

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
November 1, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on November 1<sup>st</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	Royce Reeves, Sr., Commission Vice Chair
Vesta Beal-Shepard, Commissioner	Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Isaac Owens, Commissioner	Angela Redding, City Manager
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary	Tommy Coleman – City Attorney

**Staff present:** Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Augustus Telfair, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

**Media Present:** Deepayah Sinha - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Chris Lewis.

**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 Shephard.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – November 1, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for November 1, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – October 18, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Minutes for October 18, 2022; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES** – October 20, 2022: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES** – October 21, 2022: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

**SPEAKERS APPEARANCES:** Speakers will have five (5) minutes:

Mr. Benjamin Gatliff, 101 A E 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Cordele, GA, 31015: 5.16 (a) (b) (1) of the City of Cordele Charter. Mr. Gatliff stated that Section 5.16 of the City Charter, Removal of officers.

(a) The Chairperson, commission members, or other appointed officers provided for in this charter shall be removed from office for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted.

(b) Removal of an officer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be accomplished by one of the following methods.

By vote of three members of the commission or by the chairperson and two members of the commission after an investigative hearing.

Vice Chairman Reeves, Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens and Commissioner Rainey, it is your Charter responsibility to act on Section 5.16 of the City of Cordele Charter and remove the Chairperson from his seat for violating Title 45 multiple times.

Section 5.16 does not require that the official that is being removed be charge with a Title 45 violation or the official be found guilty of a Title 45 violation. The Charter simply states, that the officer shall be removed for any one or more of the causes provided in Title 45.

The Chairperson has repeatedly and without care continuously violated Title 45 throughout his term in office.

The Chairperson interrupts the City of Cordele Charter in twisted ways to solely fit the meaning that he wants and disregards the actual written words.

Commission Chair Deriso stated that he will correct one thing, he did not call a Meeting and it is continuously said and continue to slander, that is not what happen.

**SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:** Speaker will have three (3) minutes:

No Requests.

**PROCLAMATION:** Ms. Pearlle Mae Barner: The City of Cordele Commission recognized and honored Ms. Barner with a Proclamation for keeping the Community Clean in Sunset Homes.

**PROCLAMATION:** Ms. Carol Dawson: The City of Cordele Commission recognized and honored Ms. Dawson with a Proclamation for keeping the Community Clean in Sunset Homes.

**RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES – VETERANS:** The City of Cordele Commission and City Manager Angela recognized seventeen City employees for Veterans Day.

**WILLIAMS FIELD PRESENTATION –** Wimberly Treadwell, ASLA: Ms. Treadwell presented to the City Commission the Concept Design for Williams Park located on East 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pecan Street. The Cordele Community Park Design Elements Concept Plan consisted of Parking, Dog Park, Playground, Swings, Multi-Purpose Field, Multi-Purpose Courts, Walks, Wide Sidewalks, Rest Rooms, Infrastructure Improvements and an Amphitheater.

**City Attorney Tommy Coleman arrived at 6:15 p.m.**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:**

- 1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers Reported.**  
**Tax receipts for October**

**SPLOST**        \$212,136.34 (Received 10/25/22 for the month of August)  
**LOST**            \$230,872.00  
**TSPLOST**       \$30,000.00  
**Total of \$473,000 that was received in the month of October.**

The last LOST receipt was dated the 29<sup>th</sup>  
 TSPLOST is dated the last or the first day of the month for the last two receipts.

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

**Types of Activity        Number of Incidents Reported**

Fire alarm investigations	16
Rubbish fires	2
Vehicle fires	1
Grass fire	9
Smoke investigation	2
MVA	4
EMS assist call	2
Cancelled enroute calls	1
Power line arcing	2
Odor investigation	1
Woods fire	2
Stove fire	1
Structure fire	1
Automatic aid call	1
<b>Total calls for Service from Dispatch</b>	<b>45</b>

- a. October 24<sup>th</sup> the Cordele Fire Department joined City Officials and Staff outside of City Hall with Ladder – 3 in show of support for Breast Cancer Awareness month.
- b. October 25<sup>th</sup> the Cordele Fire Department hosted the Annual Fire Safety Certification Class for staff and residents at Woodvale Apartment located at 1301 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- c. October 27<sup>th</sup> the Cordele Fire Department participated in the Annual Downtown Trunk or Treat located in the 100 block of East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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

**a) CDBG 2020 Sewer Improvement Project:**

The Engineering Firm has submitted Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$183,421.05 as received from the Construction Contractor, ROI Underground, Inc. The Construction Contractor has purchased, received and stored some of the needed materials for the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Pumps and Sewer Line Improvements.

**b) CHIP 2018 GRANT Project:**

One of the CHIP Housing Rehab Contractor has completed the remodeling work for two of the four (4) homes on the CHIP DCA approved homes list.

**c) Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Committee:**

The EDRLF Committee has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM, to review a Loan Application received from Dr. Matthew Wayne Whitest, CEO of Wayne Pharmaceutical, Inc., requesting a loan for \$150,000.000. This loan is

needed for capital, supply purchases and the creation of four L/M staff positions. (A copy of the Display Notice to appear in the Cordele Dispatch Newspaper on November 1, 2022).

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

**Total Job Valuations:** \$43,000,000.00

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

**October 4, 2022** Updated and submitted the 2022 Q4 Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMSA) and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) rosters for drug and alcohol testing as required by state and federal requirements.

**October 6, 2022** Extended a conditional offer of employment to a Distribution Mechanic in the Water and Sewer Department. Anticipated start date is October 31, 2022.

**October 11, 2022** Held a kick-off call with John Helmantoler of Flock Benefits regarding the Paychex benefit administration module. Also began compiling information to build the module.

**October 17, 2022** Promoted an Equipment Operator to Foreman in the Street Department.

**October 21, 2022** Extended a conditional job offer to a Payroll Utility Back-up Clerk in the Finance Department. Anticipated start is November 14, 2022.

**October 25, 2022** Extended a conditional job offer to a Distribution Mechanic in the Water and Sewer Department.

Wellness Clinic is offering flu shots to all employees and dependents, free of charge.

**6. Police Department – Police Jalon Heard**

**Part I Crimes 40**

Motor Vehicle Thefts 2 (2 recovered)

Aggravated Assault 9 (2 arrests)

Larceny (Thefts) 27 (7 enter autos; 6 shoplifting w/3 arrests & 2 warrants issued; 14 other thefts)

Burglary 2 (2 residential w/1 arrest)

**Part II Crimes 107**

Incidents Reported 148

Community Contacts 24

Citations Issued 152

Warnings Issued 65

**Total Calls for Service 1209**

**Departmental News**

- a. The Department has three applicants currently in the hiring process. Two is for Patrol Officer and one is for the Corporal Position.
- b. A recruitment table will be set-up at the Lions Club during the Fair, which is November 1-5. We will provide information on open positions along with the benefits we offer.
- c. We are also assisting with setting up a Red Ribbon Booth at the Fair for Drugs Awareness.

- d. The Police Department is a member of Prevent Child Abuse Crisp Council. We have placed a donation box in the lobby of the Police Department to collect toys for Adopt an Angel Toy Drive. Toys for all ages are needed. The deadline for donations is December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- e. The Department is currently planning Shop with a Cop 2022, which will be on December 16, 2022.

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

- a. Christmas decorations maintenance is in progress. Installation of Christmas decorations will begin Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

**8. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.**

- a. Rainfall for the Month of October was  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch.
- b. Received an email from FEMA, where Mrs. Wright applied for four (4) generators after Hurricane Irma, late 2017 or early 2018. FEMA wants more information.
- c. The transfer switch at the Treatment Plant is almost gone.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Second Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of The City of Cordele, Georgia, to Designate Permissible Uses of Solar Electrical Systems; to Repeal all Ordinances in Conflict Therewith; and For Other Purposes. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Second Reading of an Ordinance Repealing Article XII of Chapter 2 of the City Code of the City of Cordele in its Entirety and Adopting a New Article XII of Chapter Entitled “Ethics”; Repealing All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Ethics Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioners Rainey and Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted nay.
3. Discuss of a Work Session for Changes to the Ethics Ordinance. Commissioner Owens moved to have a discussion for a Work Session for changes to the Ethics Ordinance; the motion failed for a lack of a second.
4. Consideration and Approval of an Alcohol License Application. Mr. Hubbard Lee Odums is applying for Beer Only – Consumed on Premises License. Business Name is Odums Pool Room, 412 West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, GA. Police Chief reviewed the Application on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Alcohol License; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**5. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:** City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

**Board Appointments**

The following Boards Needs 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

### **Logo Contest**

October 31<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for the logo contest. We received nineteen (19) submittals for the logo contest. City Manager Angela Redding will email the logos to the Commissioners to review.

### **Property Taxes**

The City of Cordele is in the process of preparing property tax bills.

### **Liens**

The City of Cordele is sending out notices to property owners with outstanding liens.

### **Website Committee**

Website Committee met in October. The next step in the process is to view demos from website companies.

### **Red Cross**

Upcoming Red Cross blood drive dates are November 8, 2022 and December 13, 2022.

### **Flag Poles at City Hall**

City Manager Angela Redding gave a special thanks to Wes for replacing the ropes, rollers, painting the flag poles and placing gold tops on each pole. The U. S. Flag has a new solar light mounted on top.

### **Election Day**

City Manager Angela Redding stated, November 8<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. Voting takes place in your assigned precinct from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Sample ballots were in the October 19<sup>th</sup> Cordele Dispatch and are located on the County website on the Election and Registration page.

Also, the State of Georgia offers a free Voter ID card. The Voter ID card can be issued at any county registrar's office or any Georgia Department of Driver Services office free of charge.

### **Veterans Day**

The City of Cordele will be closed Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in Observance of Veterans Day.

Commission Chair Deriso stated he would like to see the Board Appointments on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No Report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Legal Matters)

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Legal Matters at 6:50 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** Commissioner Shephard moved to reconvene the Meeting at 6:58 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the Meeting at 6:59 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVED