

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2023

The City of Cordele Commission held a Regular Meeting on April 4, 2023 at 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair | Royce Reeves, Sr., Commission Vice Chair |
| Wesley Rainey, Commissioner | Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner |
| Isaac Owens, Commissioner | Tommy Coleman – City Attorney |
| Angela Redding – City Manager | Janice Mumphery – Recording Secretary |

Staff present: Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Interim Fire Chief Frank Bullington, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

Media Present: Ricky Smarr - South GA TV; Sonia Brown – Cordele Dispatch

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION: Prayer was rendered by Rev. Ricky Smarr.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rainey.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was established.

| Attendee's Name | Title | Absent | Present |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| Joshua Deriso | Commission Chairman | | ✓ |
| Royce Reeves, Sr. | Commission Vice Chairman | | ✓ |
| Vesta Beal-Shephard | Commissioner Ward 1 | (late) | ✓ |
| Isaac Owens | Commissioner Ward 3 | | ✓ |
| Wesley Rainey | Commissioner Ward 4 | | ✓ |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – April 4, 2023: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to amend the Agenda to remove Agenda Item #3 and add the Municipal Court Report; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

Commissioner Owens moved to amend the motion to remove Agenda Item #3, add the Municipal Court Report and move the Executive Session after the Department Head Reports; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion failed for lack of votes. Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye; Commissioner Rainey – aye; Commissioner Owens – nay. Commissioner Shephard was not present at this time.

Note: Commissioner Shephard arrived at 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2023: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Minutes for March 21, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES: Speakers will have five (5) minutes: No Request.

SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM: Speaker will have three (3) minutes:
No Requests.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

1. FINANCE DEPARTMENT: Rusty Bridgers Reported.

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 9/30/2022 | 218,847.17 | August |
| 10/31/2022 | 230,872.11 | September |
| 11/30/2022 | 228,292.88 | October |
| 12/29/2022 | 228,919.79 | November |
| 1/30/2023 | 237,469.63 | December |
| 2/27/2023 | 213,693.35 | January |
| 3/30/2023 | 204,834.30 | February |

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 9/25/2022 | 235,043.57 | July |
| 10/25/2022 | 212,136.34 | August |
| 11/23/2022 | 223,016.01 | September |
| 12/19/2022 | 221,910.45 | October |
| 1/30/2023 | 222,089.70 | November |
| 2/24/2023 | 228,904.97 | December |
| 3/28/2023 | 207,086.70 | January |

Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST)

| | | |
|------------|------------------|-----------|
| 10/31/2022 | 30,007.53 | September |
| 11/30/2022 | 28,683.20 | October |
| 12/30/2022 | 29,474.82 | November |
| 1/31/2023 | 33,427.28 | December |
| 2/28/2023 | 26,894.52 | January |
| 3/31/2028 | 28,042.50 | February |

Total Collected In March 2023 \$ 439,963.50

2. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Frank Bullington Reported.

Reporting Period from February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Gasoline leak | 1 |
| Odor Investigation | 2 |
| EMS Assist | 1 |
| Alarm activation | 7 |
| Smoke Investigation | 1 |
| Rubbish burning | 4 |
| Burning leaves | 1 |
| Vehicle Fires | 1 |
| Natural Gas Leak | 1 |
| Motor Vehicle Accident | 1 |
| Transformer Fire | 1 |

Cooking Alarm 1
Total for February 2023 26

Reporting Period from March 1, 2023 through March 29, 2023

Natural Gas Leak 3
False Alarm 16 (accidental activation, malfunction, cancel en rt.)
Electrical Fires 5
Rubbish Fires 2
Grass Fires 2
Wood Fire 1
MVA 1 (Semi-truck under the underpass on West 6th Avenue)
Carbon Monoxide Call 1 (requesting ventilation of building, (depot)
Aid/structure fire, N County 1
Responded to County structure fire 1
Total for March 2023 33

**3. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – Irene Cantrell Reported.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND:**

On Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., the EDRLF Committee conducted a public hearing after which held a meeting to review and consider a Revolving Loan Application submitted by Davontae Hunt. After a thorough review and discussion of the Loan Application and the attached documents. The EDRLF Committee’s conclusion was to decline approval of the EDRLF Application mainly due to the credit history and insufficient collateral for the requested funds.

CDBG 2020 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

There was a request for an “open records request” for a copy of RPI Underground, Inc’s “Certificate of Insurance” Contractor for the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements and per the Project Engineer the project is nearing completion.

CORDELE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

The Cordele Historic Preservation Commission met on March 29, 2023, to review the following “Applications for Certificate for Preservation” (CP) submitted as follows within the Gillespie Selden Historic District and the O’Neal Historic District:

- a. Nicolas Perry (owner/applicant) property located at 210 East 15th Avenue. Requesting to renovate the house replacing siding, doors, windows, roof materials, flooring, paint interior, update kitchen, bath rooms. Repair front/back porches and landscape front and back yards.
- b. Ethel Mumphery (owner/applicant) property located at 804 West 15th Avenue. Requesting to make repairs to her rental house that was damaged by fire. To replace windows, front porch floor and paint.
- c. Vecino Group, LLC (The Sign Brothers) property located at 505 West 15th Avenue Requesting to install a cabinet monument sign face at 11.84 sq. ft. by 8 sq. ft. aluminum gold metallic acrylic/brick base to be located at Gillespie Garden Apartments.
- d. DCMS, INC. property located at 410 East 11th Avenue. Requesting to install porch hand railings, a privacy fence, replace missing trim around windows, paint, etc.

4. CODES REPORT: Jack Wood, Sr. Reported.

Permitted Commercial Construction Projects:

Combined Total of Commercial/Residential: \$51,075,897.00

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| EV Charging Station | Two EV Charging Stations at 2201 East 16th Ave (Pilot) Job Valuation: \$200,000.00 Permit Fee: \$780.00 |
| Office Space | Central Holdings Group, LLC at 2021 Central Avenue Job Valuation: \$400,000.00 Permit Fee: \$1,380.00 |

Pending Jobs:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Jones Petroleum Truck Stop | New Truck Stop at 2302 Highway 300. Plans received. Waiting on Land Distribution Permit. |
|-----------------------------------|---|

5. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT: David Wade Reported.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 08, 2023 | Met with Kay Barker of Crisp Regional Hospital to set up an Employee Health Fair. The Health Fair is scheduled for April 25, 2023 starting at 6:30 am. |
| March 15, 2023 | Extended a conditional offer of employment to a Plant Operator Trainee in the UC&T Department. Anticipated starting date is April 03, 2023. |
| March 16, 2023 | Participated in the executive interviews of the finalists for the vacant Fire Chief's position. |
| March 17, 2023 | Extended a conditional offer of employment to an Equipment Operator in the Street Department. Anticipated starting date is March 28, 2023. |
| March 28, 2023 | Attended the Crisp County High School Career Technical, Agricultural Education (CTAE) advisory council and comprehensive local needs assessment meeting. Also participated in the preview of the Teen Maze hosted by the Crisp County School System. |
| March 29, 2023 | Met with Kay Barker of Crisp Regional Hospital for the health fair planning wrap-up. |

6. MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT – Jackie Walker Reported.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Traffic Cases | 282 |
| Criminal Cases | 35 |
| Total Court Cases | 317 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Bench Warrants | 4 |
| License Suspensions Ordered | 54 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Cash Bonds, Fines, Deposits | \$55,064.61 |
| Incarcerated | 0 |

7. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Part I Crimes | 43 |
| Motor Vehicle Thefts | 2 (2 recovered) |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Aggravated Assault | 9 (2 arrests made) |
| Larceny (Thefts) | 25 (13 entering autos, 6 shoplifting w/4 arrests, 7 other thefts) |
| Burglary | 7 (7 residential) |
| Part II Crimes | 57 |
| Incidents Reported | 135 |
| Community Contacts | 107 |
| Citations Issued | 149 |
| Warnings Issued | 111 |
| Total Calls for Service | 1,251 |

Departmental News

Ptl Timothy Arnette, Ptl Jonathan Courtney and Ptl Ethan Jones for successfully graduating From ABAC Police Academy on March 24th.

Cadet Kenstan Hemphill and Cadet Kenan Raines are scheduled to start the ABAC Police Academy on April 3, 2023.

8. PUBLIC WORKS – Steve Fulford Reported.

Two New Truck Stops: There are two new truck stops that are coming to Cordele that will be at the Hwy 300 Exit; Public Works has been working with them to make sure that all utilities are done. In the future more funds will be needed to increase the City’s sewer capacity, in that area, if there are any more major jobs coming.

9. UT&C – Debbie Wright Reported.

Water Treated 118,000,000 gallons

Utilities Treated and Control won the Gold Award for the Water System with no violations in record keeping and no other type of violation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): Commissioner Shephard moved to go into Executive Session at 9:23 a.m. for Personnel reasons; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 9:45 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider and Approve a Resolution of the City of Cordele Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 23 - 29, 2023 and Encouraging All Residents to Support the Celebration and Corresponding Activities. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Resolution of the City of Cordele Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 23-29, 2023; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Appointment of Fire Chief: Commission Chair Deriso stated this should read – Announcement of Fire Chief: Commissioner Shephard moved to have the Announcement of the City of Cordele Fire Chief; seconded by Commissioner Owens.
City Manager Angela Redding announced the new Fire Chief, James Alligood.

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3. Consider and Approve Bank Signatories for Regions Bank: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso and Russell Bridgers – Finance Director. City Manager Angela Redding requested for this item to be table until additional information be can obtained, this is for a sinking fund account the City has at Regions Bank.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to table this item; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

4. Consider and Approve the First Reading of An Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele to Prohibit Kennels in Residential and Certain Areas of the City; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of An Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

5. Discussion - Proposed Charter Change: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to discuss proposed Charter Change; seconded by Commissioner Rainey. Commissioner Owens stated it is to get a better point of clarity as to wording that is listed in the Charter.

Commission Chair Deriso stated the Commission needs to be specific in what is be changed or what does the Commission seek to change (parts of it, half of it, three quarters or all of it).

Commissioner Shephard inquired about Section 3.10 in the City Charter that was discussed, that the wording needs to be clarified.

Commissioner Rainey stated, it is Section 6.27, removal of the word “proposed” on line 908; it states, “The city commission may amend the operating budget proposed by the chairperson”, remove the part that says, “proposed by the chairperson”. Commissioner Rainey stated, it would just read, “the city commission may amend the operating budget”.

Commission Chair Deriso stated, he think the Commission said that they would get an independent legal authority to decide that before the Commission move forward. Commission Chair Deriso stated, this is what the Commission agreed to and the Commission will stay with that decision. This item can be revisited later.

Commission Vice Chair moved to rescind the first motion, to the proposed Charter change; seconded by Commission Shephard; the motion was carried with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye; Commissioner Owens – aye; Commissioner Shephard – aye; Commissioner Rainey – nay.

Commissioner Shephard moved to table this item, until the Commission can seek advice from another legal authority; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye; Commissioner Owens – aye; Commissioner Shephard – aye; Commissioner Rainey – nay.

6. **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Wage and Compensation Study

The RFP for the Wage and Compensation Study was advertised in the Cordele Dispatch on March 29th and will be advertised again on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Main Street Program Recognition

The Main Street Program has been designated at the Main Street America Accredited level for 2023. Main Street Director Monica Rentfrow will present at an upcoming City Commission to share the final report and benefits of this designation.

Family Easter Event

The Crisp Area Arts Alliance and Downtown Cordele Main Street will host an easter event for children on Saturday, April 8, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Gallery 41 located at 302 North 7th Street. The age group for this event is toddler – 11 years old.

Recognizing City of Cordele Police Chief

Chief Jalon Heard was listed as an Influential Person in last Wednesday's Edition of the Cordele Dispatch

Good Friday Holiday

City Offices will be closed Friday, April 7th in Observance of Good Friday.

7. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No Report.
8. **COMMENTS BY THE GOVERNING BODY:**
Commissioner Owens: "Everyone have a Happy Easter".
Commissioner Shephard: Thanked the City of Cordele for sponsoring a Retreat for the City Commission. She stated that the Commission gathered together, learned and participated together as a team. She also stated, "Your team is working on your behalf".
Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated "have a safe Easter weekend and attend Church somewhere."
Commission Chair Deriso stated, "for the citizens to have a safe weekend, be careful and make sure the citizens follow the rules and laws of the City."
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:59 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.