

CITY OF CORNELIA  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2021

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 5 PM at the Cornelia Municipal Building Conference Room, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow 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 Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby, Human Resource Director Diane Feorino, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson.

Items on the agenda were reviewed for clarification if needed. City Manager Anderson advised that the Ordinances had been posted and we have received no comments from the Public.

The Gateway Signage was discussed, and 3 more renderings were submitted by Mary Beth Horton from the Chamber for review. Several suggestions were made, and these ideas will be given to Ms. Horton.

City Manager Anderson asked that the agenda be amended to add to New Business: New Position for the IT Department. He said that Jeremy had requested an employee at the time he was working on the 2021 Budget, but he said no and instead added \$30,000 for Contract Services. He said due to recent events he thinks that was a mistake. He suggested we use the \$30,000 budgeted for Contract Services to help cover some of the cost of adding the new position of IT Specialist.

MOU for Project Stay – City Attorney Campbell said there are still some things that need to be done. He noted several of the things he had noticed that needs to be changed and stated he has spoken to the Bond Counsel Attorney that prepared the document. Everyone agreed that there needs to be a separate MOU Agreement prepared for the City concerning the Hotel/Motel Tax and Infrastructure Projects. Attorney Campbell said the County has already approved the document, but not the other parties involved. Commissioner Dodd asked what the economic impact would be to the City. Mayor Borrow explained how he calculated the potential cost to the City plus what the potential benefits could be. They felt the item should be tabled to allow time for the City Attorney to work on a new document covering the City's concerns.

The Mayor and Commissioner continued to the Court Room for the Regular Meeting.

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Janie N. Henderson, City Clerk/Secretary  
To the City Commission

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John Borrow, Mayor

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Commissioner Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Bagwell gave the invocation.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the agenda by adding under New Business, New Position for the IT Department and move the Department Heads Annual Reports to February; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

Community Development Report – Ms. Owensby came forward to present her report and asked if there were any questions. She stated the Christmas Event Downtown was very busy and it will stay downtown in the future. Mayor Borrow stated that the event was spectacular, better than anything we have had for the past 20 years. City Manager Anderson said all the Downtown businesses participated and helped with the event. He said even if the businesses were not in the immediate walking area, they participated as a vendor in the market that was held in Common Ground. Jessie thanked the Public Works for all their hard work they did a fantastic job. A copy of her report is made an integral part of these minutes.

City Manager's Annual Report – City Manager Anderson presented his 2020 Annual Report. A couple of significant accomplishments was moving into the new Municipal Complex in July and the new Water Plant began treating drinking water on November 30<sup>th</sup>. A copy of his report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Public Forum – No comments were heard.

City Attorney Campbell opened the Public Hearing for the Amendments and Codification of the Zoning Ordinance. He noted the ordinance has been posted for the Public to review. City Manager Anderson stated we have received no comments from the Public. City Attorney Campbell closed the Public Hearing.

City Attorney Campbell opened the Public Hearing for the Amendments to the Zoning Map. He noted the map has been posted for the Public to review. City Manager Anderson stated the biggest change is creating the new Highway Business District. No further comments were heard. City Attorney Campbell closed the Public Hearing.

Ordinance 11-20-01, Amendment to the Noise Ordinance – City Manager Anderson advised the Ordinance has been posted and to date we have received no comments for or against. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adopt Ordinance 11-20-01, Amendment to the Noise Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Ordinance 12-20-01, Zoning Map and Ordinance Amendments – City Manager Anderson stated the Ordinance has been posted and to date we have received no comments for or against. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adopt Ordinance 12-20-01, Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance Amendments; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Renderings for Gateway Signage Project – The Mayor and Commissioners discussed during the Workshop Meeting. Their recommendations for suggested changes will be forwarded to Mary Beth Horton at the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce.

Bids for New Fire Trucks – City Manager Anderson stated that we allocated \$1,350,000 in SPLOST 2021 Revenue to purchase 2 new, much needed Fire Trucks. We also received an AFG Grant in the amount of \$333,333 to help with this purchase and since these funds must be spent by November 1, 2021 we went ahead and put this out for bid. We received 2 responses from truck manufacturers Spartan ERV in the amount of \$1,215,420 and Marion Body Works in the amount of \$1,256,668. After thoroughly evaluating the bids we have determined that Spartan ERV did not meet the specifications requested. The recommendation is to accept the bid from Marion Body Works in the amount of \$1,256,668. He advised we will use a GMA Lease to fund the project which we will do in June apply allowing us time to get bids for the necessary equipment for the vehicles. Commissioner Griggs made the motion to approve the purchase of the fire trucks from Marion Body Works in the amount of \$1,256,668; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

New Position for the IT Department – City Manager Anderson explained that during the budget process our IT Director requested a new position to help maintain our extensive IT System and at the time he did not agree for the need of the position. So instead, he placed \$30,000 in his budget for Contract Services, but due to our recent events he feels he made a mistake. He said he is requesting that the new position of IT Specialist be approved and the \$30,000 budgeted for Contract Services will help cover the cost. He is confident that as the year goes on there will be other savings to help offset the cost.

Commissioner Griggs made the motion to approve the new position of IT Specialist and to amend the budget for the position; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

MOU Agreement for Project Stay – City Manager Anderson stated that Attorney Campbell had to leave for a few minutes but hopes to return. He said this was discussed during the Workshop Meeting and it was decided that we need a separate agreement for the City. This will allow our City Attorney time to work out the details for the Hotel/Motel Tax and the infrastructure needs be included in our agreement. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to table the MOU Agreement for Project Stay; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to close the meeting and enter Executive Session at approximately 6:40 PM to discuss a personnel matter; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to close the Executive Session and open the meeting at approximately 7:15 PM; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

Mayor Borrow stated that a Personnel Matter was discussed, but no official action was taken.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:15; seconded by Commissioner Bagwell. Approved 4 – 0.

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

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John Borrow, Mayor

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY HABERSHAM

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 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).

( x ) 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.

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John Borrow, Mayor, City of Cornelia

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day  
of January 2021.

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Notary Public