

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 12 Noon in the Municipal Court Room. The meeting was originally scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>, but due to no power from the extreme weather of Hurricane Irma the meeting was postponed. Mayor Irby called the meeting to order with the following members present: Commissioners Don Bagwell, Tony Cook, and Wesley Dodd, Jr.. Commissioner Janice Griggs was not present. Also present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, Jr., Fire Chief Chad Dyer, Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino, and Secretary to the City Commission Janie N. Henderson.

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

Approval of the Agenda – City Manager Anderson requested the agenda be amended to include moving the Community Development Monthly Report to the Consent Agenda and adding the discussion of suspending the Outdoor Burning Ban for 60 days, Old Lake Russell Road and approval of expenditures for the cleanup expenses from the storm damage. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the agenda as recommended by City Manager Anderson; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 - 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the August 1st, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Public Forum – Barry Christian, a Berry Street Resident, came forward to request that the intersection of Berry Street and Oak Street be converted to a 4-Way Stop. He said that several of the vehicles far exceed a reasonable speed and the street is narrow and there are no sidewalks and it has become quite dangerous. Commissioner Dodd travels this street daily and he said that he doesn't disagree. City Attorney Campbell also travels the street and stated with the width of the street and the amount of traffic that this wouldn't be a bad idea. Mayor Irby asked if speed bumps might be an option. City Manager Anderson said they are quite expensive and thought we might try the 4-Way Stop first. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to make the intersection of Berry Street and Oak Street a 4-Way Stop; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0.

Carol Lonergan, an Arbor Gate Drive Resident, stated that she has a friend in another part of town that received a notice from code enforcement about their yard. She said in her neighborhood there are people that let their yards go and nothing is ever done about it. One neighbor has a disabled car, tires and a path worn through the grass and nothing is done. She doesn't feel like the codes are being enforced uniformly. She also asked about the Animal Control Ordinance. She said when she called them that when the guy from the County came out he said the ordinances were different. City Manager Anderson said no that our ordinances are the same, in fact that was done from the start and that the County also took a section from our Code and placed it in theirs.

Ordinance 08-17-01, Amendment to Chapter 36 of the Municipal Code - City Manager Anderson said we have discovered that we have 2 ordinances pertaining to signs. We have our sign ordinance in the Zoning Ordinance adopted in 2015 and one in the Code that contradicts the 2015 Ordinance. He said since the Sign Ordinance belongs in the Zoning Ordinance he is recommending repealing the ordinance in Municipal Code. The Ordinance has been duly posted and no comments were received. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adopt Ordinance 08-17-01, Repealing Chapter 36 of the Code; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the Consent agenda, which included: (1) City Manager's Monthly Report, (2) Adopting Resolution 09-17-01, Freeport Tax Exemption, and (3) Community Development Manager's Monthly Report; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 3 – 0.

Irvin Street/Industrial Boulevard Drainage Project – City Manager Anderson explained this is a 2 part project to improve the storm water drainage at Irvin Street Park, Industrial Boulevard and Wayside Street. The impervious asphalt at Irvin Street Park will be replaced with pervious concrete, which will reduce the amount of water flowing down Irvin Street. The second part of the project will abandon the storm culvert under the abandoned portion of Wayside Street. The water will be diverted into the existing drainage ditch on Industrial Boulevard. We received 3 bids for this project and the low bidder was Griffin Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$128,146.17. We have \$65,270.26 remaining in ARC Grant Funds received for the Fieldale Utility Relocation Project, which we can use, and the balance will be paid out of the Storm Water Utility Fund. Commissioner Cook made the motion to award the contract for the Irvin Street/Industrial Boulevard Drainage Project to Griffin Brothers, Inc. for \$128,146.17; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 3 – 0.

J. Warren North & Race Trac Lift Station Upgrade – Mr. Anderson stated that both of these sewer lift stations are at their capacity and they are crucial to our future economic development on Business HWY 441. We received 2 bids for this project and the low bidder was Griffin Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$238,596.40. We budgeted \$250,000 for this project in the 2017 Water & Sewer Budget, so the low bid is under budget. Commissioner Cook made the motion to award the contract for the J. Warren North & Race Trac Lift Station Upgrades to Griffin Brothers, Inc. for \$238,596.40; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0.

Hydro Excavator Vac-Truck – City Manager Anderson stated that the Utilities Department has recommended that we purchase this equipment for several years and because of the cost we have been unable to budget for it. They had found a used one for \$195,000, but unfortunately it sold before our Commission Meeting. Public Utilities Director Keith Ethridge came forward to explain how beneficial this equipment would be to the City. He explained that we are looking for a used one with low usage hours. City Manager Anderson explained we have the money budgeted under Capital Expense and we will not be able to begin the Highland Water and Sewer Project this year. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the purchase of a Hydro Excavator Vac-Truck Jetting Combo for up to \$225,000; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0.

Outdoor Fire Ban – City Manager Anderson said with the recent storm damage and the amount of trees and debris that it would be helpful to lift the outdoor burning ban temporarily. Also as an added note, the State has reduced our drought to a Level 1, so our water levels are improving. Fire Chief Dyer stated that he felt like this would be fine, but they would still need to call the fire department to get a permit. Commissioner Bagwell suggested that the public let their neighbor know before they begin to burn. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to lift the outdoor burning ban for 60 days, which would be through November 19<sup>th</sup>; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Old Lake Russell Road – City Manager Anderson said the side of the road is beginning to break off and people are using this area as a dumping ground. We are proposing moving the barricade back up the road to the turn around to prevent people from pulling down in this area. The Commissioners were in agreement with this action.

Storm Cleanup – City Manager Anderson advised the park is closed because we have a lot of trees down and several trees leaning into other trees, which is dangerous. We don't have a way of getting the leaning trees down safely so we are going to have to pay a company to do those. We hope to get reimbursed for the cleanup from FEMA, but for now we need to allocate money for this. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve \$50,000 for storm cleanup; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

Storm Cleanup – City Manager Anderson advised that the big city park is closed because we have a lot of trees down and several trees leaning into other trees, which is dangerous. We don't have a way of getting the leaning trees down safely so we are going to have to pay a company to do those. We hope to get reimbursed for the cleanup from FEMA, but for now we need to allocate money for this. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve \$50,000 for storm cleanup; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 3 – 0.

New Municipal Complex – City Manager Anderson introduced Jennifer Franklin and Doug Shaw from the Jericho Architectural Design Group. Mr. Shaw explained what had been done up to this point with the User Group Meetings. Ms. Franklin provided information on the design concept with the proposed site plan. The next phase will be to develop the schematic for the floor plans so that we can begin budgeting and prepare an application to USDA for funding. Commissioner Bagwell stated he doesn't think that it has the historic look at all that it looks more like a school building, needs to be softer and more detail. Mr. Shaw stated we are at the concept only stage and the building has not been designed, this is site plan only. We are looking at all avenues to save money and to not have wasted space. The Mayor and Commissioners were in agreement over the proposed site plan and to move forward with the project.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:05 PM; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 3 – 0.

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Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk  
Secretary to the City Commission

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J.C. Irby, Jr., Mayor

