

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
August 2, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on August 2nd, 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
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney	

Staff present: Police Chief Jalon Heard, Irene Cantrell – HUD Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Jack Wood., Sr. Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Debbie Wright – UT&C Director, Cathy Mygrant – Asst. Finance Director, Bobby Stennett – Information Technology, Steve Fulford – Public Works Director/Asst. City Manager, Elaine Kent – Finance Consultant.

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: Prayer was rendered by Dr. Ruby Jackson.

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		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

Approval of Agenda – August 2, 2022: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Agenda for August 2, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 5, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Minutes of July 5, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was carried by the Commission.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2022: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso did not acknowledge the Meeting Minutes for July 19, 2022.

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

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

DOWNTOWN CORDELE QUARTERLY REPORT: Monica Rentfrow, Downtown Cordele Director – Mrs. Rentfrow did not appear, will present at the August 16, 2022 meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

1. Finance Department: Elaine Kent, Finance Consultant

No Report.

2. Fire Chief – Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.

Reporting Period: June 30 – July 27, 2022

Fire alarm investigations	5
Rubbish fires	1
Vehicle fires	1
Grass fire	3
Smoke investigation	1
MVA	4/1 with entrapment
EMS assist call	1
Cancelled enroute calls	4
Safety fire inspection report	1
Odor investigation	1
Dumpster fires	2
Lighten strike	1
Structure fire	1
Automatic aid call	1
Total calls for service	27

Department News

Cordele Fire Department has a fulltime Firefighter position available.

An extrication class has been scheduled for Cordele Fire Department, Tuesday, August 16th, and Wednesday, August 17th. This class is through the Georgia Fire Academy Training Division.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

a. CDBG 2020 Sewer Improvements Project:

We are continuing to move forward with the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements Project. The contracts have been executed by both parties, The City of Cordele and the Contractors, RPI Underground Inc. and have been forwarded onto Lanier Engineering, Inc, The Project Engineers.

b. Cordele Planning and Zoning Commission:

The Planning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing and Meeting for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 10:00 AM, to amend “The 1999 Zoning Ordinance” to authorize the use of the solar panels in limited circumstances.

c. Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Committee:

The EDRLF Committee was scheduled to meet on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., but the meeting was cancelled for the lack of a quorum.

d. The Cordele Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC):

The CHPC met on July 20, 2022, to review and consider an application from Ashton

Black, requesting to install a privacy fence in the rear and side yard at 816 East 15th Avenue. After a thorough review the CHPC approved Mr. Black's Application for Certificate For Preservation (CPI).

4. Codes Report – Jack Wood, Sr. Reported

Combined Total of Commercial/Residential:	\$27,185,063.00	Permit Fees:	\$30,712.00
**Sunset Homes Renovation	1,899,000.00	Permit Fees:	4,478.00

Enforcing Residential Codes: City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

Allocating areas of the City for each employee, as far as, Codes Compliance. The City will need at least one additional person. Mrs. Redding stated, she would like to schedule a Code Enforcement person for each Ward. That person is responsible for that Ward and they can continue to do an update, as to, the house. Mrs. Redding stated, she reached out to the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman to schedule a meeting with Code Enforcement, so a plan will be made for residential and commercial.

5. Personnel Director – David Wade Reported

Month of July, there was eight new hires.

July 11, 2022 Began gathering and compiling information to complete the annual GMEBS Retirement census.

July 14, 2022 Met with Jeff Cobb and Michael Shurley of Akin Insurance Agency to review the renewal of the City's Gas, Liability, Fleet and Cyber insurance policies.

July 27, 2022 Met with Susan Fuller of Crisp County High School to discuss their work-based Learning program.

Boy Scott Troup 270 was presented to the City of Cordele Commission.

6. Municipal Court: No Report.

7. Police Chief – Chief Heard Reported

Part I Crimes	39
Robberies	2
Motor Vehicle Thefts	2 (1 recovered; 1 juvenile arrest)
Aggravated Assault	11 (1 juvenile arrest and one warrant issued)
Larceny (Thefts)	22 (10 enter autos; 4 shoplifting w/2 arrests; 8 other thefts)
Burglary	2 (2 residential)
Part II Crimes	85
Incidents Reported	127
Community Contacts	10
Citations Issued	124
Warnings Issued	102
Total Calls for Service	1,156

Departmental News

The Cordele Police and Fire Departments hosted "Cordele Summerfest 2022", on August 1, 2022, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., at the Community Clubhouse.

National Faith & Blue Weekend October 7-10, 2022.

8. Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported

July 27, 2022: Pre-construction conference on the 2022 LMIG.
Truck Stop of America: putting installation Truck Stop on Exit 300.
New road in Bethel Cemetery Annex.

August 3, 2022: There is a pre-construction conference on the installation of the Sewer System at McCleod Subdivision.

9. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.

The work on Digester #1 is going very well. We have lowered the level in Digester #2 so we will be able to drain it faster when they complete Digester #1. We must have 1 Digester in service at all times.

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

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Swearing-In to serve on the Ethics Committee.

a) Crandall Postell

Commission Chair Joshua Deriso changed his appointee to the Ethics Committee, which was Devontae Hunt. Devontae Hunt was sworn in to serve on the City of Cordele Ethics Committee by Commission Chair Joshua Deriso.

2. Consider request to approve the reappointments to the Cordele Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as requested by Beth NeSmith – Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Cordele:

a) Mary Beal – Reappointed as a Commissioner to succeed herself for a five-year term beginning September 18, 2022 and expiring September 18, 2027.

b) Mattie Gwyn – Reappointed as a Resident Commissioner to succeed herself for a one-year term beginning September 18, 2022 and expiring on September 18, 2023.

Commission Chair Deriso stated “The issues I have with number “a” is that particular person is not a City resident, they live in the County.”

Beth NeSmith - Director of the Housing Authority, stated, “our bylaws does not require them to live in the City.

Commission Chair Deriso: “Do you need the City to make this appointment?”

Beth NeSmith: “Yes, we do.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Well, we’re not interested in appointing anybody that does not reside in the City; our Charter make clear guides to that. So, you gonna have to have somebody else that actually is a resident of the City. It makes no sense for them to represent the City and they don’t reside in the City. But we can go ahead and reappoint Mrs. Mattie.”

Motion: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the reappointment of Mattie Gwyn as a Resident Commissioner of the Cordele Housing Authority Board; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the approval of Mattie Gwyn only, was approved by the Commission.

3. Consider request from Colony Bank to appoint Jeffrey Hester to the Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee.

Background and Summary

Robert “Bob” Evans retired from Colony Bank on June 30, 2022. This agenda item is to consider the request for Jeffrey Hester to replace Bob Evans on the EDRLF Committee. The current composition of the Board is a Banker, CPA, City Manager, City Commissioner and City Attorney. Irene Cantrell serves as Secretary. Commissioner Shephard moved to replace Bob Evans with Jeffrey Hester on the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF) Committee; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the recommendation was approved by the Commission.

4. Nomination to the Ethics committee.

Commission Chair Joshua Deriso stated this person he is nominating to serve on the City of Cordele Ethics Committee has to be approved by the Commission. Commission Chair Deriso nominated Comesha Battle, seventh grade Science teacher at Crisp County Middle School, to serve on the Ethics Committee.

Commissioner Owens moved for Comesha Battle to serve on the Ethics Committee; the motion failed for the lack of a second. Commission Chair Deriso asked for a roll call vote on this matter.

City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated, “there is no vote, there is no second.”

Commission Chair Deriso stated, “I can still ask questions, I did not recognize you, so I am asking you to hush”.

City Attorney Coleman stated, “I am telling you anyways.”

Commission Chair Deriso stated, “this is my meeting”.

City Attorney Coleman asked, “who do you think you are?”

Commission Chair Deriso stated, “you can leave then sir.”

City Attorney Tommy Coleman left the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

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

City Manager Angela Redding thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and the vendors for the Summerfest.

Financial Report on Special Revenues for August 2, 2022

LOST \$244,125.61 received on 7/29/2022 (June 2022)

TSPLOST \$30,637.92 received on 07/29/2022 (June 2022)

Public Hearing – Solar Ordinance

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the Solar Panel Ordinance on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 10 AM.

CSX Rail Crossings

CSX will be installing new rail at the following crossing in Cordele.

- Third Street
- Second Street
- First Street
- S. Pecan Street

The project is expected to begin August 15th.

Waste Management

Per the agreement with Waste Management, we have been notified of the annual Consumer Price Index adjustment, which increases the rate WM charge the City for residential garbage and yard waste. The Facility where Waste Management operates is leased from the City. Also in the agreement is a clause that authorizes the City to annual increase the rental payment for any increase in the CPI over the past year. Based on the current lease payment from Waste Management, the City has not acted on this clause in the contract, since the inception of the agreement in 2005. Mrs. Redding stated she sent Waste Management a notice that their lease payment to the City will increase by the same Consumer Price Index (CPI) that they increased the City rates for residential garbage and yard waste. The first Check will be in August, because July 18th is when the City looks at the Consumer Price Index.

Record Restriction Clinic – Cordele Judicial Circuit

Last day to pre-register is August 3, 2022 between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wilcox County Court House, 103 N. Broad Street in Abbeville. The record restriction will be held August 20, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Tabatha Ponder at tabithat.ponder@georgiacourts.gov or Latoinna Lawrence at latoinna.lawrence@georgiacourts.gov.

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

Attached to your report is the Building Maintenance Code from another City that they have in place to prevent and remedy boarding up windows. If the Commission can take a look at this item.

Website Committee Meeting

Website Committee Meeting will be held in August to begin the process of updating the website.

City Logo Updated

Mrs. Redding stated, since school is back in session, she plans to reach out to middle and high school students, because the City's Logo is in desperate need of being updated. We can have a contest with the students and then award a prize based on the logo the Commission will select.

Policies Presented

Policies that will be presented to the Commission within the next few weeks is a purchasing Policy, as well as a travel and expense reimbursement policy for employees. The current per diem that is in place for employees is just a flat rate, it's less than some other smaller Cities.

6. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** City Attorney Tommy Coleman was not present to give his report.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Legal Matters):
Commission Chair Joshua Deriso requested that the Commission go into Executive Session to cover litigation. Commissioner Owens moved to go into Executive Session to cover litigation; the motion failed for a lack of a second.
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVED