

AGENDA



CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING CORDELE CITY HALL – COURTROOM JUNE 3, 2025

The Honorable Joshua Deriso
Chairman

The Honorable Vesta Beal Shephard
Ward 1

The Honorable J. Wesley Rainey
Vice Chairman Ward 4

Vacant
Ward 2

The Honorable Isaac H. Owens
Ward 3

REGULAR MEETING 8:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – June 3, 2025

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – May 20, 2025

PRESENTATION: Mrs. Monica Robinson – Executive Director, Crisp County Community Council and GA Family Connection Collaborative

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES:

SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proclamation: Municipal Court Clerk Week – June 9 – 13, 2025.
2. Event Permit: Watermelon 5K/1 Mile Fun Run – Organizer – Candace Boutwell, Destiny Fitness, 1107 S. Greer St., Cordele, GA. Date of Event: June 21, 2025; Start time – 8:00 AM. See attachment for route. Chief Heard reviewed this permit on May 28, 2025.

3. Watermelon Festival Parade Permit: Organizer – Monica Simmons, Cordele Crisp Chamber – 502 S. 2nd St.; Cordele Lions Club, 2101 Hwy 41 S. Date of Parade: June 28, 2025; Line up starts at 7:30 AM; Parade Starts at 8:00 AM. The route of the Parade – Begins at East 15th Ave. and 6th Street – proceeds East on 15th Ave. ending at Pecan Street. Chief Heard reviewed this Permit on May 24, 2024.
4. Consider and Approve the General Election Ordinance. The City Commission of the City of Cordele hereby ordains that pursuant to the Charter of the City of Cordele, as amended, and the Georgia Elections Code, as amended through the Regular 2025 Session of the Georgia General Assembly, the General Election for the City Commission Ward 2, City Commission Ward 3, and the At-Large position on the City Commission as provided by O.C.G.A. § 21-2-1, et seq., to fill terms expiring on December 31, 2025, shall be under the following terms and conditions.
5. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of \$500.00 for BGES Youth Camp; Repealing All Resolutions In Conflict Herewith; And For Other Purposes.
6. Consider and Approve the Recommendation to Award Phase 2 of the ARPA Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project to Inliner Solutions, LLC.
7. Consider and Approve LMIG 2025 Supplemental Projects.
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate)
9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held On May 20, 2025, 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chairman	J. Wesley Rainey, Commission Vice Chairman
Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Tommy Coleman, City Attorney
Janice Mumphery, City Clerk/Recording Secretary	

Staff present: Maurice Hill – Community Advancement Manager, Sonya Alexander – Finance Director, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, David Wade – Human Resource Director, Nancy Crook – Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Marcia Pridgen – Interim Public Works Director, Rick Smarr – Social Media Marketing Manager, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director, Bobby Stennett – IT, Brett Lavender – InterDev Representative.

Media Present: Joshua Windus – Cordele Dispatch.

Call to Order: Chairman Joshua Deriso, called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Opening Remarks: Chairman Deriso also stated that this is a Regular Meeting and comments will not be taken from the audience. Department Heads and City Officials will speak to give Reports during this Meeting. If there is a subject that needs an expert opinion, then the expert on that subject matter will be allowed to speak

Chairman Joshua Deriso asked all attendees of the Meeting to put their phones on silent or vibrate, preferably silent. If anyone needs to take a call, please step outside the door, away from the doors, so your conversation will not be heard.

Invocation: There was a moment of silence.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Rainey.

Roll Call: A quorum was established

Attendee's Name	Title	Present	Absent
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman	✓	
J. Wesley Rainey	Commission Vice Chairman Ward Four	✓	
Vesta Beal Shephard	Commissioner Ward One	✓	
Vacant	Commissioner Ward Two		
Isaac H. Owens	Commissioner Ward Three	✓	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: May 20, 2025: Commissioner Owens moved to amend the Agenda, for May 20, 2025; moving Agenda Items 1-5 before Department Heads Goals and Accomplishments; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard, Vice-Chairman Rainey voted aye.
The Commission approved for the Agenda to be Amended.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2025: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. The Regular Meeting Minutes were approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2025: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Work Session Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2025; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey. The Work Session Meeting Minutes were approved by the Commission.

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES: No Requests.

SPEAKER ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM: No Requests.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proclamation – National Public Works Week, May 18-24, 2025
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
The National Public Works Week Proclamation was presented to the Public Work Employees by Commissioner Owens.
2. Consider and Approve the reappointments to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board; three-year term:
 - a. Mrs. Katrisha Williams
 - b. Mrs. Arleeta HenryCommissioner Shepard moved to approve the reappointments to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board; seconded by Commissioner Owens.
Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.
The Commission approved the reappointments to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board.
3. Consider and Approve the 2025-2026 Classic Main Street MOU.
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the 2025-2026 Classic Main Street MOU; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The Commission approved the 2025-2026 Classic Main Street MOU.
4. Consider and Approve the 7th Street Urban Redevelopment Update Agreement.
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the 7th Street Urban Redevelopment Update Agreement; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.
Commissioner Shephard; Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The Commission approved the 7th Street Urban Redevelopment Update Agreement.
5. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Angela Redding Reported.**
Recap of Meetings
Faith Based Organizations and Ministers Meetings
May 8, 2025
Speaker: Linda Mitchell – Executive Director of Daybreak Pregnancy Care Center

Daybreak provides support, resources, and education to families in our community.

Update - Crisp County PROPEL (Planning Rural Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Leadership)

May 15, 2025 @ 10:00

ASU – Cordele Campus

City Manager Angela Redding gave a brief recap of the focus areas for PROPEL:
These are some of the accomplishments for 2024:

Housing and Infrastructure

- The Housing Study was completed.
- Work Force Housing Grant is in progress.
- Discussion – Water/Sewer Capabilities for future development

Downtown (Main Street) Focus areas

- Successful Sip and Stroll Event
- UGA students presented a design for Westbrook Park
- Allied Building has been demolished – an open-air event space is being created. Monica Rentfrow is working on a Grant to get the building next door stabilized. She is working with Maurice Hill.
- Several Ordinances were passed or adopted
- Main Street met with the Small Business Development Center and a class has been scheduled for October.

Youth Enrichment

- Assisted with the After School Program to obtain a Grant. They are currently in the process for enrollment for the Summer Program
- Identified what programs exist for the youth in the community.
- 21st Century Grant for After School Programs.

IndigoLife Business Symposium

IndigoLife Business Symposium was held on May 15-17, 2025. Commissioner Owens brought greetings from the City. City Manager Angela Redding stated, it was well attended.

CHIP Grant - Call In Day – Today, May 20, 2025 – 8:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

This Grant will assist moderate to low-income families with home repairs. You must own the home. Renters cannot apply for the CHIP Grant. You have to provide proof of ownership and there are some criteria to receive the Grant. All residents living inside the City Limits of Cordele can apply for assistance. However, priority will be given to those who live in the target area. There is a map showing the target areas.

Additional Upcoming Events

Back 2 School Bash

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Crisp County Recreation Center

Opens – 11:00 AM – Ends 2 PM

Thomas the Train

SAM Shortline Railroad

June 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 2025

NAACP Cordele Branch – Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 14, 2025

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Gillespie Selden

Public Notice

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the City of Cordele Water Department will be installing an 8” water tap for the old Middle School at 1116 East 24th Avenue. Water service will be interrupted in the following areas: 1100th, 1200th, 1300th blocks of East 24th Avenue until the work is completed.

Upcoming Meetings

Keep Crisp Beautiful

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Chamber of Commerce

10:00 AM

Historic Preservation Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

City Hall – Courtroom

6:00 PM

River Valley Legislative Luncheon

Thursday, May 22, 2025

South Georgia Technical College – Americus, GA

10:30 AM

ARPA Phase II Bid Opening

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Public Works

10:00 AM

2025 GOALS

Goal 1 – Joe Wright Drive Improvements

Goal 2 – Schedule of Fees for City Services

Goal 3 – Enhance Employee Experience

Re-establish the Pension Committee

Coordinate with HR to Schedule Employee Lunch and Learn Meetings

Goal 4 – Neighborhood Sustainability

Continue efforts to address blighted property – City Attorney’s Office and Code Enforcement

ACTION ITEM

Request to Close Alley at the Gillespie Gardens Apartments and purchase alley bollards. The cost is \$220.00 for each alley bollard; we will need 3 to 4 to close that section of the alley. Commissioner Owens moved to close the alley at Gillespie Gardens and to purchase 3 to 4 bollards; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye. The Commission approved for the alley to be closed at the Gillespie Gardens Apartments and to purchase 3 to 4 bollards.

Georgia Cities Week Coloring Contest Winners

Riley Green – 8 years old, in the 2nd grade, attends the Primary School
Maurice Wise – 7 years old, attends the Primary school

Memorial Day Holiday Observance

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025. We will reopen on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 8:00 AM.

DEPARTMENT HEADS GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Community Advancement/Community Development Report: Maurice Hill Reported

- Met with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and 4H on May 8th to view a property near the Farmers Market to create a 4H Camp in Cordele. We also discussed funding options for Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails, possible upgrades to Westbrook Park.
- Met with a Developer on May 9th about a 142-acre multi-phase to include building-to-suite Commercial space, multi-family apartment and Mixed-use building, along with Single Family Homes. The Property is in the County, Various Cordele Department were present to address questions regarding the City services. The Developer is looking to get started within 4-6 months.
- Mr. Hill received the CHIP Grant information and spoke with the SWGRC (Southwest Georgia Regional Commission) Representative to get the program guidelines and contractor applications. The information was posted on the City's Facebook Page. Distributed flyers to organizations and individuals to apply. Mr. Hill stated that today, May 20th, is the day to call in for the CHIP Grant. You have to call in to get an application sent to you, the number is 888-467-7814.
- Mr. Hill attended the PROPEL Meeting on May 15th at Albany State Cordele Campus to provide Committee progress reports and updates.

Community Development Report

Historic Preservation Committee Meeting Scheduled for May 21st at 6 PM.

The property owned by Thomas Marshall / Curlene Thomas at 708 E. 14th Ave Cordele, GA 31015 has applied to add an addition, enclosing the existing open front porch with a screened-in design.

This property is owned by Andrieka Oliver located at 507 E 12th Ave., Cordele, GA 31015 has applied to replace the windows, replacing the wood on the exterior and painting the outside of the home.

Board of Zoning Appeals Committee No Meeting Scheduled at this time.

Mr. Hill received an updated Single-Family Plat from The Orchard and working to schedule them in June for the request for a variance to the lot frontage, lot width and lot size requirements before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Planning Commission Committee No Meeting Scheduled at this time.
Revolving Loan Fund Committee No Meeting Scheduled at the time.

NOTE: Commissioner Owens left the Meeting at 9:30 AM.

2. Finance Department: Sonya Alexander – Finance Director

- a. Business License and taxes are now delinquent, if they are not paid.
- b. Vacancies in the Finance Department – Utility Billing Clerk and Customer Service Representative.

3. Fire Department: Fire Chief Todd Alligood Reported.

Goals

- a. Provide best possible service to the citizens and visitors of Cordele through firefighter recruitment and retention, professionalism (actions and appearance), extensive training, quick response, effective emergency mitigation, community risk reduction programs, and community engagement.

Accomplishments

- a. Completed testing for our Hurst Extrication equipment.
- b. Attended the monthly Public Safety Roundtable.
- c. Attended quarterly TIMS meeting at the EOC.
- d. Attended a Pre-Con meeting for Aldi Grocery.
- e. We attended the train day downtown and passed out fire safety items. Rain put a damper on the event.
- f. Completed and turned in our Annual Employee Evaluations.
- g. Lt. Averill and Captain Patrick went to MAFFC in Atlanta and attended a Leadership Under Fire 8-hour training class.
- h. I attended a Fire Truck Expo in Forsyth GA put on by Pierce and Ten-8.
- i. Chief Alligood provided an overview of the Department's Confined Space Training,

4. Human Resource Director – David Wade Reported

- a. Performance appraisals have been turned in from each Department.
- b. Accepting in-house applications for Fleet Superintendent, Customer Service Representative and Cemetery & Parks Equipment Operator.
- c. Began hosting a Work-Based Learning student in the Fleet Department. The student will transition to a full-time seasonal employee during the summer months.

- d. Attended the CTAE Advisory Committee Meeting and Local Needs Assessment Meeting.

5. Municipal Court – Nancy Crook Reported.

Goals

- a. Report accurate and complete information for the Court and Public.
- b. Complete the Court Docket for the Judge in a timely manner.
- c. Jarmiah Burks will attend classes, in September of this year, to become a Certified Deputy Court Clerk.

Accomplishments

- a. All Dockets and Court Dispositions were turned into the State on time.

6. Cordele Police/Codes/Animal Control – Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

Cordele Police Department's Goals and Accomplishments

Goals & Accomplishments

- a. We will continue to provide professional law enforcement service through our hiring process, training, and self-accountability. **We currently have 2 applicants in the hiring process. One applicant started on the 12th as a police officer. One cadet is currently in her eighteenth week of the police academy.**
- b. Develop strategies to attract more experienced officers. **We are continuing to promote on our sign boards and on our Facebook page.**
- c. We will continue to connect with the community through community related events, increasing public contacts and through partnering with local groups and businesses. **We partnered with Sam Shortline on May 10th to celebrate National Train Day. Chief Heard attended the Public Safety Memorial Service at Ga Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. Chief Heard accepted an award for previous Chief William Forrest who was killed while on duty. Chief Heard and Captain Taylor escorted the Mental Health Awareness Walk Wednesday. We are planning on participating in an upcoming event which is a Juneteenth Celebration.**
- d. We will continue to make advancements towards obtaining the Excellence in Policing Certification with the larger goal of state certification. We are continuing with policy reviews to make them align with state requirements.

Code Compliance Division Goals and Accomplishments:

- a. The codes division will continue code enforcement efforts to increase code compliance in all wards. This will provide more attractive and presentable neighborhoods for the current citizens, future citizens, workers and travelers with the hopes to attract new businesses, industry and potential residents to the city.
Code Officers have been engaged with multiple Occupancy Certificate inspections for new business applications this month.

- b. The codes division will continue sending codes officials to advanced training and certification seminars through the International Code Council (ICC) and the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement (GACE) with the hopes of each code official becoming certified in multiple inspection categories.

Officer Mercer renewed his ICC plumbing inspection certification. Officer Lodge attended Building Officials Association of Georgia (BOAG) Conference in May.

- c. Address blighted commercial and residential properties through education, code enforcement, private funding, grant opportunities and working relationships with reliable, certified contractors. **Code Compliance officers attended the Municipal court hearings for the 10 dilapidated properties requiring demolition.**
- d. Increasing our social media presence and utilizing other innovative ways to relay information and announce code issues and problems. The aim is to educate and keep the public informed about code related issues that concern them.

Animal Control Goals and Accomplishments

Get more animals rescued/adopted by being more active in the community and on social media.

- a. The Animal Shelter had 66 animals adopted/rescued/ and reclaimed for April.
- b. The Facebook page has continued growing.

Work towards implementing a volunteer program at the shelter.

- a. We are working on a schedule and paperwork to have volunteers. Several people have inquired and are very interested in helping the shelter.

Make shelter improvements: grates for drains, seal the floors, replace rusted kennel pipes, add a few more kennels outside.

- a. The play yard is a big hit with the dogs at the shelter.
- b. Received another kennel for outside and several crates.

Actively promote better animal welfare. (Spay/neuter, vaccinations, correct shelter(housing), kennel ordinance control).

- a. Have not loaned out anymore dog houses, but hoping this will change.

Host events with the hope of bring awareness to the shelter, animal health and welfare and increasing donations.

- a. We participated in the Community Craze Day at the Primary School, along with the Autism Stroll/Touch a Truck. Both were big hits and had several adoptions from both events.

****Received another big donation of pet food from Tractor Supply, JAG probation, and several citizens buying and leaving for us to pick up at Tractor Supply.**

7. Public Works Department – Marcia Pridgen Reported.

Goal 1: Improve the working order and functionality of the seven (7) Holding Ponds.

The Contractor completed work on the Holding Ponds the week of April 14th. A checklist of the scope of work was made for the Street Superintendent to do a walkthrough. It has been completed and turned in to the City Manager for review.

Goal 6: Prevent ground water infiltration into the City's Sewer System.

Phase 1 of ARPA Project is 75% complete. Pipe bursting and grouting are in progress. Pipe bursting replaces existing pipe that is severely damaged, while grouting seals leaks in structurally sound pipes.

Commissioner Rainey stated that the Holding Ponds should be set-up on a Maintenance Plan, so they will not get back into the shape that they were in.

Chairman Deriso suggested to contract with a Professional Contractor who is skilled in maintaining the Holding Ponds.

8. Social Media/Marketing Manager – Rick Smarr Reported.

- a. Granicus provided the website team with a video file for the class, which has helped tremendously in the learning process. Since our first training session, users, editors and publishers have been working to build our pages and update migrated content. The next class for super users only is scheduled for May 15th from 2 PM until 4 PM and will expand on what we have already learned. Additionally, we will learn how to build new users, edit existing users, understand user permissions, edit the home page and custom content, build page templates from scratch, add widgets to pages and cover administration and configuration settings.
- b. Rick Smarr attended and provided video and photo support at the request of Crisp County Community Council GAFCP for their Mental Health Awareness Walk. All content was added to your social media platforms in support of Mental Health Awareness Month and shared with CCCC.

9. Utilities Control and Treatment – Debbie Wright Reported.

- a. Cook Industrial is in the process of wiring up the Automatic Transfer Switch for the new Generator at the WWTP.
- b. The 2024 Water Quality Report is available by email and on the City of Cordele's Facebook page.
- c. John Wright – Operator at the WWTP, passed his Waste Water Operator Class II Test

10. IT Department – Brett Lavender Reported.

- Windows 10 End of life: One of our main focus is Windows 11 upgrade. The ones that are capable of an upgrade, those have been completed 58%.
- The Board approved to apply for a State Local Government Cyber Security Grant to develop the Cyber Security Program. It has been eighty-two (82) days, we do not have a final decision as of yet, but there is favorable feed back and we expect to hear the final disposition in June.
- We are continuing to work on excess surplus and disposition. We have been going to all offices, rooms and remote locations and retrieving all equipment that has been removed from service.
- Upcoming: We hope to deploy multifactorial authentication and patch management.

- The Board also approved, data, which is a back up in disastrous recovery. The in-place backup disastrous recovery is operational. The data that was suppose to have been in the Cloud was so large that Bobby had to receive some devices to off load on to and send those out.
- Two other things that the Board approved: upgrade to the network circuit, this has been tested and extended to through the building and locations and it is currently set at 300 megabits, but we anticipate turning it up to more speed.
The other item that was approved by the Board is Voice Over IP Phone System Replacement; today is the day that some testing will be done and develop a deployment plan for that.

AGENDA ITEMS CONTINUED

1. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** City Attorney Tommy Coleman discussed the Ordinance regarding the City of Cordele Commission using the Community Clubhouse. The Community Clubhouse Committee voted to offer to the City Commission two free events at the Community Clubhouse. This is a benefit over what the Commission already have. So, this will have to be adopted in some special ways. It will have to be advertised three times and then an Ordinance will have to be adopted over two scheduled Meetings. City Attorney Tommy Coleman asked the Commission if they wanted to proceed with it.
The Commission agreed to go ahead with it.

Vice Chairman Rainey asked if the two times were for each Commissioner?
Attorney Coleman stated "yes."
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate) No Executive Session.
3. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Shephard moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:09 AM; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey. The Commission adjourned the Meeting at 10:09 AM.



PROCLAMATION
IN RECOGNITION OF MUNICIPAL COURT CLERKS WEEK
June 9 – 13, 2025

WHEREAS, Municipal Court Clerks play a significant role in ensuring that municipal courts preserve public safety and promote quality of life in the City of Cordele and local municipalities across the state; and

WHEREAS, the procedures for the City of Cordele Municipal Court operations are set forth by the Uniform Rules of Municipal Court and other laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, more people come in contact with Municipal Court Clerks than all other city services combined and public impression of the City of Cordele judicial system is largely dependent upon the public's experience in municipal court; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Court Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cordele Municipal Court is committed to the notion that our legal system is based on the principle that an independent, fair, and competent judiciary will interpret and apply the laws that govern us; Municipal Court Clerks act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments and significant role the Municipal Court Clerks play in preserving the public confidence, integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Cordele Commission, do recognize the week of June 9 – 13, 2025, as Municipal Court Clerks Week and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Court Clerks; Nancy Crook, Court Clerk and Deputy Court Clerk, Jarmiah Burks, and all Municipal Court Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent and serve.

SO PROCLAIMED this 3rd day of June 2025.

Chairman Joshua Deriso

Vice Chairman J. Wesley Rainey, Ward Four

Commissioner Vesta Beal Shephard, Ward One

Commissioner Isaac Owens, Ward Three

Vacant, Ward Two