

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
December 6, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on December 6th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th 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	

Absent: 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, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Teddy Hubbard – Water Superintendent.

Staff absent: Debbie Wright.

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 Rainey.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – December 6, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for December 6, 2022; seconded by Commission Vice Chair; the motion was approved by the Commission.

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

APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES – November 3, 2022: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES – November 7, 2022: Commission Chair Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES – December 1, 2022: Commission Chair Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

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

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers Reported.

- a) LOST receipt of \$228,292.88 on 11/18/22 for October
- b) SPLOST receipt of \$223,016.01 on 11/29/22 for September
- c) TSPLOST receipt of \$28,683.20 on 11/30/22 for October

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

Reporting Period: October 25, 2022 to November 30, 2022

Calls for Service- Numerical Breakdown

Types of Activity	Number of Incidents Reported
Fire alarm investigations	18
Rubbish fires	5
Vehicle fire call	1
Grass fire calls	3
Smoke investigation calls	3
MVA calls	6
Unattended cooking	1
Cancelled enroute calls	2
Natural gas leak calls	2
Carbon dioxide investigation call	1
Electrical fire calls	2
Elevator entrapment	1
Structure fire	1
Automatic aid call	0
Total calls for Service from Dispatch	46

Department News

- a. Cordele fire Department still working to fill three firefighter positions in the fire department.
- b. Cordele Fire Department received notice from Georgia Public Safety Training Center that James Conner Smith has been accepted for Basic Firefighter Training Course. Start date January 06, 2023.

- c. The week of November 28 – December 16, 2022 the fire department will be out pre – fire planning city businesses as part of ISO requirement.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

- a. **CORDELE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:**
The Cordele Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled a public hearing and meeting for Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., to consider a zoning amendment request from BINGO, LLC (Kavish M. Patel, Mgr. and Sole Member). The property owner is requesting that a tract of land located at 502 East 16th Avenue, Suites A-G, All of Lots 4 and 5, Parts of Lots 1 and 3, in Block 134, be amended from (OI) Office and Institutional District to (HC) Highway Commercial District.
- b. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE:**
The EDRLF Committee has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., to consider additional documents submitted via Dr. Mathew Whitest regarding his Loan Application for Wayne Pharmaceutical, Inc., requesting \$150K Loan for needed capital, supply purchases, and the creation of four L/M staff positions.
- c. **CDBG 2020 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:**
The Construction Contractor, RPI Underground, Inc. continues to make progress with the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements and per the Project Engineer the project is about 15% complete.
- d. **CHIP 2018 GRANT PROJECT:**
The Grant Administrator has requested the final inspection list on the two homes that were recently completed by the Rehab Housing Contractor and within about two weeks we should be ready to start on the next home on the CHIP DCA’s approved Homes List.

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

Commercial Construction Projects – Job Valuation: \$29,428,874.00
Residential Construction Projects – Job Valuation: \$13,633,187.00
Total Combined Commercial/Residential: \$43,062,061.00

5. Human Resources: David Wade Reported.

- November 01, 2022** Assisted Wimberly Treadwell with a tour of City Hall for evaluating potential physical improvements and more efficient use of the existing facilities.
- November 01, 2022** Attended the Georgia Local Government Personnel Association (GLGPA) fall conference at Calloway Gardens. Topics included Effective Performance Appraisal Systems, Discipline & Grievances and Legal Updates.
- November 09, 2022** Held an active shooter training class, conducted by the Police Department, for all employees at City Hall.
- November 14, 2022** Completed and submitted the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program Census for the January 1, 2023 renewal.

6. Municipal Court: Jackie Walker Reporting.

Total Traffic Cases 237
Total Criminal Cases 44

Total Court Cases	281
Bench Warrants Ordered	18
License Suspensions Ordered	32
Total Funds	\$47,502.06

Police Department – Police Jalon Heard

Part I Crimes	44
Homicide/Murder	1
Rape	0
Robberies	1
Motor Vehicle Thefts	3
Aggravated Assault	8 (2 arrests)
Larceny (Thefts)	25 (5 enter autos; 11 shoplifting w/10 arrests, 9 other thefts)
Burglary	6 residential (1 arrest)
Part II Crimes	199
Incidents Reported	162
Community Contacts	73
Citations Issued	201
Warnings Issued	158
Total Calls for Service	1,562

Departmental News

- a. 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 9th.
- b. The Department is currently planning Shop with a Cop 2022, which will be on December 16, 2022.

7. Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported.

No updates.

8. UC&T – Teddy Hubbard Reported.

Water Treated

Year to Date 531,142,300 gallons * 1.747 MGD average

Wastewater Treated

Year to Date 754,950,000 gallons * 2.483 MGD average

Total Sludge 2022 365.52 tons of sludge via Dump Truck

Total Rainfall for 2022 is 32.80

- a. Water restrictions put in place in 2010 are still in effect and have not changed. This allows for daily outdoor watering between the hours of 4pm and 10am.
- b. The well pump motor at 24th Ave Well burnt up. Several years back we had the foresight to purchase a spare motor that will fit 4 of our 6 wells. We had the well back up and running in 2 days.
- c. We changed out 2 telescopic valves in the Secondary Clarifiers. We still need to replace a couple of drain valves that have failed.

- d. Our WWTP Effluent sample for November was Not Detected for Heptaclor and Cyanide.
- e. We had a near disaster at the elevated tank at Pateville Rd, when they were repairing the light fixture on the top of the tank the conduit the wires run in came loose and fell. About a 100 ft. of conduit fell to the ground.

- f. We have started checking well levels once a month. Well levels have dropped 20 feet since April. Most well levels stabilized in July 2022.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration and Approval of Addendum Number Four to the City of Cordele Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Contracts between the City of Cordele, Georgia and Waste Management. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve Addendum Number Four; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: Name of the Event is Holiday Trains. Name of Organizer, Monica Rentfrow – Downtown Cordele and Chris Lockwood – SAM Shortline. December 9-10 and 17, 2022, 4:00 – 9:00 PM. Special request to close 9th Avenue from 7th to 6th Street. Organizer has their own barricades. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve an Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
3. Consideration and Approval an Event Permit: Food Truck Friday. Name of Organizer: Monica Rentfrow, Downtown Cordele Director. Event will be held on December 9, 2022, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM, at the Cordele Community Clubhouse at 105 East 15th Avenue. Organizer has their own barricades. Commissioner Owens moved to approve an Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: Community Event – Family Engagement. Name of Organizer: Crisp County Community Council, Monica Robinson – Executive Director, 1129 N. 5th St. Ext. Event will be held on December 11, 2022, 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM at the Cordele Community Clubhouse. Special Requests: to block off East 15th Ave. from 6th St. to 7th St. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Discussion of a Youth Commission – Commission Vice Chairman Royce Reeves, Sr. Commissioner Shephard moved to have a discussion on a Youth Commission; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.
Commission Chair Deriso stated, he is not in favor of having a Youth Commission, but he is in favor of having a Youth Apprenticeship for at risk children.
Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated, he is in favor of having a Youth Commission; he thinks high school children’s and young adults are the ones that should come in to create this Council and inform and enlighten the Commission on what they want from the City.

Commissioner Shephard stated there is a Youth Council in the City of Dublin that has been very active over the years, and they have been encouraging other Cities to form Youth Councils. She stated that she would like for someone from the Dublin Youth Council or some of the other existing Youth Councils to come and present to this body and let this body know what their directions are because this is something new to the City of Cordele.

Commissioner Owens stated, when City Manager Angela Redding and he were in Savannah, they were a part of the youth presentation that youth presented. The Dublin part did come up, but he thinks the combination of both of what is being stated, the Council and the Apprenticeship will mold together. They got a chance to see City Government in action, they were not

necessarily in that roll, they were there to learn the positions and the ins and outs of it and he thinks that gave them a stronger feel. Commissioner Owens stated he was in favor of it, at that time. He stated that he thinks the combination was both of them, but it gave more to the structuring of everything.

Commissioner Rainey stated he thinks David Wade, Personnel Director, has been talking with Susan about a work base learning program. He stated that he sees definite value in the work base learning program.

After a brief discussion to form a Youth Commission and to bring in a representative of a Youth Commission to make a presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Shephard moved to form a Youth Commission and to bring in a representative; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye; Commissioners Shephard and Rainey – aye; Commissioner Owens – abstained.

6. Discussion on the Homeless in Cordele – Commission Vice Chairman Royce Reeves, Sr. Commissioner Shephard moved to discuss the homeless in Cordele; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

Commissioner Reeves stated he would like to see the City partner with Dravian McGill, Dr. Whitest, Churches and volunteers to see if it would be feasible to help Dr. Whitest or Dravian McGill, to help our homeless.

Commissioner Shephard stated, as far as going to one of the schools, the facilities are not equipped for the homeless, they would have to be renovated because of the structure of those buildings.

Monica Robinson, Crisp County Community Council Executive Director: Mrs. Robinson stated she would like to encourage the Commission to come to the collaborative meetings, it is every first Thursday of the month at 8:30 AM. She stated that the Council does have a new homeless collaborative; they are attempting to help with the homelessness in the County, but everyone is needed for this. Mrs. Robinson stated she needs the Commission ideas and everyone needs to come together.

Commission Chair Deriso stated he thinks it is an excellent plan, but we need to come together with Crisp County Community Council, the Churches, the faith-based organization and non-profits, not only talking about it, but getting a location, also dedicate some money. There needs to be a broader County Meeting with the interesting parties. A Workshop, not in the City, not in the County, but a place where we all can come together and decide on some things and make some commitments.

Commissioner Shephard asked to invite West Central Georgia Community Action Council to be on this Committee, they serve nine Counties.

7. Discussion on business licenses and penalties for persons who receive complaints about unfair practices from these businesses – Commissioner Isaac Owens
Commissioner Owens moved to discuss business licenses and penalties; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commission Owens stated he has received several complaints about a business not doing work that is needed to be done. The biggest problem is once they go back to reclaim their vehicle, the work has not been done and this person continues to run a business and maintain a business

license for the City of Cordele. Commissioner Owens stated that if a business is not being run correctly, the City should not renew their business license.

City Manager Angela Redding stated she will have more information about the business at the next Meeting.

8. Consideration and Approval of the Master Services Agreement and Service Advantage Lite Work Order with VC3 to provide computer system and network maintenance, software, consulting and professional services. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve this item; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
9. Consideration and Approval of the Dedicated Internet & Voice Bundle Agreement with AT&T. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Dedicated Internet & Voice Bundle Agreement with AT&T; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
10. Consideration and Approval of the Display Agreement with ALLSOUTH OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, INC. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Display Agreement with ALLSOUTH OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, INC.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
11. Discussion of a Mayor form of government. Commission Chairman Joshua Deriso
A resolution to the Georgia General Assembly for a ballot referendum to change Cordele government form to a Mayor-City Council-City Administrator form.
Commissioner Owens moved to discuss the Mayor form of government; the motion failed for a lack of a second.
12. Discussion of Civility of the Commission Body. Commission Chairman Joshua Deriso
Commissioner Owens moved to discuss the Civility of the Commission Body; the motion failed for a lack of a second.

14. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

Property Taxes

Property tax bills will be mailed in the next two weeks.

Business License Renewals

Business license renewals have been mailed and we are receiving payments for renewals.

Alcohol License Renewals

The application to renew an alcohol license is due by 5 Pm on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 to be placed on the December 20th agenda for approval. All alcohol licenses expire on December 31, 2022.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on December 15, 2022 to amend the Zoning from Office/Institutional to Highway Commercial for property on East 16th Avenue and December 22, 2022 to amend the zoning from Office/Institutional to Highway Commercial on East 16th Avenue from 5th Street to Fleming and to receive comments on the Loft Ordinance for the Central Business District, respectively.

Approval of 2023 Holiday Schedule. (Schedule is attached).

Commission Vice Chair moved to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule; seconded by Commissioner Owens; 2023 Holiday Schedule is approved by the Commission.

Approval of request to Donate Labor and Equipment from Crisp County Power Commission – Standard Field (Attached):

Commissioner Owens moved to send the letter requesting the Crisp County Power To donate labor and equipment; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Christmas Holidays

The City of Cordele will be closed Friday, December 22, 2022 and Monday, December 26, 2022 For Christmas Holidays.

15. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: No Report.

16. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Shephard moved to adjourn the Meeting at 6:56 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.