

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 2, 2020

The Cornelia City Commission met in a Workshop Session on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 5 PM at the Cornelia City Hall, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Tony Cook and Janice Griggs, Commissioner Don Bagwell and Wesley Dodd, Jr. were present via Zoom online. Also present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson. Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby and Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino were present via Zoom online.

Habersham County Chamber of Commerce President Mary Beth Horton was present via Zoom online. She asked if her Quarterly Hotel/Motel Tax Report was providing the information that they needed and wanted to present the idea for redesigning of the Chamber Website. In the past 8 weeks she said their visits to the website have increased by 137%. They have received a proposal from 365 Total Marketing, and they are willing to redo the website for \$10,000 over a two-year period. She said they can apply for a TPD Grant for \$5,000 and the balance they want to pay out of the Hotel/Motel Tax Funds. Mayor Borrow stated this is the type of things the hotel/motel tax funds are supposed to be used for. Ms. Horton said they are also working on new entrance signs for the County and that Jessie is the lead on this project. She said they are applying for a grant for this project. The Chamber needs a Memorandum of Understanding to be able to apply for the grant. Jessie explained what had been completed to date on the project. City Manager Anderson said the only cost to the City is maintaining the area around the sign and we are already doing that anyway. Mayor Borrow said don't underestimate the size sign you need for it to be effective. Commissioner Bagwell stated you need to give special consideration to the durability of the materials. Jessie said she would send them a draft of the sign before final approval is made.

Heath Barrett Chairman of the DDA said they are interested in creating an Entertainment District in the Downtown Central Business District and several of the business owners are interested in this. He explained the average minimum age for Cornelia is 31 and the majority are looking for entertainment for themselves and families. Jessie said they've done a lot of research and the communities that are doing this have seen an increase of business to their towns and there has been no increase in crimes. A sample ordinance was provided. Attorney Campbell said he will have to do some research. After further discussion, City Manager Anderson suggested having the City Attorney prepare a draft ordinance for the July Meeting and to hold a Public Hearing.

SPLOST Update – City Manager Anderson said he and Mayor Borrow attended the Clarkesville Council Meeting on Monday night and they voted unanimously to support Option 2 Method and request the County at least sit down and talk with the cities. He also presented the SPLOST Project List. There was discussion and information provided for items listed.

City Manager Anderson went over the remainder of items on the agenda and explanations were given. He requested the agenda be amended to include voting on the SPLOST Project Revenue Split and add Personnel to the Executive Session.

City Manager Anderson said we have been trying to schedule some joint Zoning Training with the Planning Board for some time. He advised that the Planning Board has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6 PM and wanted to know if that worked for everyone. That date worked for everyone, so they will meet and have training on June 18 at 4:30 to 5:30 PM at the Cornelia Community House and allow time for questions prior to the Planning Board Meeting.

The Mayor and Commission adjourned the Workshop for 5 minutes prior the Regular Meeting starting.

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

John Borrow, Mayor

CITY OF CORNELIA
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 2, 2020

The Cornelia City Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 6 PM at the Cornelia City Hall, 181 Larkin Street, Cornelia, GA. Mayor John Borrow called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Commissioners Tony Cook and Janice Griggs, Commissioners Don Bagwell, Wesley Dodd, Jr., were present online through Zoom. Also, present: City Attorney Steve Campbell, City Manager Donald Anderson, and City Clerk Janie N. Henderson. Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby and Human Resource Manager Diane Feorino were present via Zoom online.

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

City Manager Anderson requested the agenda be amended to add the SPLOST Project Revenue Split to Item 12 and Personnel to the Executive Session. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve the June 2, 2020 Agenda with the addition of the SPLOST Project Revenue Split and Personnel to the Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the May 12, 2020 Minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 -0.

Community Development Report – City Manager Anderson said that Jessie is available online to present her report because there were some questions last month and he didn't know the answers. Commissioner Bagwell said in her report last month she had contacted the businesses and he was just interested in the general health of our businesses. She said that overall our businesses are doing okay. She said we did loose 2 businesses; Fender's Diner sold, but they will reopen and Marco's Pizza. Marco's Pizza requested financial assistance from corporate and they told them no because they were not profitable enough. She went over some of the items on her report. A copy of the report is made an integral part of these minutes. Commissioner Bagwell said there are a couple of businesses that need to be painted and wondered if that might could be completed under her façade grant. Jessies said she's been working closely with the building inspector and he was going to stop in and talk to some of them.

City Manager's Monthly Report – City Manager Anderson presented his May Report. He noted that Geo Systems Engineering completed the testing of the pavement on Wayside Street. Based on their findings the contractor has been notified that the entire road needs to be milled and re-surfaced. The paving contractor has elected to hire their own consultant to test the pavement. We have told them that this is fine, but they only have until June 15th to

complete the repairs, so the project can be closed. Commissioner Bagwell said it needs to be re-surfaced, it's not going to help to patch only. A copy of his report is made an integral part of these minutes.

Public Forum – No one from the public was signed into the meeting, so no comments were heard.

Old Business – None

Public Hearings - None

Consent Agenda – None

Agreement with HEMC – City Manager Anderson stated this is a 3-year contract with Trailwave to provide dark fiber from City Hall to the new Water Plant. The cost will be \$450.00 per month for the service. All our city facilities are networked back to the main server at City Hall via a fiber network provided by Trailwave. Commissioner Dodd made the motion to approve the 3-year contract with Trailwave Fiber Inc. for \$450 per month to provide fiber to the new Water Plant; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

MOU with the Chamber of Commerce – City Manager Anderson explained that the Chamber of Commerce wants to apply for a Tourism Product Development Grant for \$10,000. The funds will be used to construct a monument sign at the Highway 365/441 Off Ramp in Cornelia welcoming visitors to Habersham County. The Chamber of Commerce will pay for all costs associated with the design and construction of the sign. They are asking us to partner with them because they are eligible to apply for this funding. A government entity must agree to maintain the GDOT Right-of-Way around the sign, which we already do. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Habersham Chamber of Commerce so that a Tourism Product Development Resource Team (TPD) Grant can be applied for from the Georgia Department of Economic Development to construct Gateway Signs; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

WWTP Scum Gates – City Manager Anderson explained that we budgeted to replace the Scum Gates at the Wastewater Treatment Plant this year. The gates collect the solid materials such as paper and debris before it enters the treatment process of the plant. The existing gates were fabricated well over 20 years ago and have reached their useful life expectancy. We tried to obtain multiple prices for these gates from local vendors but couldn't find anyone that could do the work. The only proposal we received is from Waterman Valve, LLC. for \$14,722.07.

Commissioner Dodd made them motion to accept the proposal from Waterman Valve, LLC. for \$14,722.07 for the WWTP Clarifier Scum Gates; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

SPLOST Project List – City Manager Anderson presented the first list for the proposed revenue of \$5,716,432 as follows: Community Facilities is \$639,000-Municipal Complex, \$200,000-Software, \$175,000-Wall of Honor Parking Lot, and \$500,000-Downtown Parking Lot = \$1,514,000; Public Safety is \$1,350,000-2 Fire Trucks, \$675,000-14 Police Vehicles, and E911 Radios-\$450,000 = \$2,475,000; Streets & Sidewalks is \$1,046,000-Street Improvements, \$356,000-Sidewalk Improvements, and \$325,432-Drainage Improvements = \$1,727,432. He also presented a 2nd list with the budget being \$4,073,359 (reducing money by \$1,643,073), which would eliminate the Downtown Parking Lot, reduce to 1 fire truck, and reduce Street and Sidewalk Improvements and eliminate Drainage Improvements completely. Commissioner Bagwell made the motion to submit the first SPLOST Project List for \$5,716,432; seconded by Commissioner Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

SPLOST Project Revenue Split – City Manager Anderson stated we need to vote on Option 1 which is strictly by population for a projected \$4,073,359 or Option 2 (Hybrid) for \$5,716,432. Commissioner Cook made the motion to approve Option 2 (Hybrid) SPLOST Project Revenue Split; seconded by Commission Dodd. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to close the meeting an enter Executive Session at approximately 6:45 PM to discuss Real Estate and Personnel; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Commissioner Dodd made the motion to close the Executive Session and open the meeting at approximately 7:25 PM; seconded by Commissioner Cook. Approved 4 – 0.

Mayor Borrow stated that no action was taken which required a vote.

Commissioner Bagwell asked Attorney Campbell if it's illegal to straight wire your car to avoid the need for a muffler. He said his part of town is becoming a drag strip and the noise is unreal. Attorney Campbell said we do have a noise ordinance we can look at. City Manager Anderson said you must measure the decibel level, and this wouldn't even come close. Commissioner Bagwell said we are going to have to do something about this issue he's receiving calls from his Ward complaining about the noise.

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Commissioner Cook made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM; seconded by Commissioner Griggs. Approved 4 – 0.

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

John Borrow, Mayor

