

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on January 18th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair
Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Royce Reeves, Commission Vice Chair
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager
Tommy Coleman, City Attorney

Staff present: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, David Wade, Irene Cantrell, Debra Perry, Police Chief Mike Hathaway, Jack Wood, Sr., Teddy Hubbard.

Staff absent: Steve Fulford, Debbie Wright.

Others present: See Sign in Sheet.

Media present: South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee.

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Ms. Dorothy Bryant.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Shephard.

Approval of Agenda – January 18, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Agenda for January 18, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2022: Commissioner Owens stated that there is a correction to the January 4, 2022 minutes; in the area of appointing the City Manager for 2022. Commissioner Owens stated he wanted to make sure it is read correctly. Commissioner Owens moved to make sure the minutes of January 4, 2022 reflect that the City of Cordele Commission hired Mrs. Angela Redding as the City Manager; the City of Cordele Commission did not fire anyone; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Reeves. A vote was taken; Commissioners Owens, Reeves and Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted nay. The Minutes were approved as corrected with a 3/1 vote.

Approval of Called Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2022: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the Called Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Michael Waters – Support of Family/Youth Programs: Mr. Waters is requesting the use of the Old Boys and Girls Club Building to assist with Youth Programs for Early Childhood to High School Youth in the City of Cordele. Mr. Waters presented to the Commission a plan for the youth that live in the City of Cordele. Commission Chair Deriso stated that there are two things the Commission would have to do, to change the occupancy of the building: (1) Have a Public Hearing; and (2) To send a proposal to Community Affairs, who oversees the Grant. Commission Chair Deriso stated, the

Commission will commit to pursuing this request for a Youth Program, the Commission will not drop the ball, we will see this through. Commission Chair Deriso also stated the Commission will make a determination on the direction of the request, they will look more in detail to the plan that was submitted and will compare this with the present occupancy. Commissioner Reeves moved to have a Work Shop discussing the usage of the Old Boys and Girls Club Building, on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. before the Commission Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. John Cantu – Trash issues in Cordele, GA: Mr. Cantu requesting assistance from the Commission on cleaning the City of Cordele. Mr. Cantu presented pictures of trash in the alleyways, from 7th to Williams Park, and also pictures of abandoned homes in the O’Neal Historic District. He stated trash has been in the alleyways of residents for the past three years and have not been picked up, he does not know who is responsible for making sure the trash is picked up. Commission Chair Deriso stated that many citizens have complaints about this issue and he hope that the citizens will work with the Commission to resolve these issues.

ORDINANCE – COMMISSION APPROVAL:

- a. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** Amending the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele to provide for location of Manufactured or Mobile Homes on Property where they previously existed; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Second Reading; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.
- b. **First Reading of an Ordinance:** To provide for annexation into the corporate limits of the City of Cordele certain property owned by Wells Properties, LLC; providing for the zoning of said property annexed; repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission

CITY MANAGER UPDATE:

Revocation of Joe’s Alcohol License, located on West 24th Avenue: City Manager, Angela Redding referenced to Sec. 3-85 of the Code of Ordinance, Suspension or Revocation of License. Mrs. Redding stated the Public Hearing was held on July 20, 2021, the Alcohol License was suspended on August 17, 2021 and a letter was sent from the City Attorney on August 18th to the previous owner, not the owner that is listed on the City of Cordele Alcohol License or the State of GA. Mrs. Redding stated the property was sold in 2018 and the License that was issued by the City of Cordele and the State, the license was not issued to Joe’s Meat Market it was issued to Joe’s. A letter was sent by the City Attorney to the father and Joe’s Meat Market, not Joe’s. After a brief discussion, Commission Reeves moved to give Joe’s back their Alcohol License; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; vote was taken, Commissioners Reeves, Shephard and Owens voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted nay. The motion was approved to give Joe’s back his Alcohol License with a 3/1 vote.

Policy Directive - No Smoking Policy: City Manager Angela Redding requested to update the Policy Directive on No Smoking Policy – City Hall. The present policy is dated May 4, 1994 designating City Hall has a Smoke Free Zone, it addresses the interior of City Hall; Mrs. Redding is requesting an update to include the exterior of City Hall. Mrs. Redding sated there will be an exception to the policy to include, Smoking in Designated Areas away from the building and to include No Smoking in City vehicles. Commissioner Reeves stated he would like for the Policy Directive to include, No Smoking

on the grounds, Commissioner Shephard stated she would not go to that extent. Commissioner Shephard moved that the City of Cordele will have the designated smoking areas, non-smoking in any of the buildings or facilities or any property of the City of Cordele, effective immediately; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; vote was taken, Commissioners Shephard, Rainey and Owens voted aye, Commissioner Reeves voted nay. The motion was approved with a 3/1 vote.

COVID-19 Policy: City Manager Angela Redding asked for discussion on the COVID Policy. Commission Chair Joshua Deriso stated that the City needs consistency with the COVID Policy and he is concerned about the employees getting paid, especially the front-line workers. Commissioner Owens stated the policy is not clear. City Manager Angela Redding stated the last update was August 23, 2021 and she does not know if it was approved by the Commission, but she can get with Mr. Wade and they can review everything and present a policy to the Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner Owens inquired about the policy not being clear and what about the employees that has not been paid. Mrs. Redding stated, if the policy dated August 23, 2021 is the current policy, this is the policy the City should be following, but changes have been made since August 23rd. David Wade, Human Resources Director, stated the last changes to be made was done on December 29, 2021, in accordance to CDC guidelines, which reduced it from a 10 day to 5-day quarantine period and employees who are vaccinated are the only ones who are getting paid, unvaccinated has to utilize their leave time. Mrs. Redding stated any changes that is made should come from the Commissioners and not just arbitrarily changed. Mrs. Redding stated the policy that is in place from August 23, 2021 is the policy the City should be following. Commission Chair Deriso stated, he wanted the employees paid whether they are vaccinated or non-vaccinated. Mrs. Redding stated she will get with David Wade and look at the employees who have an issue with pay and make sure the City is following the August 23, 2021 guidelines, so those who were not paid under this policy, we will make sure that they are paid.

Motion: Commissioner Reeves moved to update the City's guidelines for employees who are unvaccinated to get paid for up to 5-days, vaccinated employees up to 10-days and the testing will be done through the City of Cordele Clinic; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Reeves moved to pay City employees who have been out due to COVID and was not paid, unvaccinated up to 5-days and vaccinated up to 10-days; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Open Records Request: City Manager Angela Redding stated all Open Records Request should be made with the custodian of records for the City of Cordele, which is Debra Perry, City Clerk. A request to inspect a copy of records, maybe made either orally or in writing, but for purposes of documenting in clarifying the spoken time of the request, the best practice is to make the request in writing because there are stipulations and guidelines that are needed to be followed.

New and Reappointments to City Boards: Commissioner Reeves moved to table the New and Reappointments to City Boards until February 1, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

Request for a Forensic Audit: City Manager Angela Redding requested a discussion for a Forensic Audit. Mrs. Redding stated that the City is currently advertising for a Finance Director and is looking at other options until a person is hired in that position. Commissioner Reeves moved to have a Forensic Audit; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved unanimously by the

Commission. Mrs. Redding stated an RFP will be issued and before a decision is made, she will bring them before the Commission for review, so the Commission can see the information that is being presented, as well as the cost from each company.

Honoring Clemmie C. Gaston: Commissioner Reeves moved to name the bridge on East 24th Avenue, Clemmie C. Gaston Bridge; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission. Commissioner Reeves requested having some of Mr. Gaston family members when the bridge is honored.

Extending MLK Blvd. to Hwy. 90: Commissioner Reeves moved to carry MLK Blvd. out to Hwy. 90; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Honoring the Former City Manager, the Late James Edward Beach: Commissioner Shephard inquired about honoring the Former City Manager, the Late James Edward Beach. Commissioner Reeves stated the bench has been ordered and it will be coming shortly. Commissioner Rainey stated material is being delayed.

City Attorney's Update:

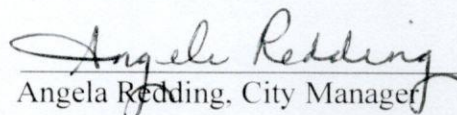
- The City Attorney, Tommy Coleman stated he has looked over the Picketing Ordinance and will have an update at the Work Session on February 1, 2022.
- Mr. Coleman reinitiated the discussion about reapportionment of districts (wards). He presented to the Commission a base map and the population for each district (ward). The first map should be done by February 18, 2022.

Executive Session: Commissioner Reeves moved to adjourn and enter into an Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. for personnel and litigation matters; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

Open Session Reconvened: Commissioner Reeves moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Adjourn: Commissioner Reeves moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens.


Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair


Angela Redding, City Manager

February 1, 2022
Date