

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
JULY 20, 2021

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on July 20th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

John Wiggins, Commission Chair	Jeanie Bartee, Vice Chair
Royce Reeves, Commissioner	Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Roland McCarthy, City Manager
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary	Tommy Coleman, Attorney

Staff present: David Wade, Irene Cantrell,

Others Present: Velesia Grant, Charlie Butts, Shuyron Macan, Devontae Hunt, Jennifer Lassen, Vinay Patel, Angenette Lockett.

Media present: Ricky Smarr – South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee.

Call to Order: Commission Chair John Wiggins called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Rev. Ricky Smarr.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Work Session Minutes – July 6, 2021: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Work Session Minutes, July 6, 2021; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval of Agenda – July 20, 2021: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Agenda for July 20, 2021; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Public Hearing Opened by Commission Chair John Wiggins
Suspension/Revocation of a Business License for Joe's Meat Market located
at 1305 South Joe Wright Drive, Cordele, Georgia.

City Manager, Roland McCarthy stated the latest incident that occurred at Joe's Meat Market was a shooting, which occurred on June 28, 2021, at 8:33 p.m., with two arrested. Mr. McCarthy stated, the Cordele Police Department has spoken with Joe and he has not done what is required of him. The City Ordinance states, repeated failure of the holder of the license or the employee agents of service of the business in such license is utilized, promptly control and prevent within or upon the premises of such business, any of the following activities or conduct: fighting, disorderly conduct, utilization of controlled substances, indecent conduct, excessive noise. The items listed have all been violated. The request is to revoke the Alcohol License of Joe's Meat Market. Listed below are the twenty incidents and dates:

April 2021 – Theft by receiving stolen property/Apprehension of a wanted person.

January 2021 – Entering an auto

December 2020 – Discharging a firearm within City Limits.

December 2019 – Robbery/Assault

November 2019 – Assault

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October 2019 – Security inspection due to a complaint of selling drugs

September 2019 – Disorderly conduct/baggy pant violation

August 2019 – Hit and run/driving without a license

July 2019 – Open container in public

June 2019 – Assault

May 2019 – Theft by taking

January 2019 – Financial transaction card fraud

December 2018 – Criminal trespass

December 2018 – Murder

November 2018 – Battery

October 2018 – Apprehension of a wanted person

October 2018 – Criminal trespass

August 2018 – Open container in public

Commissioner Reeves asked: Of all those twenty-one complaints, how many of those, did Joe actually take part in?

City Manager, Roland McCarthy responded: They happened on Joe's property and he is responsible.

Commissioner Reeves asked: They steal at Wal-Mart every day, are we asking to close them?

City Manager, Roland McCarthy responded: This is not to close the business, I am asking to revoke his Alcohol License, but it is left up to the Commission if they wish do this, but I feel this need to be done.

Commissioner Reeves stated: There is a "No Loitering" sign at Joe's place of business, we would not have twenty-one complaints, if the Police Department had done their job. Commissioner Reeves stated, "I don't think we should take Joe's license, because of the complaints, I think the law needs to get on their job."

Commission Chair John Wiggins requested for Joe Patel to come forward.

***Joe Patel was not present, but his son Vinay Patel was present to represent Joe's Meat Market.

Vinay Patel stated: The store is under my brother's name; he is the one that owns it; my dad just works there. If you all want to talk to someone it would have to be my brother, I understand that you all have talked with him. I understand that stuff have happened on our property that is not under our control and we should call the cops. There are certain things that you all are saying, if we call the cops on a regular basis, then things will happen. Mr. Patel stated, he understands that City's views, I understand the other views, there are a lot of good customers over there and people, but there are certain people that make the area look bad, but it is not our fault and it is not the good people's fault. Mr. Patel stated that the family is not financial stable at this time to close the business. The family's plans were to close the store down in two to three years, whether the Commission decides, it is on the Commission. Mr. Patel stated that all they want is enough time to relocate; they are moving to AJ's, which is located in Downtown, if anyone else wants to rent the store after they relocate, it is fine. Mr. Patel stated it is time for them to progress into their lives, whatever is decided it is fine, they just want time to relocate.

Commissioner Reeves asked: How much time do they need? Mr. Patel stated about six months or until the end of the year. Commissioner John Wiggins recapitulated what Mr. Patel stated, "You said, you didn't have any control over what's going on up there?" Mr. Patel replied; "we asked the guys to move from inside the store; they use to hang inside the store, then they went outside the store and we

asked them to move outside the store and they moved to the side of the building, where the carwash is located. We asked the guy that owns the little car wash hut to remove it, this past week with all what is going on, he said, that he will move that car port sometime this week.

Commissioner Shephard stated: On numerous of times, Joe has supported people in that area; when someone dies, Joe has helped to bury people in that area; Joe has supplied food items to the people. So, Joe is not all bad, he has good intentions. What goes on, on the outside, I know he cannot control it.

Commission Chair, John Wiggins asked Mr. Patel, if he had called the Police before?

Mr. Patel stated, no, I have not been up there in years. Commission Chair Wiggins asked had any family member called the Police? Mr. Patel stated that when his "Mom" was working there, when something happened, they would call the Police.

Commissioner Rainey stated that this is a store, not a bar; what percentage of the gross sales is alcohol; Mr. Patel replied, a very large percentage.

Commissioner Shephard suggested having a blue-light area (high crime area); that area will have more officers dispatched there.

***Mr. Patel requested for the Commission to give the Patel Family enough time to relocate.

Others speaking on Joe's behalf:

Mr. Robert L. Butts: Mr. Butts stated he has lived in the area for 47 years and no one can stop what is going on in that area. Do not point your finger at Joe.

Mr. Leonard Patrick: Mr. Patrick stated Joe is a good person and he has known him for a while. Mr. Patrick stated that he owns the property and he had asked about giving the City a building there for a precinct, to combat what is going on there. He stated he is willing to do anything to assist Joe Patel.

Mr. DeVontae Hunt: Mr. Hunt stated that he has known Joe's sons for a while. He stated he thinks that the focus is really on the wrong thing and he think their lively hood should not be taken away. Mr. Hunt stated, revoking Joe's Business License is unfair.

***Commission Chair John Wiggins stated, everything that was said will be taken into consideration.

Public Hearing Closed

Ms. Jennifer Lassen, Executive Director of the GA Manufactured Housing Association: Ms. Lassen expressed her concerns about the Manufactured Homes Ordinance. She stated that she is very happy that this Ordinance is in place.

Administration Fiscal:

- a. **Approval for a Landscaping contract:** Commission approval is requested for a Landscaping Contract with R & D Landscaping to fully maintain Bethel Cemetery, Sunnyside Cemetery and all the sidewalks within the City at a cost of \$11,500.00 per month. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Landscaping Contract with R & D Landscaping; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

- b. **Approval to use GA Association of Chiefs of Police:** The job opening for a Police Chief for the City of Cordele has been posted on the City of Cordele's website. Mr. McCarthy asked for Commission approval to use the GA Association of Chiefs of Police to assist in assessing the applications received for this position. The cost is \$800.00 per assessment with a minimum cost of \$4,800.00. Roland McCarthy stated he would like to have this approval as an option, if he chooses to use, in assisting with the process of finding the next Police Chief. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the GA Association of Chief's of Police to assist in assessing applications received for this position; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS – COMMISSION APPROVAL

RESOLUTION

- a. Resolution providing for the modification of the GEFA loan Project Schedule. The modification is to extend the completion date from August 2021 to October 2021. Commissioner Bartee moved to approve this Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

ORDINANCES

- a. **First Reading of an Ordinance:** To amend Chapter 7 "Cemeteries" of the City Code of the City of Cordele: Repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Bartee moved to approve the Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.
- b. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** To Amending the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele to Provide for Manufactured/Mobile Homes to be provided as "Conditional Uses" in Section 620.3 and Section 625.3; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.
- c. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** To amend the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele to provide for Public Hearing by the City Commissions; Establishing the Criteria for Calling a Hearing; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.
- d. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** For the City of Cordele, Georgia, To Provide for an Application and Licensing Process for Special Events to be held on City Property; Rental or Use of Properties for Events; Providing for Conduct of Events; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.
- e. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** The City of Cordele, Georgia, regulating the rental or use of Properties for Events, as herein defined; Providing for Regulatory Supervision; providing for Conduct of Events; Regulating the Dispensing and Consumption of Alcohol at Event; Providing License and Regulatory Fees; repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith; and for

other purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

- f. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** To Amend the City Code of the City of Cordele by Adopting a New Ordinance entitled "Adult Entertainment Establishments;" Repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

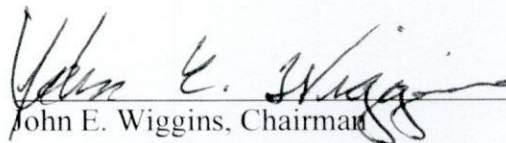
CITY MANAGER REPORT:

ACTION ITEMS:

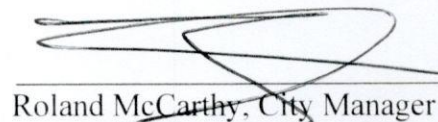
Approval for appointments to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board: Commission approval is requested for the reappointment of Alicia Parker-Williams and appointment of Marie West, replacing Lovie Wheeler. The terms for appointment will expire on June 30, 2024. Upon approval by the Commission Alicia Parker-Walker and Marie West will be notified. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the appointees to the Library Board; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval for Surplus Property: Commission approval is requested for the attached list of surplus property. Upon Commission approval the property will be disposed of or sold via GovDeals.com. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve to sell or dispose the property; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

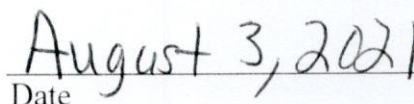
Adjourn: Commissioner Bartee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



John E. Wiggins, Chairman



Roland McCarthy, City Manager



Date