

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 1, 2023**

The City of Cordele Commission held a Regular Meeting on August 1, 2023 at 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair  
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner  
Isaac Owens – Commissioner  
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney

Royce Reeves, Sr., Commission Vice Chair  
Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner  
Angela Redding – City Manager  
Janice Mumphery – Recording Secretary

**Staff present:** Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Alligood, Lin Mercer – Codes Department, David Wade – Human Resource Director, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk.

**Staff absent:** Jack Wood, Sr - Chief Codes Official.

**Media Present:** Ricky Smarr - South GA TV; Sarah Brown – Cordele Dispatch

**Call to Order:** Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** There was a moment of silent 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-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – August 1, 2023: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for August 1, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the minutes were approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – July 18, 2023: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Minutes for July 18, 2023; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the minutes were approved by the Commission.

**PRESENTATION:** Monica Rentfrow, Downtown Director – Quarterly Report.

Mrs. Rentfrow gave highlights of her report:

Two new businesses downtown:

1. Shalom Furniture - 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the old Golden Gallery location.
2. Jamaica Jerky - 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the old building of Hometown Deli.

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Autism Stroll went very well.

New event in May and June – A Yoga in the Park at Perlis Park.

Perlis Park rededication in June.

Rail Fan – Economic Impact for the second quarter was \$6,000.00; to date \$525,000.

SAM Shortline had 7300 attendees for Thomas Event, which was held for three weekends in June.

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

- a. Mr. Milton Holly - Landlord, Cordele, GA: Impurities in potable water, process of purging system & being charged for water.

Mr. Holly stated his tenants are complaining about what they consider to be impurities in the water. Mr. Holly request is to have someone from the City to look into this issue.

Commissioner Owens requested for Debbie Wright - Utilities Director, to look into this problem.

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**1. FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rusty Bridgers Reported.**

**LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (LOST)**

<u>Received</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Collected</u>
9/30/2022	218,847.17	August
10/31/2022	230,872.11	September
11/30/2022	228,292.88	October
12/29/2022	228,919.79	November
1/30/2023	237,469.63	December
2/27/2023	213,693.35	January
3/30/2023	204,834.30	February
4/28/2023	247,792.98	March
5/30/2023	218,788.37	April
6/29/2023	225,004.69	May
7/28/2023	<b>247,284.48</b>	June

**SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (SPLOST)**

<u>Received</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Collected</u>
09/25/2022	235,043.57	July
10/25/2022	212,136.34	August
11/23/2022	223,016.01	September
12/19/2022	221,910.45	October
1/30/2023	222,089.70	November
2/24/2023	228,904.97	December
3/28/2023	207,086.70	January
4/24/2023	198,730.99	February
5/22/2023	240,741.01	March
5/20/2023	211,944.08	April
7/31/2023	<b>218,103.45</b>	May

**TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (TSPLOST)**

<b><u>Received</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Collected</u></b>
9/30/2022	29,444.86	August
10/31/2022	30,007.53	September
11/30/2022	28,683.20	October
12/30/2022	29,474.82	November
1/31/2023	33,427.28	December
2/28/2023	26,894.52	January
3/31/2023	28,042.50	February
4/28/2023	31,510.17	March
5/31/2023	28,935.47	April
6/30/2023	29,283.20	May
8/1/2023	<b>30,741.24</b>	June
<b>Total Collected in June 2023</b>		<b>\$ 495,859.17</b>

**2. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Fire Chief Todd Alligood Reported.  
Reporting Period: June 27, 2023 – July 26, 2023**

**Calls for Service: Total 53**

<b>STRUCTURE FIRE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>GRASS FIRE/OTHER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VEHICLE FIRE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RUBBISH FIRE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FIRE ALARM</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SMOKE SCARE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MEDICAL ASSIST</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CHEST PAINS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>POWER LINE DOWN</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ASSIST POLICE</b>	<b>6</b>

**Department News**

- Looking forward to the delivery of Ladder 1 on August 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Push-In Ceremony, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 AM, at Station Number 1.
- Chief Alligood appointed Frank Bullington to the Deputy Chief position. Excited for him and our department. It is long overdue. We will have a formal ceremony at a later date.
- Completed maintenance on stations except for painting the outside of Station 1 and that will be completed in the Fall.
- Completed the joint Mass Casualty/Active Shooter Training on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Good training and great to work with the other agencies in our County/City.

- Deputy Chief Bullington and Fire Chief Allgood are inspecting local hotels for life safety compliance. Looking at smoke detectors in rooms, fire extinguishers up to date, exit signs in proper areas and properly lit. State Fire Marshal's Office does these inspections as well but, as the authority having jurisdiction, we want to put our eyes on these items.
- Still have many of our firefighters attending training classes at GPSTC and Chief Allgood is excited about that, this makes us better when mitigating emergency situations.
- Purchased an EV Fire Blanket. We have (5) EV charging stations in Cordele. The blanket allows us to contain a lithium battery fire and protect exposures. The blanket is reusable.
- Have changed the numbering of our two (2) engines to reflect their station assignments.  
Engine 5 is now Engine 1 and is housed at Station 1  
Engine 9 is now Engine 2 and is housed at Station 2

**3. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – Irene Cantrell Reported.**

**CORDELE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

The 2023 Historic Preservation Commission Evaluation Report is in preparation.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOANS:**

Hobo Café' – First Loan

Hobo Café' – Second Loan

Ray Ray's Restaurant

The Grant Building

R & D Lawncare

**Note:** To date, there has been no one requesting an EDRL Loan Application.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:**

There have not been any requests submitted to the BZA Board for conditional use variances.

**CHIP 2018 GRANT PROGRAM:**

The CHIP 2018 Rehab Grant Program has successfully completed two (2) homes. We are anticipating a memo from the DCA office to proceed with the next home, per our Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Grant Administrator.

**CORDELE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:**

The Planning and Zoning Commission is in the process of scheduling a public hearing regarding an amendment to "The 1999 Zoning Ordinance" considering the placing of Manufactured Homes that the main door or entry way must face a public street.

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Planning Commission Meeting at 10:00 AM, regarding the placing of Manufactured Homes with entry way facing a public street.

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Board of Zoning and Appeals Meeting at 11:00 AM, regarding amending the sizes of signs that are being put up.

**CDBG 2020 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:**

Lanier Engineering Firm has advised that the Contractor is about 85% complete with the installation of the sewer line improvements within the McLeod Subdivision.

**4. CODES REPORT: Lin Mercer Reported.**

**Pending Jobs:**

**Single-Family Home:** 1502 Fleming Road. Plans approved. Waiting on Contractor to pick-up permit.

**5. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT: David Wade Reported.**

June 29, 2023	Completed and submitted the annual Department of Community Affairs Wage and Salary Survey.
July 03, 2023	Received the MOU for the upcoming GMA Workforce Needs Assessment. MOU is currently under review.
July 14, 2023	Began accepting in-house and external applications for the vacant Community Advancement Manager position.
July 13, 2023	Met with Michael Shurley of Akin Insurance regarding proposals for the upcoming liability insurance renewal.
July 25, 2023	Met with Jan Hoard of Corvel to conduct a Worker's Compensation experience and claims review.
July 26, 2023	Completed and submitted a payroll census required to conduct the Compensation and Classification Study.

Chair Joshua Deriso inquired about the vacancy in Community Development. David Wade stated it is the Engineer Position.

**6. MUNICIPAL COURT: Jackie Walker Reported.**

Monthly Court Summary Report – July 2023

Total Traffic Cases: 292

Total Criminal Cases: 35

Total Court Cases: 327

Bench Warrants Ordered – 18

License Suspension Ordered- 71

Total Cash Bonds, Fines, Deposits from CSRA, Deposits from CSRA Pretrial Sentences, Deposits from Restitution, Deposits from Web Payments Collected: **\$37,783.23**

Total Defendants Incarcerated 0

Total Days Jail Sentenced 0

**7. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.**

**Reporting Time – June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Part I Crimes**

Robberies (Armed By Force/Strong Arm)	1 (Mitchell's Bait/Tackle)
Aggravated Assault	4 (1 arrest)
Larceny (Thefts)	19 (1 entering autos, 8 shoplifting w/5 arrests & 1 warrant issued 10 other thefts)
Burglary	4 (2 residential; 1 mini storage, 1 business)
<b>Part II Crimes</b>	<b>59</b>
Incidents Reported	131
Community Contacts	77
Citations Issued	32
Warnings Issued	25
Total Calls for Service	1,1104

### Departmental News

The Department, along with the Cordele Fire Department is working on the planning of Cordele Summerfest 2023. This event will be held at the Community Clubhouse on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 2 PM. We are welcoming vendors and food trucks to participate. If interested, call Christy to reserve a spot at (229) 276-2921.

Chief Heard attended the GACP (Georgia Association Chief of Police) Summer Conference in Savannah.

The Police Department currently have two cadets in the Police Academy and one certified candidate in the hiring process.

Looking at promoting a Lieutenant within the Department; the Lieutenant will be over Code Enforcement and will move the Department towards State Certification.

### 8. PUBLIC WORKS – Steve Fulford Reported.

Proposals for Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection Services were opened on July 31, 2023. There were five (5) different companies that submitted proposals, they will be analyzed and brought to the Commission for recommendations.

Advertisement for Bids on 2023 LMIG Projects, the Bids will be opened on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### 9. UT&C – Debbie Wright Reported.

One of the shafts on our CRP broke and it was repaired. The pump was also pulled for inspection and a spare was installed in its place.

Debbie Wright responded to Mr. Holly's concerns regarding impurities in the water. She stated that the City has six (6) deep wells and the wells pumps water from a limestone aquifer, so the water is naturally hard. The water is not harmful, the only thing is when it is heated (in a hot water heater, coffee pot) the lime precipitates out, this is called calcium carbonate, it is considered hard. Debbie Wright made suggestions to put in an in-line water softer, it will help. Debbie Wright stated the Treatment Plant can flush out the hydrant near his property once a week to see if this helps; she does not think it will, but they will give it a try.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Consider and Approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance Establishing an Entertainment District in the City of Cordele; Providing for Specialty Cups for the Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages in the Entertainment District; Regulating the Consumption of Alcohol off Premises in the Entertainment District; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Shephard moved to Approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance Establishing an Entertainment District; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Owens had stepped out of the Meeting.

The motion was approved with 3/1 vote.

2. Consider and Approve a Memorandum of Agreement between Georgia City Solutions and the City of Cordele, Georgia, for a Municipal Workforce Development Strategy Development and Job Recruitment Consulting Project.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Georgia City Solutions and the City of Cordele; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye.

The motion was approved by the Commission.

**Background Information**

The City of Cordele received an invitation to participate in GMA/Georgia Cities Solution Municipal Workforce Needs Assessment. Participating cities will receive technical assistance in conducting a workforce needs assessment, leading to the development of a strategy that identifies action items to be implemented to strengthen the city's workforce development efforts. Once the assessment is complete, participating cities will receive assistance in developing a talent recruitment communication strategy using a recruitment tool developed by GMA. There is no cost to the city except staff time and meals for the 2 to 3 onsite meetings during the needs assessment phase. David Wade, HR Director has been designated as the primary liaison to work with GMA/GCS on this project.

3. Consider and Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Safebuilt Georgia, LLC to Provide Code Enforcement Services.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye.

The motion was approved by the Commission.

**Background Information**

During budget meetings, approval was granted to hire Code Enforcement Officers. Safebuilt Georgia, LLC can provide this service. Safebuilt Georgia, LLC will provide a code enforcement officer to work twenty (20) hours a week to supplement current staff. Additionally, Safebuilt Georgia, LLC will provide the vehicle and uniform for the code enforcement officer.

**4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Angela Redding Reported.**

**Home Depot Rebate Check**

The annual rebate check from Georgia Municipal Association for participating in the Home Depot Government Solutions program was received in July. By participating in the program, the city receives special discounts, free shipping on orders over \$100, volume pricing, and an annual three (3) percent rebate. The amount of the rebate check is \$503.28.

**RFP – Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services**

Proposals were due July 31<sup>st</sup>. Five (5) proposals were received.

**Push In Ceremony – Ladder Truck**

The new ladder truck is scheduled to be delivered on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. The official Push-In Ceremony will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

**New Businesses**

1. Shalom Furniture  
205 E 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite A
2. Two Girls One Dream  
702 Broad Street, Suite C
3. Oliver Boys Cleaning Service  
302 W 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite F
4. MIP Multimedia, LLC  
106 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street

**Classification and Compensation Study**

The consultant will hold meetings this week with staff to explain how the Study will be conducted.

City Manager Angela Redding stated, she found World Atlas 11 – Adorable Small Towns in Georgia, and the City of Cordele was listed at the top of the list for Adorable Small Towns in Georgia. If anyone would like to look at other Cities on the list, they can be found at [www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com).

**5. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Tommy Coleman Reported.**

The owners of the Georgia Peanut Gin went to Court on July 24<sup>th</sup> and was ordered to abate the nuisance and fix the tin in two weeks.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate):** There was no Executive Session.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Shephard moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:41 AM; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.