

AGENDA



CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING CORDELE CITY HALL – COURTROOM MAY 20, 2025

The Honorable Joshua Deriso
Chairman

The Honorable Vesta Beal Shephard
Ward 1

The Honorable J. Wesley Rainey
Vice Chairman Ward 4

Vacant
Ward 2

The Honorable Isaac H. Owens
Ward 3

REGULAR MEETING 9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – May 20, 2025

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2025

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES – May 6, 2025

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES:

SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:

DEPARTMENT HEADS GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Community Advancement/Community Development
2. Finance Department
3. Fire Department
4. Human Resource Director
5. Municipal Court
6. Police /Codes/Animal Control
7. Public Works Department
8. Social Media Marketing Manager

9. UC&T Director
10. IT Department

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proclamation – National Public Works Week, May 18-24, 2025
2. Consider and Approve the reappointments to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board; three year term:
 - a. Mrs. Katrisha Williams
 - b. Mrs. Arleeta Henry
3. Consider and Approve the 2025-2026 Classic Main Street MOU.
4. Consider and Approve the 7th Street Urban Redevelopment Update Agreement.
5. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**
6. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate)
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held On May 6, 2025, 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chairman	J. Wesley Rainey, Commission Vice Chairman
Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Tommy Coleman, City Attorney
Janice Mumphery, City Clerk/Recording Secretary	

Staff present: Maurice Hill – Community Advancement Manager, Sonya Alexander – Finance Director, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, David Wade – Human Resource Director, Nancy Crook – Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Marcia Pridgen – Interim Public Works Director, Rick Smarr – Social Media Marketing Manager, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director, Bobby Stennett - IT.

Media Present: Joshua Windus – Cordele Dispatch.

Call to Order: Chairman Joshua Deriso, called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Opening Remarks: Chairman Deriso also stated that this is a Regular Meeting and comments will not be taken from the audience. Department Heads and City Officials will speak to give Reports during this Meeting. If there is a subject that needs an expert opinion, then the expert on that subject matter will be allowed to speak

Chairman Joshua Deriso asked all attendees of the Meeting to put their phones on silent or vibrate, preferably silent. If anyone needs to take a call, please step outside the door, away from the doors, so your conversation will not be heard.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Rev. Ulysses Morgan.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Rainey.

Roll Call: A quorum was established

Attendee's Name	Title	Present	Absent
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman	✓	
J. Wesley Rainey	Commission Vice Chairman Ward Four	✓	
Vesta Beal Shephard	Commissioner Ward One	✓	
Vacant	Commissioner Ward Two		
Isaac H. Owens	Commissioner Ward Three	✓	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: May 6, 2025: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Agenda for May 6, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. The Commission approved the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – April 15, 2025: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2025; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey. The Regular Meeting Minutes were approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES – April 15, 2025: Vice Chairman Rainey moved to approve the Work Session Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. The Commission approved the Work Session Minutes from April 15, 2025

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES: No Requests.

SPEAKER ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM: No Requests.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

1. Community Advancement/Community Development Report: Maurice Hill Reported

- Attended the Homeless Coalition Meeting on April 16th at 12 noon discussing events.
- Attended the Planning Commission Meeting for The Orchard Subdivision on April 17th at 10 am, they withdrew the zoning request and will resubmit a new design for PD Request.
- Attended the GALBA Intergovernmental Meeting on April 17th at 2 pm and we discussed Legislative Initiatives and creating a “Lunch with Legislators” series.
- Met with President of Colony Bank on April 21st about the Angel Investor Program and tying it to the Land Bank 25 By '25 Housing Initiative. Additionally, I met with their Mortgage Department about renovation loans for current homeowners.
- Attended the Employee Awards Luncheon on April 21st at 11:30 am for employees.
- Talked with Tom Sloope on April 22nd of Carter and Sloope, scheduled a meeting with UCT to discuss Hurricane Helene GEFA Funding for additional infrastructure projects.

Community Development Report

Historic Preservation Committee Meeting Scheduled for May 21st at 6 PM.

The property owned by Thomas Marshall / Curlene Thomas at 708 E. 14th Ave Cordele, GA 31015 has applied to add an addition, enclosing the existing open front porch with a screened-in design.

This property is owned by Andrieka Oliver located at 806 Cloverdale Circle Cordele, GA 31015 has applied to replace the windows, replacing the wood on the exterior and painting the outside of the home. Ms. Oliver’s home, 806 Cloverdale Circle, is not in the Historic District. Ms. Oliver has two homes in the Historic District, which the applications were submitted for the homes in the Historic District.

Board of Zoning Appeals Committee
Planning Commission Committee
Revolving Loan Fund Committee

No Meeting Scheduled at this time.
No Meeting Scheduled at this time.
No Meeting Scheduled at the time.

The City Manager and City Attorney have been removed from the RLF Committee and serve in an advisory capacity. The Commissioners selected Chairman Deriso to fill the elected official seat on the RLF Committee. Two additional members are needed for this Board.

Commissioner Shephard inquired about, 806 Cloverdale Circle being in a Historic District? City Manager Angela Redding responded “no”. Ms. Oliver’s home, 806 Cloverdale Circle, is not in the Historic District.

Chairman Deriso asked, the two additional members for the Revolving Loan Fund Committee, what are the requirements?

City Manager Angela Redding stated that she knows the requirements are Banker, CPA, Real Estate and the others could be community members.

Chairman Deriso suggested that the City of Cordele have a round table with people who would like to build and repair homes. This will assist them with getting an understanding about the procedures for repairs and building homes in the Cordele area.

2. Finance Department: Sonya Alexander – Finance Director

Sales Tax Receipts Collected for April 2025 - \$434,876.44

3. Fire Department: Fire Chief Todd Alligood Reported.

Reporting Period: March 24, 2025 – April, 29, 2025

Calls for Service:	Total 98
Smoke Scare	4
Grass/Rubbish Fire	10
Medical	38
Motor Vehicle Accident	12
Electrical	3
Structure Fire	2
False Alarm/Other	14
Gas Leak	5
Other	10

The Fire Department has now, a Fire Investigator in-house, Lt. Justin Cook has the class. It is an advantage now when structure fires take place, they can be investigated in Cordele and then involve the State, if necessary.

Department News

- Completed annual pump testing, Engine I, Engine II, Engine IV, and Ladder I passed.
- Attended the employee service and employee appreciation luncheons. Want to thank City Manager Redding and Commission for those!
- Attended the Website training.
- Enjoyed participating in the Primary School Community Helper Day.
- Enjoyed participating in the Autism Stroll/Touch a Truck event.
- Cordele Fire competed in the 4th Annual Firefighter’s Combat Challenge at the WR Fire Training Grounds.
- Attended RaceTrac Pre-Con Meeting
- Will be hosting the Central Georgia Fire Chief’s Meeting in Cordele, in June.

4. Human Resource Director – David Wade Reported

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4. Human Resource Director – David Wade Reported

April 02, 2025	Participated in the GMA Municipal Workforce Development Advisory Council Meeting.
April 07, 2025	Hired two Water and Sewer Technicians in the Water and Sewer Department. The Department is now full.
April 10, 2025	Hired an Administrative Assistant in the Community Development Department.
April 17, 2025	Received the resignation of an Assistant Superintendent in the Water and Sewer Department. Resignation was effective May 05, 2025.
April 29, 2025	Received pending resignation from Ronnie Flower, Fleet Superintendent. He will be retiring May 23, 2025.
April 28, 2025	Promoted a Customer Service Representative (Jarmiah Burks) to Deputy Municipal Court Clerk.
April 29, 2025	Attended the Career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) Advisory Council Meeting and Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Meeting held at Crisp County Middle School.

5. Municipal Court – Nancy Crook Reported.

Traffic Cases	334
Criminal Cases	103
Total Court Cases	437
Bench Warrants Ordered	7
License Suspensions Ordered	22
Total of all deposits	\$49,510.00
Total Court Ordered Refunds	\$ 2,246.00
Total Defendants Incarcerated	0
Total Days Jail Sentenced	0

6. Cordele Police/Codes/Animal Control – Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

Department Heads Report:

Police Department – Reporting Period: March 25, 2025 – April 28, 2025

Part I Crimes	47
Robberies (Armed By Force/Strong Arm)	1
Motor Vehicle Thefts	3 (3 recovered)
Aggravated Assaults	8 (4 arrests)
Larceny (Thefts)	34 (8 entering auto, 12 shoplifting with 9 adults and 14 others thefts)
Part II Crimes	116
Incidents Reported	253
Community Contacts	6
Citations Issued	266
Warnings Issued	119
Total Call for Service	1,620

Departmental News

We have one applicant that starts on May 12th as a Cadet and one applicant still in the hiring Process. We have one Cadet in week sixteen of the Academy whom is scheduled to graduate on May 23rd.

We will be attending the Public Safety Memorial Service at GA Public Safety Training Center on May 8th in Forsyth. Each year Georgia Law Enforcement Officers that died in line of duty are honored. This year Former Chief William Forrester of Cordele Police Department will be honored. Chief Forrest was assassinated outside of the Central Hotel in 1909. The gunman was the son of the previous Police Chief, whom held the Office for many years, having only recently been defeated by Chief Forrest for the office. Chief Forrest served for almost three months. Chief Heard will be accepting the award on his behalf.

A group of Officers will be attending ceremonies in Washington, DC in May at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial. Former Chief Forrest will be honored and his name will be engraved on the Fallen Officers Memorial Wall.

Our Department will also be participating in National Train Day on May 10th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at SAM Shortline.

Code Compliance Division – Reporting Period: March 25 – April 28, 2025

Abandoned Vehicle	4
Tampering with Utility Property	2
Unsafe, Unsanitary, Etc., Structures Prohibited	2
Weeds, Junk, Etc., Prohibited	28
Other	13

Departmental News

Code Compliance Officers participated in the Autism Walk on April 26, 2025. Code Officer Lin Mercer renewed his ICC Plumbing Certification. The Code Compliance Division collaborated with “Keep Crisp Beautiful” to coordinate trash pile reporting and enforcement.

Code Compliance Officers had a pre-construction meeting with RaceTrac.

Christian Homes have started putting in utilities.

Animal Control Division – Reporting Period: March 25 – April 28, 2025

Dog & Cat Intake Total	144
City Intake	85
Intakes from Crisp County	82
Intakes from Other Entities	26
Number of Calls Received	68
Number of Adoptions/Rescues	45 Adoptions
	33 Rescued
	3 Owner Reclaim
Animals Currently at The Shelter	14 Cats, 30 kittens under 3 weeks, including one exotic animal – a Lemur

	30 Dogs and 7 newborn puppies
Citations Issued	8
Warnings Issued	10
Open Shelter Slots	5 Cat Cages/3 Dog Kennels

Division News:

Dog food donations are still coming in strong.

Participated in SAM Shortline Egg Hunt, Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt, Community Craze Day at the Primary School, Autism Stroll and Touch a Truck.

Commissioner Shephard thanked Alyssa for helping a citizen.

7. Public Works Department – Marcia Pridgen Reported.

Department Report:

Cemetery/Parks

- Routine grass maintenance is ongoing.
- Cemetery/Parks has completed 75 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders since the last Commission Report.

Gas

- The Annual Regulator and Relief inspections are set to begin this week.
- We are to begin our annual valve maintenance in May.
- The Crew continues to perform routine job tasks such as responding to customer complaints, suspected leak response, new service installation, requested removal of gas services, and general operations and maintenance tasks.
- The Gas Department has completed 36 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

Street

- The Street Dept. has completed hauling inert material to the landfill, an email was sent to EPD on April 18th.
- The Street Sweeper was rear ended on 16th Avenue and will not be running again until it is repaired. The Shop is in the process of getting the repairs started. We hope to get a rental unit as soon as one comes available.
- The Department has worked to clear storm drains, both before and after it rains.
- The Street Department has completed 25 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

Water/Sewer

The Water/Sewer Department has completed 63 customers reported and maintenance work orders.

March 2025 GovDeals Sale Report:

Item Description	Approved by Commission	Sold Amount
5 Lug Golf Cart Tires	1.21.2025	\$156.00

8. Social Media/Marketing Manager – Rick Smarr Reported.

Website Committee Meeting on April 24th, the Basic user training. This was a three-hour training with Granius. The three-hour session covered:

- a. Finding content
- b. Editing, saving, and publishing content.
- c. Organizing content using best practices and “categories”.
- d. Preparing for upcoming training sessions.

There are two other levels of training to be scheduled and completed – Admin training (two hours) and Beyond the Basics Training (90 minutes).

9. Utilities Control and Treatment – Debbie Wright Reported.

For April 2025

Water Treated 50 million gallons

Wastewater Treated 96.9 million gallons

3.6” of rain for a total of 16.45” this year.

The Treatment Plant received a Generator, it was delivered last Monday, a 500 KW Caterpillar. Utilities Treatment & Control received the Gold Award for the drinking water system.

10. IT Department – Bobby Stennett Reported.

- Back-ups have started.
- The City is finally off of VC3.
- Bobby stated that the Crisp County Power Commission will put a circuit in the area of the Treatment Plant for internet service.
- May 20, 2025, the new phones will be coming.
- City Manager Angela Redding stated after the issue is resolved, internet service will be available for Animal Control.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proclamation: International Firefighters Day – May 4, 2025
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation for International Firefighters Day to Fire Chief Todd Alligood.
2. Proclamation: 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week – May 4-10, 2025
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Shephard presented the Proclamation for the Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week to City Clerk Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery.
3. Proclamation: Drinking Water Week – May 4-10, 2025
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.
Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.

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The Proclamation was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation for Drinking Water Week to Utilities, Control, and Treatment (UC&T) Director Debbie Wright.

4. Proclamation: National Hospital Week – May 11-17, 2025
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Shephard presented the Proclamation for National Hospital Week to Crisp Regional Hospital Staff.
5. Proclamation: National Police Week – May 11-17, 2025
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Owens.
Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation for National Police Week to Police Chief Jalon Heard.
6. Proclamation: National Mental Health Awareness Month.
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Shephard read the Proclamation for National Mental Health Awareness Month.
Commissioner Shephard stated she will take this Proclamation to the Mental Health Center in Cordele.
7. Swearing In to serve on the Community Clubhouse Coordination Board.
Mrs. Jean Oliver-Burks
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Swearin-In of Mrs. Jean Oliver-Burks; seconded by Commissioner Owens.
Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard; Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.
Chairman Deriso swore Mrs. Burks in to serve on the Community Clubhouse Coordination Board.
8. Event Permit: Juneteenth Celebration, Saturday, June 14, 2025. Parade and Festivities
Parade Route: West 24th Ave down Joe Wright Drive to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Lot, West 12th Ave.
Festivities: Gillespie Selden Area, block off 12th St. and 16th Ave. and 15th Ave.
Police escort is requested.
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit, Juneteenth Celebration; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.
Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The Juneteenth Celebration Event Permit was approved by the Commission.
9. Consider and Approve a Voting Delegate and Flag Bearer for the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention.

Commissioner Shephard moved to approve a Voting Delegate and Flag Bearer for the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention; seconded by Commissioner Owens.
The Commission approved for Commissioner Owens to be the Voting Delegate and Flag Bearer.

10. Consider and Approve an Alcohol License: Beer and Wine Consumed Off Premises, Nouria 1305, 402 S. 7th St., William Rodriquez – District Manager. No exceptions noted. Reviewed by Chief Heard March 28, 2025.

Commissioner Shephard moved to approve an Alcohol License for Nouria 1305, 402 S. 7th St.; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.

Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard voted aye.

The Alcohol License was approved by the Commission.

11. Consider and Approve an Alcohol License: Beer and Wine Consumed Off Premises, Cost Kutter, 1101 E 16th Ave., Gregory Reese – District manager. No exceptions noted.

Commissioner Shephard moved to approve an Alcohol License for Cost Kutter, 1101 E 16th Ave., seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.

Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens voted aye.

The Alcohol License was approved by the Commission.

12. Discussion – Ladder 3

Commissioner Owens moved to discuss Ladder 3 Fire Truck; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.

City Manager Angela Redding and Fire Chief Alligood explained to the Commission in detail regarding Ladder Truck 3 and the rationale for declaring it surplus and putting it on GovDeals.com.

13. Consider and Approve the Request from the Fire Department to Surplus Ladder 3 and Dispose of the Surplus Item via GovDeals.com.

Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Request from the Fire Department to Surplus Ladder 3 and Dispose of the Surplus Item via GovDeals.com; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey and Commissioner Owens voted aye.

The Commission approved for Ladder 3 to be declared surplus and Dispose of the Surplus Item on GovDeals.com

14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

2025 Chamber of Commerce Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 @ 11:30 AM

Cordele First Church Activities Center

April 21, 2025 - 2025 Milestone Service Award Honorees

Five Years

Brandi Akin, Police

Tramiska Jones, Police

Ten Years

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Christy Perry, Police
Gwen Porter, Police
Melinda Spillers, H. R.

Twenty Years

Jeremy Taylor, Police

Twenty-five Years

Dennis Bryant, Utilities, Control & Treatment

Forty-Years

Ronnie Fowler, Public Works

Forty-five Years

Bennie Harpe, Public Works

2025 Employee Appreciation Day

Friday, April, 2025

Caterer – Tri County Seafood

Autism Awareness Stroll 2025 and City of Cordele Touch-A-Train

April 26, 2025

Crisp Regional Hospital – Perry Busbee Walking Track

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Mental Health Awareness Month

Crisp Community Council

Dowdy Building

May 14, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Mother & Son Dance

Friday, May 9, 2025

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Faith Based Organizational Minister's Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Cordele Community Clubhouse

9:30 – 10:30 AM

ADDITIONAL UP-COMING EVENTS

National Train Day Event

Saturday, May 10, 2025

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

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Juneteenth Day Celebration

June 14, 2025

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

5th Annual Back to School Bash – August 2, 2025

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Day out with Thomas

Every weekend in June, except the last weekend.

Propel Meeting

Propel Update Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Albay State University – Cordele Campus

Light breakfast will be served.

CHIP Grant

The City has received various calls regarding the CHIP Grant.

The City was approved and funded for the CHIP Grant.

Call in Event – Tuesday, May 20, 2025

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

There are three ways residents can sign up for the Event.

Call the 1-800 number

Visit the website

Can scan the QR Code

Previous and new applicants have to fill out a new application.

The waiting list applicants, have to complete a new application.

ADDITONAL UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Scouting American Distinguished Citizen's Dinner Recognizing Monica Simmons

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Cordele First Church

6:30 PM

Community Clubhouse Meeting

Monday, May 12, 2025

City Hall – Courtroom

10:00 AM

DDA Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Main Street Office

8:30 AM

IndigoLife Business Symposium

Thursday, May 15, 2025 – Saturday, May 17, 2025
Albany State University – Cordele Campus
indigolifeonline.com/biz-symposium

River Valley Legislative Luncheon

Thursday, May 22, 2025
South Georgia Technical College – Americus Campus
10:30 AM

GMA Listening Session

April 17, 2025
Community Clubhouse

2025 Legislative Report

The Commission was given a copy of Bills that were passed and some that were not passed. City Manager Angela Redding thanked Senator Carden Summers for sponsoring Senate Bill 13 and the Bill expands GEFA authority to provide financial assistance for projects involving natural gas. There has been a natural gas component added where they can fund those projects.

Codes Compliance Division

City Manager Angela Redding stated that the roundtable discussion with Codes is a good idea. She alerted the citizens of dilapidated properties and gave an update: A list is kept of properties when reported and those that are inspected by Codes. They are moved along through a process. It is a long process. Court cases heard on April 22nd were given an additional sixty (60) days to correct violations.

ACTION ITEM

Election of GMA's District 8 Officers For 2025-2026

Ballot

President	Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner, Cordele
First Vice President	Keith Pendergrass, Mayor, Pine Mountain
Second Vice President	Kevin Brown, Buena Vista
Third Vice President	Sarah Brooke Huckaby, Arabi

After a brief discussion on this ballot; no action was taken.

15. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: City Attorney requested an Executive Session for litigation.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate)

Commissioner Owens moved to go into Executive Session at 11:04 AM for litigation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.

The Commission approved to go into Executive Session for litigation.

Note: Vice Chairman Rainey stepped out of the room.

17. REGULAR MEETING RECONVENE:

Commissioner Owens moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 11:17 AM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Chairman Deriso voted aye.

The Commission approved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 11:17 AM.

18. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the Meeting at 11:17 AM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Chairman Deriso voted aye.

The Commission adjourned the Meeting at 11:17 AM.

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
MAY 6, 2025**

The Cordele City Commission held a Work Session on May 6th, at 11:17 AM, in the Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair	Vice Chairman J. Wesley Rainey
Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Tommy Coleman, City Attorney
Genivieve Mumphery, Recording Secretary/City Clerk	

Staff Present: Maurice Hill – Community Advancement Manager, Sonya Alexander – Finance Director, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, David Wade – Human Resource Director, Nancy Crook – Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Marcia Pridgen – Interim Public Works Director, Rick Smarr – Social Media Marketing Manager, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director, Bobby Stennett – IT Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the Work Session to order at 11:17 AM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: There was a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Shephard.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman		✓
J. Wesley Rainey	Commission Vice Chairman Ward 4		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Vacant	Commissioner Ward 2		

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION AGENDA – May 6, 2025: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Work Session Agenda for May 6, 2025; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey, the Work Session Agenda was approved by the Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Mr. Joshua Colley, Sr. Retirement Benefit Analyst with GMA will provide an overview of the City's Retirement Plan.
Commission Owens moved to discuss the City's Retirement Plan; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.
The Commission approved for Mr. Colley to give an overview of the City's Retirement Plan.

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Joshua Colley, Sr. is one of the Field Service Representatives for the Online Support for GMA. He is under the Risk Management and Employee Benefit Systems, he stated he works specifically with the Retirement Department. Mr. Colley has been with GMA for about seven (7) years now, but he has been doing Field Service for about a year and a half. Mr. Colley stated he will touch on the Valuation Report, the Summary of the Plan, and Benefit Calculations.

Summary of Key Valuation Results – Cost to the City of Cordele

January 1, 2024 \$659,896	January 1, 2025 \$635,413
Funded ratio on a market value basis	91.39% in good standing

Summary of the Plan Features:

This plan is fully funded by the City and includes employees, elected officials and municipal legal officers.

Employees Benefit Plan

Retirement Age – age when an employee can start drawing their benefits

Normal Retirement Age, which is the full accrual normal benefit with no reduction is at age 65 with at least five years of service.

Alternative Normal Retirement, which is under this Retirement, but before the age of 65. Alternative Normal Retirement at age 55 with at least 30 years of service.

Early Retirement at age 55 with at least 10 years of service, there is a reduction at this retirement age. The reduction is based on the age that the employee starts drawing the benefit if they wait for the normal retirement, there will be less reductions. It is about 50% reduction of retirement is drawn at age 55.

Benefit Calculation – 1.25% - 2% dynamic break point. This dynamic break point is a benefit formula where the 1.25% formula is up to a certain dollar amount and then it is 2% above that dollar amount. This dynamic break point increases every year and actually the break point is at \$102,000 this year. So, anyone that is receiving under \$102,000 a year will be at that 1.25% formula.

That means an employee gets 1.25% of your final average earnings for every year of service you have. So, take your years of service, multiply it by 1.25%, this is what an employee will get for retirement. For ten years, you will get 12.5% of your final average earnings for the rest of your life; twenty years, you will get 25% of your final earnings for the rest of your life.

Vesting – 10 years: Vesting is how long an employee has to work for the City in order to be entitled to a benefit. If some one works at the City for ten years and terminate employment, even if you leave before retirement age, you can come back at retirement age to start drawing your benefit.

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Disability – There is a disability minimum that the City offers for their employees. This protects people that might become disable while they are working with the City. It provides a Retirement minimum of 20% of their average monthly earnings.

Elected Officials Benefit Plan

For Elected Officials benefits are calculated differently. Elected Officials benefits are not calculated the same as employees. Elected Officials get a flat dollar amount that they sit on the Commission Board. Elected Officials Benefits for Retirement is \$13.00 for every year that they serve on that Board.

Elected Officials have immediate Vesting. For Elected Officials, it works in the nature of terms.

Mr. Colley explained the Retirement in detailed to the Commissioner and Employees; he also shared with the Commission and Employees other Cities Retirement Benefits.

2. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the Work Session at 11:40 AM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission,



JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

VACANT
Ward 2

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager



TO: Angela Redding, City Manager

FROM: Maurice Hill

DATE: May 20, 2025 - Cordele City Commission Meeting

**SUBJECT: Community Advancement Manager Report
Community Development Director Report**

Community Advancement Manager Report

Good morning,

I have continued to reach out to residents and members of the business community to advance housing, business development and educational initiatives.

- Met with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and 4H on May 8th to view a property near the Farmers Market to create a 4H Camp in Cordele. We also discussed funding options for Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails, and possible upgrades to Westbrook Park.
- Met with a developer on May 9th about a 142-acre multi-phase project to include build-to-suite commercial space, multi-family apartment and mixed-use housing, along with single family homes. The property is in the County. Various Cordele Departments were present to address questions regarding City services. The Developer is looking to get started within 4 – 6 months.
- I received the CHIP Grant information and spoke with the SWGRC Representative to get the program guidelines and contractor applications. The information was posted on the City's Facebook page. Distributed flyers to organizations and individuals to apply.
- Attending the PROPEL Meeting on May 15th at Albany State Cordele Campus to provide committee progress reports and updates.
- Attending the Business Symposium Meet and Greet on May 15th at Albany State Cordele Campus for a 3 Day Business Summit. Distributed the information by posting it on the City's Facebook page and to individual business owners.



GEORGIA
MAIN STREET

JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

VACANT
Ward 2

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager

Community Development Director Report

Historic Preservation Committee - Meeting Scheduled for May 21st at 6 pm

The property owned by Thomas Marshall / Curlene Thomas at 708 E. 14th Ave Cordele, GA 31015 has applied to add an addition, enclosing the existing open front porch with a screened-in design.

This property is owned by Andrieka Oliver located at 507 E 12th Ave Cordele, GA 31015 has applied to replace the windows, replacing the wood on the exterior and painting the outside of the home.

Board of Zoning Appeals Committee - No Meeting Scheduled at this time

I received an updated Single-Family Plat from The Orchard and working to schedule them in June for the request for a variance to the lot frontage, lot width and lot size requirements before the Board of zoning Appeals.

Planning Commission Committee - No Meeting Scheduled at this time

Revolving Loan Fund Committee - No Meeting Scheduled at the time

Thank you for the honor of serving the Community of Cordele!

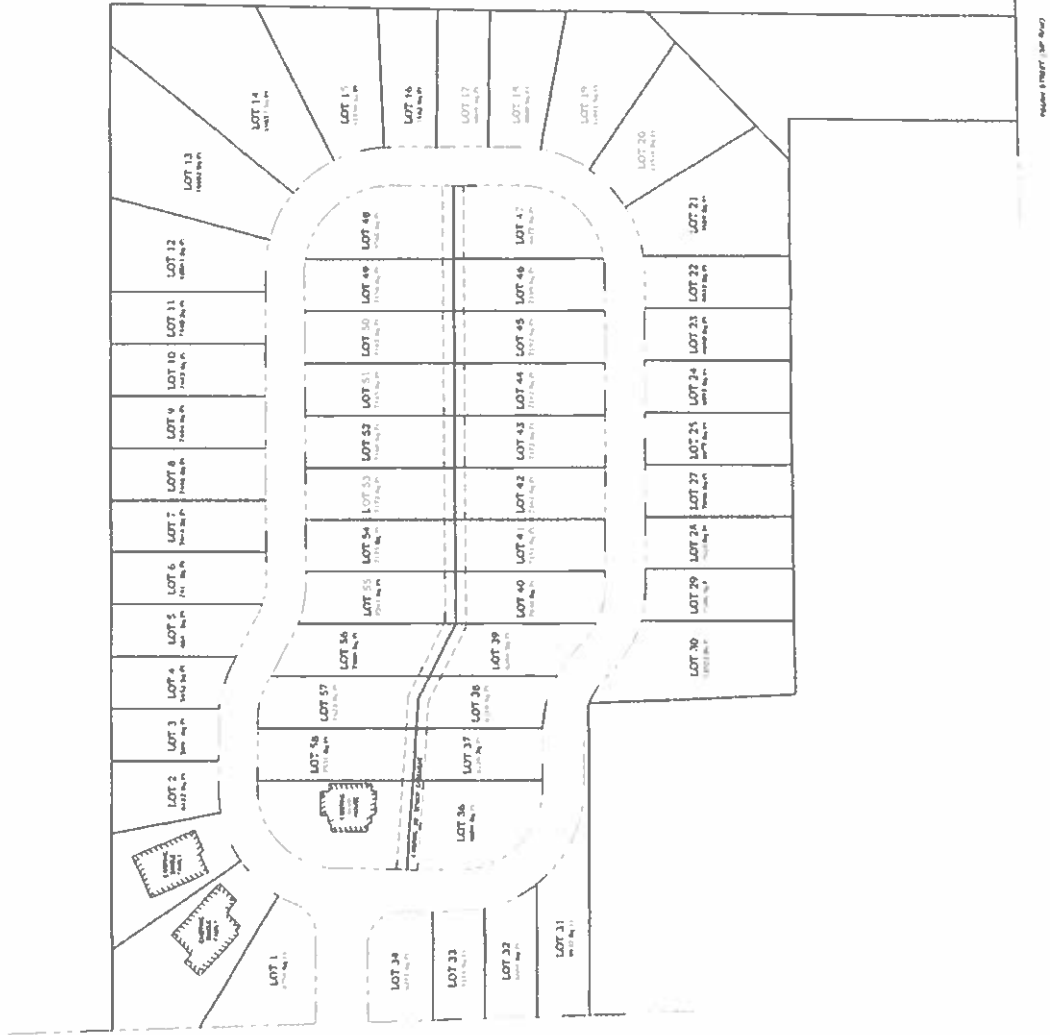
Maurice Hill
Community Advancement Manager



CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT FOR:
THE ORCHARDS



V1210



Scale: 1" = 20'



TO: Angela Redding, City Manager
FROM: Sonya Alexander, Finance Director

DATE: 5/13/2025
RE: City Commission Report

April-25
Financial Summary

UTILITIES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Billed	\$ 558,762.02	\$ 729,103.93	\$ 371,730.69	\$ 682,797.01	\$ 529,745.30	\$ 414,207.10	\$ 717,029.35	\$ 722,149.64	\$ 756,587.36	\$ 566,449.03
Collected	\$ 595,141.57	\$ 566,259.27	\$ 532,067.84	\$ 567,210.47	\$ 489,728.57	\$ 611,010.63	\$ 660,209.40	\$ 704,378.74	\$ 667,062.78	\$ 570,763.81
Added	30	20	32	35	33	34	32	31	34	42
Transferred or Reconnected	67	86	67	75	69	68	51	65	71	58

BUSINESS LICENSE	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
License Fees Collected	\$ 3,941.73	\$ 14,350.17	\$ 1,111.14	\$ 5,397.08	\$ 15,379.72	\$ 72,743.15	\$ 86,940.49	\$ 116,982.61	\$ 226,938.91	\$ 72,397.61
Late Penalties Collected	\$ 242.78	\$ 176.82	\$ 27.19	\$ 74.21	\$ -	\$ 56.09	\$ 470.13	\$ 329.94	\$ 185.01	\$ 3,835.45
Total Collected	\$ 4,184.51	\$ 14,526.99	\$ 1,138.33	\$ 5,471.29	\$ 15,379.72	\$ 72,799.24	\$ 87,410.62	\$ 117,312.55	\$ 227,123.92	\$ 76,233.06
Renewals	8	6	1	3	11	116	201	251	232	126
New Licenses	11	8	6	12	9	4	18	36	15	12

PROPERTY TAX	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Penalties & Interest Collected	\$ 20,686.16	\$ 22,020.13	\$ 10,741.65	\$ 2,023.24	\$ 3,993.34	\$ 11,473.55	\$ 15,235.29	\$ 20,891.08	\$ 9,496.33	\$ 2,785.67
Prior Year Taxes Collected	\$ 99,628.38	\$ 84,443.85	\$ 30,884.23	\$ 15,816.85	\$ 13,964.32	\$ 10,401.97	\$ 29,965.48	\$ 27,248.36	\$ 18,921.25	\$ 2,964.88
2024 Taxes Collected	\$ 42,348.36	\$ 26,271.83	\$ 11,369.60	\$ 6,532.17	\$ 2,553.68	\$ 9,242.56	\$ 870,764.17	\$ 1,074,112.61	\$ 840,911.61	\$ 46,800.95
Total Collected	\$ 162,662.90	\$ 132,735.81	\$ 52,995.48	\$ 24,372.26	\$ 20,511.34	\$ 31,118.08	\$ 915,964.94	\$ 1,122,252.05	\$ 869,329.19	\$ 52,551.50

CASH	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
Total Wages	\$ 527,062.13	\$ 520,126.15	\$ 523,961.77	\$ 538,076.25	\$ 878,549.75	\$ 586,999.07	\$ 598,685.96	\$ 574,631.44	\$ 575,077.95	\$ 567,633.68
Accounts Payable Transactions	207	211	253	222	350	185	219	254	196	219
Total Invoiced Disbursements	\$ 966,124.91	\$ 1,609,119.74	\$ 885,999.24	\$ 1,488,003.91	\$ 965,872.46	\$ 1,187,729.70	\$ 1,024,520.35	\$ 971,001.45	\$ 2,005,798.05	\$ 873,067.44

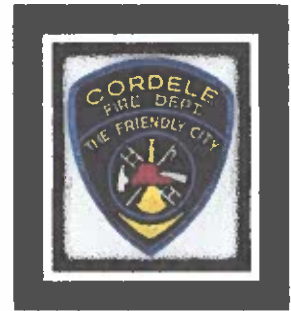
2025 GOALS

- 1 - Hire Utility Billing Clerk and Customer Service Representative
- 2 - Create Shared Outlook Calendar for Schedules, Daily Tasks, Goals and Deadlines
 - 3 - Collect for Delinquent Utility Accounts
 - 4 - Cross Train Staff
- 5 - Staff Development Training for Staff
- 6 - Update Files on Shared Drive

CORDELE FIRE DEPARTMENT

509 North 7th Street Cordele GA, 31015 Office 229-276-2970

Fire Chief Todd Alligood



"We Train Harder So That We May Serve Better; And It Is with Dedication That We Serve"

Attn: Joshua Deriso, Commission Chairman

Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner Ward 1

Isaac Owens, Commissioner Ward 3

Wesley Rainey, Commission Vice Chairman Ward 4

Angela Redding, City Manager

From: Todd Alligood, Fire Chief

Date: May 13, 2025

Subject: Commissioner Meeting Goals and Achievements

Goals

1. Provide best possible service to the citizens and visitors of Cordele through firefighter recruitment and retention, professionalism (actions and appearance), extensive training, quick response, effective emergency mitigation, community risk reduction programs, and community engagement.

Accomplishments

1. Completed testing for our Hurst Extrication equipment.
2. Attended the monthly Public Safety Roundtable.
3. Attended quarterly TIMS meeting at the EOC.
4. Attended a Pre-Con meeting for Aldi Grocery.
5. We attended the train day downtown and passed out fire safety items. Rain put a damper on the event.
6. Completed and turned in our Annual Employee Evaluations.
7. Lt. Averill and Captain Patrick went to MAFFC in Atlanta and attended a Leadership Under Fire 8-hour training class.
8. I attended a Fire Truck Expo in Forsyth GA put on by Pierce and Ten-8.
9. Did get Ladder 3 listed on Gov Deals. Thanks to Marcia for taking care of that.

Thank you for your continued support!



GEORGIA
◆ MAIN STREET ◆

JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

Vacant
Commissioner, Ward 2

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager

DATE: May 13, 2025

TO: Angela Redding, City Manager

FROM: David Wade, Director of Human Resources

REF: Commission Report

Attached is the Personnel Department's report for the May 20, 2025 City Commission meeting.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**CITY OF CORDELE
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2025**

MAY 20, 2025

Overview of Functions:

The Human Resources Department plans, directs and oversees the overall human resource functions of the City. The office manages the lifecycle of employees by administering all benefits, workers' compensation, unemployment, retirement, recruitment, staffing, risk management, employee relations and administration of City Personnel Policy.

Goals for 2025

1. **Develop a workforce profile that identifies strengths, weaknesses, and potential areas for improvement** – Conduct a thorough analysis of the current workforce, including:
 - **Position Analysis**: Review job roles and responsibilities to ensure they meet current and future service demands.
 - a. **Performance appraisals have been distributed to all departments with a May 16, 2025 due date.**
2. **Align HR goals with the City's objectives to improve public service delivery** – Set measurable goals that support both the short-term and long-term priorities such as:
 - Encourage and provide leadership development by setting clear paths for advancement within the organization.
 - a. **Accepting in-house applications for Fleet Superintendent, Customer Service Representative and Cemetery & Parks Equipment Operator.**
3. **Create a qualified candidate pool for all roles** – Attract top talent by focusing on:
 - **Employer Branding**: Highlighting benefits of public sector employment such as job stability, community impact, competitive pay, wellness support and pension plans.
 - **Partnerships**: Build relationships with the local school system, college, technical college and community organizations.
 - a. **Began hosting a Work-Based Learning student in the Fleet Department. The student will transition to a full-time seasonal employee during the summer months.**
 - b. **Attended the CTAE advisory committee meeting and local needs assessment meeting.**



JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

VACANT
Ward 2

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager



TO: Angela Redding, City Manager

FROM: Nancy Crook, Chief Clerk Cordele Municipal Court

DATE: May 16, 2025

Reference: Commission Report

GOALS FOR CORDELE MUNICIPAL COURT

1. Report accurate and complete information for the court and public.
2. Complete the court docket for the judge in a timely manner.
3. Have Jarmiah Burks certified as a Deputy Court Clerk.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CORDELE MUNICIPAL COURT

1. All dockets and court dispositions were turned into the state on time.



Cordele Police Department

501 North 7th Street Cordele, GA 31015 Telephone 229-276-2921 Fax 229-273-6773

Jalon Heard Chief of Police

To: Angela Redding, City Manager

From: Chief Jalon Heard
Chief of Police

Date: May 14, 2025

Ref: Cordele Police Department's Goals and Accomplishments

Goals & Accomplishments

1. We will continue to provide professional law enforcement service through our hiring process, training, and self-accountability. **We currently have 2 applicants in the hiring process. One applicant started on the 12th as a police officer. One cadet is currently in her eighteenth week of the police academy.**
2. Develop strategies to attract more experienced officers. **We are continuing to promote on our sign boards and on our Facebook page.**
3. We will continue to connect with the community through community related events, increasing public contacts and through partnering with local groups and businesses. **We partnered with Sam Shortline on May 10th to celebrate National Train Day. Chief Heard attended the Public Safety Memorial Service at Ga Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. Chief Heard accepted an award for previous Chief William Forrest who was killed while on duty. Chief Heard and Captain Taylor escorted the Mental Health Awareness Walk Wednesday. We are planning on participating in an upcoming event which is a Juneteenth Celebration.**
4. We will continue to make advancements towards obtaining the Excellence in Policing Certification with the larger goal of state certification. **We are continuing with policy reviews to make them align with state requirements.**



Cordele Police Department

501 North 7th Street Cordele, GA 31015 Telephone 229-276-2921 Fax 229-273-6773

Jalon Heard Chief of Police

City Commission Meeting
May 20, 2025

Ref: Code Compliance Division Goals and Accomplishments

Goals & Accomplishments

1. The codes division will continue code enforcement efforts to increase code compliance in all wards. This will provide more attractive and presentable neighborhoods for the current citizens, future citizens, workers and travelers with the hopes to attract new businesses, industry and potential residents to the city.
Code Officers have been engaged with multiple Occupancy Certificate inspections for new business applications this month.
2. The codes division will continue sending codes officials to advanced training and certification seminars through the International Code Council (ICC) and the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement (GACE) with the hopes of each code official becoming certified in multiple inspection categories.
Officer Mercer renewed his ICC plumbing inspection certification. Officer Lodge attended Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG) Conference in May.
3. Address blighted commercial and residential properties through education, code enforcement, private funding, grant opportunities and working relationships with reliable, certified contractors. **Code Compliance officers attended the Municipal court hearings for the 10 dilapidated properties requiring demolition.**
4. Increasing our social media presence and utilizing other innovative ways to relay information and announce code issues and problems. The aim is to educate and keep the public informed about code related issues that concern them.



Cordele Police Department

501 North 7th Street Cordele, GA 31015 Telephone 229-276-2921 Fax 229-273-6773

Jalon Heard Chief of Police

To: Angela Redding, City Manager

From: Chief Jalon J. Heard
Chief of Police

Date: May 13, 2025

Reference: City Commission Report, Animal Control Goals and Accomplishments

Goals & Accomplishments

1. Get more animals rescued/adopted by being more active in the community and on social media.
 - a. The Animal Shelter had 66 animals adopted/rescued/ and reclaimed for April.
 - b. The Facebook page has continued growing.
 2. Work towards implementing a volunteer program at the shelter.
 - a. We are working on a schedule and paperwork to have volunteers. Several people have inquired and are very interested in helping the shelter.
 3. Make shelter improvements: grates for drains, seal the floors, replace rusted kennel pipes, add a few more kennels outside.
 - a. The play yard is a big hit with the dogs at the shelter.
 - b. Received another kennel for outside and several crates.
 4. Actively promote better animal welfare. (Spay/neuter, vaccinations, correct shelter(housing), kennel ordinance control).
 - a. Have not loaned out anymore dog houses, but hoping this will change.
 5. Host events with the hope of bring awareness to the shelter, animal health and welfare and increasing donations.
 - a. We participated in the Community Craze Day at the Primary School, along with the Autism Stroll/Touch a Truck. Both were big hits and had several adoptions from both events.
- **Received another big donation of pet food from Tractor Supply, JAG probation, and several citizens buying and leaving for us to pick up at Tractor Supply.**



JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

WESLEY RAINEY
Commissioner, Ward 4

ROYCE REEVES, SR.
Vice-Chair, Ward 2

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager

Memo

Date: May 13, 2025

To: Angela Redding, City Manager

From: Marcia Pridgen, Interim Public Works Director

Re: Public Works Goals & Accomplishments – May 20, 2025

We have two updates at this time.

Goals & Accomplishments

Public Works Department

5/20/25

We have two updates at this time.

- Goal 1:** **Improve the working order and functionality of the 7 holding ponds.**
1. The contractor completed work on the holding ponds the week of April 14th. A checklist of the scope of work was made for the Street Superintendent to do a walkthrough. It has been completed and turned in to the City Manager for review.
- Goal 2:** **Update Gas Distribution Maps**
1. A review of records is in progress. This will help to ensure main installations, abandonments, and relocations are indicated on future mapping updates. – No update at this time.
- Goal 3:** **Complete the Annual Report (AR) Stormwater Management Program.**
1. Submitted Thursday, January 30th. – No update at this time.
- Goal 4:** **Prepare and submit Cordele's next five-year SWMP.**
1. No update at this time.
- Goal 5:** **To make our Street Department a more productive department within the city and improve the overall function and aesthetics of our streets, alleys and rights of way.**
1. No update at this time.
- Goal 6:** **Prevent ground water infiltration into the city's sewer system.**
1. Phase 1 of ARPA Project is 75% complete. Pipe bursting and grouting are in progress. Pipe bursting replaces existing pipe that is severely damaged, while grouting seals leaks in structurally sound pipes.
2. Phase 2 of ARPA Project is out for bid. Bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10 AM.
- Goal 7:** **Shorten the time of water outages during maintenance.**
1. We have installed a valve on 16th Avenue and 12th Street. This makes a total of 2 valves installed this year, which will shorten the length of outages and reduce the number of customers that have to be cut off during outages. – No update at this time.
- Goal 8:** **Clean up the City's alleys.**
1. This project is in process. – No update at this time.



JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

VACANT
Ward 2

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager



TO: MRS. ANGELA REDDING – CORDELE CITY MANAGER

FROM: RICKY SMARR

DATE: MAY 20TH, 2025

SUBJECT: SOCIAL MEDIA- MARKETING GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

**MISSION: TO FOSTER PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION, BUILDING
ON THE IDENTITY OF THE CITY OF CORDELE**

GOAL #1: CITY OF CORDELE WEBSITE

In last month's G&A report, I mentioned we were continuing to have login issues when attempting to access the website training portal. After the submission of that report, on Monday, April 14th, those issues were resolved. Our first training session with Granicus was held on April 24th and covered finding, editing, saving, and publishing content, organizing content, and using “best practices” and categories. Granicus provided your website team with a video file for the class, which has helped tremendously in the learning process. Since our first training session, users, editors and publishers have been working to build out pages and update migrated content. Our next class for super users only is scheduled for May 15th from 2 pm until 4 pm and will expand on what we have already learned. Additionally, we will learn how to build new users, edit existing users, understand user permissions, edit the home page and custom content, build page templates from scratch, add widgets to pages and cover administration and configuration settings. The website is taking shape.

GOAL #2: CGI DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

Another goal from the beginning was to coordinate with CGI Digital to produce 4 video chapters that will be placed on our new website designed to promote the City of Cordele. Business partnerships, video production, editing, and approval goals were accomplished in 2024. I am glad to report the widget from CGI and the video tour is now on the home page of your website and will be accessible to the public when the site goes live.



JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

VACANT
Ward 2

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager



GOAL #3: INCREASE COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTION & NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

As we work to keep the community informed through our social media platforms, we continue to be encouraged by the responses we receive. We strive to feed our platforms with positive content.

Currently, there are 2,489 followers on the city's Facebook social media page, and these numbers continue to increase.

With the launch of your new website, we will utilize social media to push people to the site for easy interaction with city government.

Positive posts, timely information, the incorporation of video, personal interaction, hashtags, and posting at optimal times, have all contributed to the growth of our social media presence.

The city's YOUTUBE platform is being noticed as we add more and more content. Subscriber numbers are growing constantly.

GOAL #4: CORDELE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER EXPANSION

Your CORDELE CONNECTION Newsletter has been a great tool in bringing our internal city structure together. The comments we receive through text and email are encouraging.

We are working on a template through ISSUU for a community newsletter that will be housed on the city's new website. Again, we can use social media to promote the newsletter and drive people to the website.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

5/6/25: I attended and recorded the Cordele City Commission regular meeting and the work session overview of the city's retirement plan. The regular meeting was published on your social media platforms; the work session is in my file for reference if needed.

Commission Meeting: <https://youtu.be/zthrHigM2LU>

5/8/25: I attended the Faith-Based Minister's Meeting at the Cordele Community Clubhouse at 9:30 AM. Our speaker was Linda Mitchell; Executive Director of Daybreak Care Center based out of Dooly County and serves Crisp & Wilcox Counties also.





JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

VACANT
Ward 2

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager



5/13/25: I completed the KnowBe4 Security Awareness Training.

5/14/25: With the permission of our City Manager, I attended and provided video and photo support at the request of Crisp County Community Council GAFCP for their Mental Health Awareness Walk. All content was added to your social media platforms in support of Mental Health Awareness Month and shared with CCCC.

I am spending a lot of time working with the new website, coordinating training and endeavoring to help in any way I can with the buildout.

A comprehensive log of all social media activity is available for review

Respectfully submitted
May 20th, 2025

Ricky R. Smarr
Social Media/Marketing Manager
City of Cordele, Georgia





GEORGIA
◆ MAIN STREET ◆

JOSHUA DERISO
Commission Chair

VACANT
Ward 2

WESLEY RAINEY
Vice-Chair, Ward 4

ISAAC OWENS
Commissioner, Ward 3

VESTA BEAL SHEPHARD
Commissioner, Ward 1

ANGELA REDDING
City Manager

May 12, 2025

TO: Angela Redding, City Manager

FR: Debbie Wright, Director of Utilities

RE: GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Water restrictions are still in place since 2011. You cannot irrigate/water your property with City water from 10 am till 4 pm. This applies to residential and commercial property. If you have an automatic irrigation system, make sure your timer is set properly.
2. We have received updated quotes on the UV Disinfection System. We still need to find an engineering firm to write the plans for installation. We have written a Draft RFP for a engineering company for this project.
3. Cook Industrial is in the process of wiring up the Automatic Transfer Switch for the new Generator at the WWTP.
4. Debbie Wright attended a meeting with Maurice Hill, Codes and others for a 140+ acre project north of Love's and Indian River.
5. The 2024 Water Quality Report is available by email and on the City of Cordele's Facebook page.



PROCLAMATION

National Public Works Week
May 18 – 24, 2025
PEOPLE, PURPOSE, PRESENCE



- WHEREAS,** Public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, emergency management, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of Cordele, GA; and,
- WHEREAS,** These infrastructures, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are federally mandated first responders, and the engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,
- WHEREAS,** It is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in Cordele, GA to gain knowledge and maintain ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works first responders and public works programs in their respective communities; and,
- WHEREAS,** the year 2025 marks the 65th Annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** the City of Cordele Commission, do hereby designate the week May 18 – 24, 2025, as National Public Works Week; I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

This 20th Day of May, 2025.

CITY OF CORDELE COMMISSION

Commission Chair Joshua Deriso

Vice Chairman J. Wesley Rainey, Ward Four

Commissioner Vesta Beal-Shephard, Ward One

Commissioner Isaac Owens, Ward Three

Vacant, Ward Two