty, Mr. & Mrs. DiPiazza, prospective business owners, Jennifer Franklin & Doug Shaw of Jericho Architectural Design Group.

Mayor Irby called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM and the members of the public were introduced.

Heath Barrett, Chair of DDA, thanked the City for all the work on the lights. He stated that this is a great draw for people to come into our community. He said he has a lot of positive feedback about our lights.

Brentt Cody explained the scope of the DDA program working with the Blake Rainwater & Associates Company to demo and shore up the old bank building. The plan is to make it safely accessible for potential companies. The goal is to have it open during the spring Apple Blossom Festival.

Donald Anderson explained that the City had to decide how to pay for these services and it would have to be put on the agenda. The choice is between directly paying for the service or a loan subject to repayment upon sale of the building. There was discussion regarding the scope with Commissioner Bagwell discussing the vision for the building. Commissioner Dodd stated that this had to be set up as a receivable, do to and do from and should be added to the agenda.

The Jericho Group discussed their new designs and the plan for moving forward. There was discussion regarding the buildings and it was agreed to move forward for drawings for construction.

Mr. Anderson explained that based upon our recent census, more than 25% of our population is Hispanic. Based upon this we are required by the Federal government to adopt a Language Action Plan. The plan basically states that we will provide interpreters for meetings when requested. We have information posted in lobby and have to adopt.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the agenda and explained that we had replacement minutes because the minutes had to be amended. The salary line item that was approved had to be increased by \$200 more and as the minutes had not been approved and the year not closed. It was recommended they approve the amended minutes.

Steve Campbell explained that when Municipal Code was adopted it did not include our traffic section so it was time to readopt the code except the speed limit section. Mr. Anderson explained that this is post the ordinance.

A brief review of the balance of the agenda was held and the Mayor and Commission adjourned to the Municipal Room at approximately 6:55 PM.

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Diane Feorino for Janie N. Henderson,  
City Clerk

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J.C. Irby, Jr., Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
January 9, 2018

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Regular Session on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7 PM in the Municipal Building, Cornelia, GA. Mayor Irby called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Wesley Dodd, Jr., Tony Cook, and Janice Griggs. Also present: City Manager Donald Anderson, Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, and City Attorney Steve Campbell. City Clerk Janie N. Henderson was not present.

Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation. Mayor Irby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the agenda - City Manager Anderson recommended amending the agenda to include a funding request from the DDA and the adoption of the Language Action Plan. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to amend the agenda as recommended and approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 - 0.

Judge Steve Campbell issued the Oath of Office to Ward 2 Commissioner Janice Griggs and Ward 3 Commissioner Don Bagwell for 4-year term.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the Dec. 5, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Community Development Report - Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby gave her report for December and highlighted upcoming events. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Department Heads Autry Gosnell, Keith Ethridge, and Chad Dyer gave their Annual Reports. Copies of all of the reports are available.

City Manager Donald Anderson presented his and Police Chief Chad Smith's Annual Report.

Public Forum – Ms. Jennifer Hinson came forward and said how she had relocated to Cornelia and was very happy here, except for the trash on the streets. She asked if signs stating fines for littering might help deter some of the littering.

No further comments were heard from the public.

Old Business:

Ordinance 12-17-01, Community Redevelopment Tax Incentive Program- City Manager Anderson stated the ordinance was posted on Dec. 5, 2017 and we have received no comments from the public, but have had inquiries about the program. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adopt Ordinance 12-17-01, Community Redevelopment Tax Incentive Program; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Ordinance 12-17-02, Outdoor Fires for Cooking and Warmth- City Manager Anderson stated the ordinance was posted on Dec. 5, 2017 and we have received no comments from the public. Commissioner Cook made the motion to adopt Ordinance 12-17-02, Outdoor Fires for Cooking and Warmth; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Ordinance 12-17-03, Motor Vehicles and Traffic- City Manager Anderson stated the ordinance was tabled at the last meeting, so this will be to post the ordinance. City Attorney Campbell explained our Code had been codified in 2008, but our existing vehicle codes were not added. These codes were already adopted, but now all are being moved to the Municipal Codes except the section applying to speed limits and parking of certain vehicles.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion un-table the motion to table Ordinance 12-17-03; seconded by Commission Cook. Approved 4 – 0. Commissioner Dodd made the motion and to post Ordinance 12-17-03, Motor Vehicles and Traffic; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

Public Hearings- Conditional Use to Allow Drive through Restaurants at 525 Historic Hwy 441.

City Manager Anderson explained that the property is Zoned B-1, Neighbor Business. The petitioner is W&A Engineering and the owner is Kelly B Properties, LLC. The Planning Board held a meeting on December 14, 2017 and unanimously approved this request. He stated that the petitioner was here to speak regarding the request.

Scotty Haynes, Landscape Architect for W&A Engineering, requested a Conditional Use for a drive through window for a Popeye's Restaurant. He stated this is an appropriate use as there are several similar uses in the area, naming other restaurants in the surrounding area with the same use. He stated that there would be no adverse effects to allow this use. He stated that Popeye's is excited to be in this community and hope with this approval to be coming back within a few weeks with construction plans. There were no questions for Mr. Haynes.

No one else spoke either for or against the request.

Mayor Irby closed the Public Hearing. Commissioner Dodd moved to approve the Conditional Use Request, for a Drive through Window, of W & A Engineering; seconded by Commission Cook. Approved 4-0.

New Business:

New Vehicle for Waste Water Plant – City Manager Anderson stated we have budgeted money in our 2018 Budget for funding for a new Ford F150 4-wheel drive pickup truck for the Waste Water Plant. We received three quotes with the low bidder being Cain Ford in the amount of \$26,969.16 and are requesting the bid be accepted because it is within budget. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to purchase the Ford F150 for \$26,969.16 from Cain Ford out of the 2018 Budget; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Purchase of Lawn Tractor for maintaining the grass in reservoir /damn area. City Manager explained the time to maintain the dam and reservoir is excessive and will double with the new construction. To improve that time we want to purchase a lawn tractor with the capability to cut the steep slope. The best option is a Ventrac 4500 Tractor for the price of \$28,650.46 from Howard Brothers in Duluth. Department Head Gosnell provided further explanation of the tractor's capability. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to purchase the Ventrac 4500 Tractor for \$28650.46 from Howard Brothers in Duluth; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4-0.

Funding for DDA - City Manager Anderson explained that the DDA is working with a company called 4PM to renovate and redevelop the old bank building. They need funds for Blake Rainwater and Associates to do the necessary demolition and shore the walls in the amount of \$32,900. The DDA is going for Historic Tax Credits as a funding opportunity, so we need to have someone with historic expertise perform the work. This would be a loan from the City from the Reserve Funds Commissioner Dodd made the motion loan the DDA \$32,900; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4-0.

Adoption of Language Action Plan. City Manager Anderson explained that this is a Federal requirement based upon our 2010 Census, which now shows 25% of our population is Hispanic. As a condition of our CBDG Grant we are required to have a plan for providing interpreters, determining their need and providing for meetings when requested. He explained that the plan has to be approved and signed by the Mayor for us to be in compliance. Commission Cook made motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4-0.

Commissioner Dodd made motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4-0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to close the Executive Session at approximately 8:50 PM; seconded by Commission Bagwell at approximately 8:50 pm. Approved 4 – 0. Mayor Irby stated that personnel were discussed, but no action was taken.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:50 PM; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

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Diane Feorino for Janie N. Henderson,  
City Clerk

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J.C. Irby, Jr., Mayor