

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
October 4, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

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

**Staff present:** Deputy Chief Jeremy Taylor, Police Department, Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Debbie Wright – UT&C Director, Bobby Stennett – Information Technology, Steve Fulford – Public Works Director/Asst. City Manager, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director.

**Staff absent:** Police Chief Jalon Heard.

**Media present:** Ricky Smarr - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Kerri Klatt.

**Call to Order:** Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Invocation:** There was a silent moment of prayer.

**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		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – October 4, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for October 4, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – August 2, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Minutes for August 2, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 6, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Minutes for September 6, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 20, 2022: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Minutes for September 20, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES** – September 27, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Called Meeting minutes for September 27, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**Speakers Appearances:** Speakers will have five (5) minutes: No Requests.

**Speakers on a Specific Agenda Item:** Speaker will have three (3) minutes: No requests

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:**

**1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers Reported.**

**Tax receipts for September:**

<b>SPLOST</b>	\$235,043.57
<b>LOST</b>	\$218,847.17
<b>TSPLOST</b>	\$30,054.88 for July and \$29,444.86 for August – total \$59,499.74
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	\$513,390.48

**2. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.**

**Calls for Service- Numerical Breakdown**

Types of Activity	Number of Incidents Reported
Fire alarm investigations	11
Rubbish fires	1
Vehicle fires	1
Grass fire	0
Smoke investigation	4
MVA	0
EMS assist call	0
Cancelled enroute calls	2
Safety fire inspection report	0
Odor investigation	2
Dumpster fires	0
Lighten strike	0
Structure fire	2 (one structure fire was arson-turned over to CPD and Fire Marshall)
Total calls for Service from Dispatch	23

**3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.**

**a. CDBG 2020 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:**

The Project Engineering Firm has been advised per the Construction Contractor that the materials are still on schedule to start up on October 10, 2022, as stated in the “Notice to Proceed” for the McLeod Subdivision sewer line improvements Project.

**b. CHIP 2018 GRANT PROJECT:**

One of the Housing Rehabilitation Contractors have commenced home repairs on two (2) of the CHIP DCA approved Homes. 212 West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 107 Bass Street.

**c. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE:**

The EDRLF Committee met on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., to review the EDRLF Policy and the status of the seven (7) outstanding Loans, etc. We have had two inquires for Loan Applications, however, none have been returned.

**d. CORDELE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

The CHPC is in the process of scheduling a meeting this month (October 2022), to review and consider an "Application For Certificate For Preservation "received from Bura M. Allen Jr., requesting to install a privacy fence on the full perimeter of the yard at 714 East 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, located within the O'Neal Historic District.

**4. Codes Report: Jack Wood, Sr. Reported.**

Hunt Bros. Freezer	Cold Storage Warehouse at 2142 Pateville Road
Job Valuation: \$125,000.00	Permit Fee: \$555.00

Quick Trip Truck Stop	Truck Stop at 2110 East 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue.
Job Valuation: \$4,994,296.00	Permit Fee: \$10,670.00

Crisp Regional 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Medical Office Building at 1701 East 16 <sup>th</sup> Avenue.
Job Valuation: \$7,000,000.00	Permit Fee: \$14,680.00

**Combined Total of Commercial/Residential: \$38,279,359.00**

**Combined Total Permit Fees for Commercial/Residential: \$85,753.00**

**5. Human Resources: David Wade Reported.**

September 01, 2022 Participated in several interviews throughout the month for positions including Payroll/Utility Billing Back-up Clerk, Finance Director and others.

September 12, 2022 A Job Fair hosted by the City of Cordele was held at the Community Clubhouse. Sixteen applicants attended with some multiple applications for various positions.

September 12, 2022 Hired two Detectives in the Police Department.

September 12, 2022 Hired a Plant Operator in the U C & T Department.

September 14, 2022 Completed and submitted the GA Department of Audits and Accounts FY 22 biennial retirement plan survey.

September 16, 2022 Hired a Patrolperson in the Police Department.

September 19, 2022 Hired an Equipment Operator in the Gas Department.

September 19, 2022 Hired a Finance Director in the Finance Department.

September 26, 2022 Hired a Firefighter in the Fire Department.

September 26, 2022 Hired a Payroll/Utility Billing Back-up Clerk in the Finance Department.

**6. Municipal Court: No Report**

**7. Police Department – Captain Jeremy Taylor Reported**

<b>Part I Crimes</b>	<b>41</b>
Motor Vehicle Thefts	1 (1 recovered)
Aggravated Assaults	4
Larceny (Thefts)	27 (6enter autos; 10 shoplifting w/5 arrest, 1 juvenile Arrest, 11 other thefts)
Burglary	9 (7 residential; 2 business)

<b>Part II Crimes</b>	<b>108</b>
Incidents Reported	162
Community Contacts	25
Citations Issued	190
Warnings Issued	121
Total Calls for Service	1,271

- The Department is excited to sponsor three events during National Faith and Blue Weekend (Oct. 7-10).
- The Department has several activities scheduled for Red Ribbon Week (Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>). This includes visits to local daycares, McGruff at Ft. Valley Head Start’s Fall Festival, Red Ribbon Kick Off, Roadblock and County to County Tie Off.
- The Department will be participating in Downtown Spooktacular on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Department will also be participating in Home Depot’s Trunk n Treat on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Department has been approved for the BVP Grant, that is paying back half the cost of the next 10 bullet proof vests the Department purchased.

**8. Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported**

- Street Department has been working to prepare the manned dumpsite to be opened in the near future. The dumpsite will be located at 814 East 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the old Reed Concrete office building. So far, we have put up new front fence and swing gates, replaced windows, re-painted building, fixed rain gutters, replaced a/c unit, fixed bathroom and made some electrical work to prevent a fire hazard. still waiting on Crisp Power for the security lights and MCA (formally Cooper craft) for security cameras.
- Meeting with Contractors on the Sewer Project at McLeod Subdivision, the Contractors are getting ready to get started on the project.

**9. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.**

Water Treated	56,000,000 gallons	MGD average
Year to Date	419,619,000 gallons *	1.727 MGD average *
Wastewater Treated	62.7 million gallons	MGD average
Year to Date	650,240,000 gallons *	

Penia Well is back up and running. We are pumping approximately twice the GPM’s since the repairs. We are at 1,600 GPM now.

**10. Information Technology Update – Bobby Stennett Reported: No Report**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Proclamation:** Red Ribbon Week, October 24-28, 2022. The Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week was presented to Monica Simmons of the Cordele Chamber of Commerce.
2. First Reading of an Ordinance of the City of Cordele, Georgia Adopted Pursuant to the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4.1 Reapportioning the Election Districts from which members of the Governing Authority of the City of Cordele are Elected; Providing an Effective Date; Repealing Prior Ordinance and Charter Provisions in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of the Reapportioning Election Districts with Map one; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye, Commissioners Shephard and Rainey – aye; Commissioner Owens – nay.
3. First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 12.1-44 of the City Code of the City of Cordele to Provide for Additional Security of Windows and Doors; Requiring Current Properties not in compliance with the Ordinance Requiring Doors and Windows to be in sound working condition and good repair to bring them into compliance within thirty days; Repealing all ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of this Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: The 20th Anniversary Train Ride on October 26, 2022, from 11 AM – 2 PM. Organizers are Monica Rentfrow, Downtown Development Director and Chris Lockwood, SAM Shortline Director, 105 East 9th Avenue. They are requesting the closure of 9th Avenue, from 6th Street to 7th Street, 10 – 11:30 AM then 1:30 – 2:30 PM. Have their own barricades. Approved by Police Chief Heard on September 30, 2022. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: Downtown Spooktacular, October 27, 2022, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Organizers are Monica Rentfrow and Gale Reynolds, 105 East 9th Avenue. They are requesting closure of 9th Avenue between 6th and 7th Street from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. Have their own barricades. Approved by Police Chief Heard on September 30, 2022. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
6. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: First Annual Pool Room Classic Car Show, November 12, 2022, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Organizer is Jazmin Bridges, 105 West 11th Avenue. Requesting street closure, 8th Street from 10th to 13th Avenue. Approved by Police Chief Heard on September 27, 2022. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

7. Discussion of Sanitation Services. Commissioner Owens moved to issue an RFP for City of Cordele Sanitation Services; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
8. Discussion of Payment of Past Legal Fees for Chairman Deriso. Commissioner Owens moved to table this item for Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
9. Budget Priorities: Commission Chair Deriso stated, when the budget is prepared, usually the governing body gets to label and name priorities. Commission Chair Deriso asked for Commission priorities for the budget. Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated he needed more time to think about priorities and he would like the citizens input also. Commission Shephard stated she needed more time to think of priorities. Commission Owens stated he needed more time also, but one thing he would like to suggest to look into, is the City employees getting raises. Commission Chair Deriso stated his budget priority is the Office of the Chair.
10. Police Review: Commission Chair Deriso stated, there have been issues in the Police Department with termination and he wanted to know the process of the termination process.

**11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Angela Redding Reported.

**Finance Department**

Hired a Payroll/Utility Clerk in the Finance Department.

**311 Service**

Reminder - The 311 Service has been terminated. Calls to 311 will now be redirected to the main number at City Hall.

**Public Hearing – Solar Ordinance and Tax Digest**

A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 4:00 PM to receive comments on the Solar Panel Ordinance and the Tax Digest.

**Board Appointments**

The following Boards need Board members:

- Board of Zoning Appeals – Board member appointed in February is unable to attend meetings due to his work schedule
- Community Clubhouse Coordination Board
- DDA Board
- Southwest GA Railroad Excursion Authority Board

**RFP**

The RFP for Janitorial Services was advertised in the Cordele Dispatch on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Bid documents and specifications can be picked up at City Hall from Janice Mumphery. All sealed bids must be received by 9:45 am on Friday, October 21, 2022.

**Logo Contest Guidelines**

Logo Redesign Contest is underway. Deadline to submit a design is October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Contest is open to students in grades 8-12. The winning logo will receive a prize.

**Cancer Awareness Month**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

**Holiday Closure**

City Offices will be closed Monday, October 10, 2022 for Columbus Day.

**12. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Not present.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personal, Litigation, Real Estate and Legal Matters).

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to go into Executive Session at 6:54 PM for contract matters; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**14. MEETING RECONVENED:** Commissioner Shephard moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 7:13 PM; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**PROPOSAL:** City Manager Angela Redding recommended to the Commission PTO (Personal Time Off) for the Police and Fire Departments.

Police Departments work twelve-hour shifts, they will accrue 8.3 hours for PTO and also make an adjustment for the Police Department because Fire Department is paid 19.25 hours for a holiday, which is a full day's pay. Whereas, the Police Department is getting paid 8 hours, right now, so they are being shorted four hours, this will make up for the twelve hours; Fire Department works 19.25-hour shift, they will accrue 11.2 hours PTO.

**Motion:** Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to accept the recommendations for Police and Fire Department PTO (Personal Time Off). Police Department, twelve-hour shifts, accrue 8.3 hours of PTO; Fire Department, 19.25 shift, accrue 11.2 hours of PTO. The Police Department will also get equal pay for holidays of twelve hours; seconded by Commissioner Owens; motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**15. ADJOURNMENT:** Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.