

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on February 1st, 5:44 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: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, David Wade, Irene Cantrell, Debra Perry, Police Chief Mike Hathaway, Jack Wood, Sr., Steve Fulford, Debbie Wright, Cathy Mygrant, Beverly Vance, Nancy Butler, Capt. Jalon Heard.

Others present: See Sign in Sheet.

Media present: Joshua Roden - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee.

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Minister Ruby Jackson.

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

Approval of Agenda – February 1, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for February 1, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve minutes for January 18, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the minutes were approved unanimously by the Commission

PUBLIC COMMENTS: All Speakers will have 5 minutes

Dr. Matthew Whitest – Dr. Whitest appeared before the Commission because he is a citizen and in support for his Commissioner Royce Reeves, Sr. Dr. Whitest expressed his concerns and support for Commissioner Royce Reeves, Sr.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:

Finance Director: City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

Mrs. Redding stated that there is not a Finance Director at present, but the vacancy has been posted in-house, GLGA, GLGPA and Crisp County IDC. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Fire Chief: Augusta Telfair reported.

Activities over last thirty days:

- 4 fire alarms
- 1 smoke investigation
- 3 cancelled in route
- 1 odor investigation
- 1 vehicle fire
- 1 carbon monoxide alarm
- 2 stove fires
- 1 electrical outlet fire
- 1 down power lines
- 2 smoke detectors activation due to cooking
- 2 structures fires
- City Manager Angela Redding informed the Commission she has requested Chief Telfair to look into is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) device here at City Hall.
- City Commission Chair inquired about an accessible handicap at the front entrance of City Hall.

Housing and Urban Development: Irene Cantrell Reported.

- **CDBG APPLICATION 2022 (McLeod Subdivision)** - The River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) has advised that since our 2020 CDBG Grant project has not reached the point of advertising to receive bids for a contract to install sewer pumps and disable the septic tanks improvements; the DCA Representative advises that we would not be in a good position to complete the amount of work that needs to be completed to qualify and prepare a competitive CDBG application for 2022. The time delay is partially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reluctance of the majority of the residents (some are owner occupants and some tenants) to agree to connect onto City Sewer Services which would include a small monthly fee.
- **DCA recommends that we start planning to submit a 2023 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Application.** The CDBG Grant Time Line Requirements & Deadlines are listed.
- **CHIP 2018 PROJECT** – Our CHIP Representative, Ms. Brenda Wade, has advised that the rehab improvements may start up around March 1st. She also advises that there continues to be a supply shortage in materials as well as cost increases and the contractors cannot give a price that can be guaranteed for only two weeks.
- **CHPC** – There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., to consider one “Application for Certificate for Preservation” received from Crisp Investment

Properties, proposing to construct a new complex at 505/515 West 16th Avenue. This area is located within the Gillespie Selden Historic Preservation District.

- **BZA-** There is a public hearing and meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., to consider one (1) request for a variance to locate a manufactured home at 705 South 15th Street. The zoning classification of this property is R-7.5, One and Two Family Residential Medium Density District. This item will appear on the Agenda for February 15, 2022 for the Commission approval.

**See Report for additional information.

Chief Codes Official: Jack Wood, Sr. Reported:

Total of Job Valuations: \$15,774,499.00 Permit Fees: \$37,616.00
GovDeals Surplus Sales: \$1,201.00

**See Report for additional information.

Personnel Director – David Wade Reported:

- Made multiple promotions in the Fire department. Promotions included two Corporals promoted to Sergeants and two Firefighters promoted to Corporals.
- Worked in conjunction with Premise Health to distribute a questionnaire to all employees to gauge feedback on topics regarding their health. Some areas listed are stress management, tobacco cessation, weight management and healthy eating.
- Began accepting applications for the vacant Finance Director position. Vacancy was posted in-house along with GLGA, GLGPA and Crisp County IDC. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
- Municipal Court - Total Court Cases: 260
- Commission Chair Deriso suggested the City implemented a four-day work week versus a five-day work week. Commission Chair asked for David Wade and the City Manager to research this and get back with the Commission.

**See Report for additional information.

Cordele Police Department: Chief Hathaway Reported.

Part I Crimes -56% decrease from 2021

Part II Crimes 2% increase from 2021

Citations -55%

Warnings 1%

Incidents Reported -24%

Total Calls 111% decrease from 2021

Currently have 4 officers in training

Currently have 1 officer in the Academy

February 16th – Coffee w/Cop at Fast Stop

Spring time – Citizen Police Academy

**See Report for additional information.

Public Works Director – Steve Fulford Reported.

- Minor things have to be done with the LMIG Projects are finished.
- 8th Street Project – South of 24th Avenue is about 50% complete.

- Opened the 15 ½ alley on 4th Street.

***See Report for additional information.

U C & T Director: Debbie Wright Reported:

- City of Cordele received the Water Fluoridation Award for 2022 from the CBC.
- City of Cordele received the Gold Award Water System for 2020 from the Georgia Association for Water Professionals.

• Total Water Treated for 2021	661,863,900-gal	1,808,371 gal/day avg
• Total Wastewater Treated for 2021	1,135,010,000-gal	3,140,000 gal/day avg

***See Report for additional information.

AGENDA ITEMS:

ORDINANCE – COMMISSION APPROVAL:

- SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE:** To provide for annexation into the corporate limits of the City of Cordele certain property owned by Wells Properties, LLC; providing for the zoning of said property annexed; 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.
- FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE:** City Attorney Tommy Coleman presented this Ordinance to the Commission, to replace the Picketing Ordinance; Repealing Section 12.5 of the City Code of the City of Cordele; Adopting a New Section 12.5 Entitled Demonstrations and Parades; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. City Attorney asked the Commission to adopt this Ordinance as the First Reading, review it, make suggestions for improvement over the next two weeks. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; there was a 2/1 vote; Commissioners Rainey and Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens abstained. The motion was not approved due to a negative vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Commissioner Shephard moved to have a Work Shop to discuss the boards; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Isaac Owens was appointed by the Commission to serve on the Cordele/Crisp Land Bank Authority Board; City Manager Angela Redding will also serve on this board.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: Angela Redding Reported.

Mrs. Redding stated that there is not a Finance Director at present, but the vacancy has been posted in-house, GLGA, GLGPA and Crisp County IDC. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Financial Report:

1. FY 2021 Audit Presentation – Mauldin and Jenkins will come to make a presentation.
2. Received November 2021 SPLOST distribution on January 31st in the amount of \$109,775.89
3. Consultant Proposal for Financial Assistance until a Finance Director is hired. Ms. Elaine Kent of Local Government Consulting Services, LLC is the Consultant.

UPDATES

1. **Revisit COVID Policy** – City Manager Angela Redding revisited the COVID Policy; the policy should state, each employee will receive a one-time COVID payment and after employees will have to utilize their leave time.
2. **Smoke/Tobacco Free Policy** – Attached is the Smoke/Tobacco Free Policy. The policy is effective immediately.
3. **Upcoming Railroads closed for maintenance** – Attached is a copy of upcoming railroad crossing closures and detour maps.
4. **Redistricting** – Attorney Coleman presented to the Commission the reapportioning of the Election Districts.

JANUARY 2022 MEETINGS & EVENTS

Industrial Development Authority, Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 8:30 AM: The meeting was held at Crisp Power. As mentioned at the last meeting, Cedar Creek Industrial Park will see a lot of activity this year. Unemployment rate for November 2021 was 3.1 and for December 2021 was 3.2.

Neil McGahee, Cordele Dispatch Managing Editor Black and White Art Display at Arts Alliance: This event was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Manager's Meeting, Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM: The meeting was held at Crisp County Power.

South Georgia Railroad Excursion Authority, Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 4:30 PM: The meeting was held at SAM Shortline. Event flyers included with report. Tickets go on sale March 1, 2022 for Thomas the train. The Authority is requesting \$300,000 in capital improvements for maintenance be put back in the State of Georgia operating budget.

Health and Wellness Coalition, Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM: The meeting was held at the J. R. Dowdy Family Resource Center.

Crisp County Community Council, Monday, January 24, 2022 at 12:00 PM (Noon): The meeting was held at Crisp Regional Hospital.

Meet and Greet – Congressman Austin Scott representing the 8th Congressional District, January 25, 2022 at 12:00 PM (Noon): The event was held at the Community Clubhouse.

River Valley Regional Commission Meeting, January 26, 2022 at 10:30 AM followed by Joint City/County Managers Meeting at 12:00 PM (Noon): Meetings were held at the Marion County Board of Commissioners Office in Buena Vista.

Kiwanis Club Meeting: Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 12:00 PM (Noon).

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Other Reports: Confederate Statue Removal

Motion: Commissioner Owens moved to remove or relocate the Confederate Statue located on the lawn of the Community Clubhouse; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. Commission Chair Deriso, Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted nay. The motion was approved with a 3/1 to remove the Confederate Statue, located at the Cordele Community Clubhouse.

Executive Session: Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn and enter into an Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for personnel and litigation matters; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Regular Meeting Reconvened: Commissioner Rainey moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 8:38 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Rainey moved to pay C. E. Shepherd Company, L. P., \$96,200.00 for the WWIS/Shepherd matter; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Adjourn: Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve Work Session and Regular Meetings for February 1, 2022; second by Commissioner Rainey; Minutes were approved unanimously by the Commission.