

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Joint Community Development Block Grant for the City of Cornelia's Water Improvement Project

DATE: March 13, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

POLICY DISCUSSION

STATUS REPORT

OTHER

BUDGET INFORMATION:

ANNUAL-

CAPITAL-

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: March 18, 2024

PURPOSE: To request approval for the filing of a joint Community Development Block Grant application with the City of Cornelia for their proposed water improvement project, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and authorization for Chairman Ty Akins to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY

- The City of Cornelia has identified two low-to-moderate income (LMI) neighborhoods, known as the East Walnut and Wally World Target Areas, that are currently served by failing public utility infrastructure that present eminent health and safety hazards to residents of both areas.
 - The City of Cornelia would like to apply for a Community Development Block Grant to assist in paying for the needed water system improvements.
 - The Department of Community Affairs is requiring the City of Cornelia to complete a joint application with Habersham County due to the fact that the two target areas, though served by Cornelia's water system, lie outside of the municipal limits and in the unincorporated portion of the county.
 - Commission approval is needed for the filing of this joint application as well as the authorization of the Chairman to act on the County's behalf in signing the necessary documents.
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FACTS AND ISSUES:

- The total cost of a water improvement project for both areas would be \$1,600,000. The City of Cornelia would like to apply for a \$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a water improvement project for these two areas with a \$600,000 match and leverage.
 - This project will benefit 61 persons in the Magnolia Lane Target Area, of whom 44 (72.13%) are LMI and 13 persons in the Wally World Drive Target Area, of whom 11 (84.62%) are LMI. Both areas lie outside of the municipal limits.
 - Because both target areas that benefit from the project lie outside of the municipal limits, the Department of Community Affairs requires the CDBG application to be filed jointly by the City of Cornelia and Habersham County.
 - There is little responsibility on the part of the County as the City of Cornelia is the lead applicant. However, one requirement is that the County hold a public hearing at the County Offices. This hearing will be held on Monday, March 25th at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Conference Room of the Habersham County Administrative Building located at 130 Jacob's Way, Clarkesville, GA 30523.
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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve the recommendation
- 2) Deny the recommendation
- 3) Commission defined alternative

RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: "I motion to approve the filing of a joint Community Development Block Grant application with the City of Cornelia for their proposed water improvement project, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and authorize Chairman Ty Akins to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required."

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Brandy Carnes

Presented by: Gabe Morris, EDFP (Carter & Sloope, Inc)

Director: _____ County Manager Alicia Vaughn

ADMINISTRATIVE

COMMENTS: _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager

CITY OF CORNELIA/HABERSHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Cornelia, in a joint application with Habersham County, is considering applying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$1,000,000. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development. More specific details regarding eligible activities, plans to assist displaced persons (if any), the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and the rating system will be provided at a public hearing which will be held at Commission Conference Room, 130 Jacobs Way, Clarkesville, GA 30523 on March 25, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain citizen input into the development of the application and to review progress on the previous CDBG grant (if applicable). The City of Cornelia is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Brandalin Carnes, 706-839-0215 prior to March 25, 2024. This person can be located at 130 Jacobs Way, Clarkesville, GA 30523 between the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact the Georgia Relay Service, at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.



Equal Housing Opportunity

CIUDAD DE CORNELIA/CONDADO DE HABERSHAM

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

El Ciudad de Cornelia y condado de Habersham están considerando solicitar un Community Development Block Grant (Subvención en bloque para el desarrollo de la comunidad) de hasta \$1,000,000 del Departamento de Asuntos Comunitarios de Georgia. Se deben usar estos fondos principalmente para beneficiar a personas de ingreso bajo o medio.

Se pueden usar estos fondos para actividades en las áreas de vivienda, instalaciones públicas y desarrollo economico. Se proporcionarán detalles más específicos sobre las actividades elegibles, los planes para dar asistencia a personas desplazadas (si existen), la cantidad aproximada de fondos propuestos para actividades que benefician a personas de ingreso bajo y medio, y el sistema de clasificacion en una audiencia pública que tendrá lugar en Commission Conference Room, 130 Jacobs Way, Clarkesville, GA 30523 el 25 de marzo de 2024, a las 5:30 PM.

El motivo de esta audiencia será obtener opiniones de ciudadanos sobre el desarrollo de la solicitud y revisión el progreso del proyecto CDBG previa (si procede). El Ciudad de Cornelia está comprometido a proporcionarles a todas personas acceso igual a sus servicios, programas, actividades, educación y empleo de manera independiente de su raza, color, origen nacional, religión, sexo, estatus familiar, discapacidad o edad. Las personas con necesidades especiales o adecuaciones relacionadas con accesibilidad de discapacitados o idiomas extranjeras contactaran a Brandalin Carnes, 706-839-0215, antes de 25 de marzo de 2024. Se puede encontrar a tal persona en 130 Jacobs Way, Clarkesville, GA 30523 entre las horas 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Lunes a Viernes, excepto durante vacaciones. Personas con discapacidades auditivas pueden contactarnos el Georgia Relay Service, al (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 o (Voz) 1-800-255-0135.



Equal Housing Opportunity