

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
April 2, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on April 2nd, 9:00 AM, 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-Shephard, Commissioner	Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Isaac Owens, Commissioner	Angela Redding, City Manager
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Staff present: Maurice Hill – Community Advancement Director, Sonya Alexander – Staff Accountant, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Jackie Walker – Chief Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Koby Worley – Street Superintendent, Rick Smarr – Social Media Marketing Manager, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

Staff absent: Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Media Present: Cordele Dispatch – Sarah Brown.

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

Invocation: There was a moment of silent prayer.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Owens.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman		✓
Royce Reeves, Sr.	Commission Vice Chairman Ward 2		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – April 2, 2024: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Agenda for April 2, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Agenda for April 2, 2024 was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – March 19, 2024: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Minutes for March 19, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the Minutes for March 19, 2024 were approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES – March 19, 2024: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Work Session Minutes for March 19, 2024; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the Work Session Minutes for March 19, 2024 was 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. Community Advancement Manager – Maurice Hill Reported.

- Attended the Comprehensive Plan Meeting on Land Use and Housing Policies to review and update information before submittal.
- Had a meeting with two members of the River Valley Regional Commission to understand programs and procedures, and how they can assist Cordele alongside the Comprehensive Plan. (They provided information on the SAFE STREETS grant).
- Met with a local contractor to discuss working with SWGU (South West Georgia United) Youth Build Program and At-Risk-Youth in the construction trades.
- Met with property owners and toured properties for sale/rent for our housing initiatives.
- Searching Grants for Housing, Infrastructure and Education.
- Scheduled to speak at the Kiwanis meeting on March 28th about the housing initiatives.
- Scheduled to speak at the Lions Club meeting on April 2nd about the housing initiatives.
- Planning to support the Easter Egg Hunt with my 5-year-old goddaughter.
- I will be attending the GICH Conference in Tifton April 15th – 18th.
- Working with SWGU (South West Georgia United) to finalize the details for the April 20th Housing Summit.
- I will participate in the Propel Meeting on April 2, 2024.
- Spoke with someone regarding Modular Homes.

2. Finance Department: Sonya Alexander Reported.

- Collection for February is \$266,593.53.
- 2018 – 2023 SPLOST ended December 2023 and the 2024-2029 SPLOST should start sometime at the end of April.

3. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Todd Bullington Reported.

Reporting Period: February 27, 2024 – March 25, 2024

Calls for Service: Total 69

Structure Fire 4

NOTE: We had a large structure fire March 19th. The house was fully involved when we arrived. We made a defensive attack and set-up Ladder 1 so that we could use the master stream to extinguish the fire. I know Ladder 1 was a large purchase last year. It is the only Ladder Truck in the County and has proven itself useful and more than capable. Thank you!

Vehicle Fire 2
Electrical Short 2
Smoke Scare/Fire Alarm 13
Fire Alarm 10
Medical Assist 28

Motor Vehicle Accident	8
Other	2

- a. Breath-Air Systems tested our compressed air cylinders and all passed their semi-annual testing.
- b. Chief Alligood was asked to participate on an interview panel for the City of Blakely. Chief Scott from Albany, Assistant Chief Smith from Columbus, and we interviewed 5 candidates for their open Fire Chief position and made recommendations to their mayor.
- c. Have a new hire starting (Taylor Grimm) this week to fill vacant position created when one of our firefighters resigned to work for an EMS Department. He is already Certified FF1 and Haz-mat Ops.
- d. Fire Chief Alligood will be speaking at the Lions Club on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

4. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

a. Cordele Planning and Zoning Commission:

A property owner has begun the process to amend the current zoning of a parcel of land located at 110 West 21st Avenue from R-7.5, one- and two-Family Residential District to GC (General Commercial District). The property owner is listed as GSS Rental, LLC.

b. Board of Zoning Appeals:

The Board of Zoning and Appeals has tentatively scheduled a Public Hearing/Meeting for April 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM, for a post sign variance request from Kavish Mukesh Patel. The sign will be located at 2109 East 16th Avenue. This property is zoned HC (Highway Commercial).

c. Cordele Historic Preservation Commission:

The Cordele Historic Preservation Commission has been approved to change the Meeting time from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, by the Cordele City Commission at the Meeting held on March 19, 2024. This was a request by the CHPC Chairman, Danny Ross. A tentative Meeting has been scheduled for April 24th at 6:00 PM.

d. CHIP 2018 Grant Program

There is no new information to report concerning the CHIP 2018 Grant Program.

e. Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund

List of Loans

- Hobo Café – First Loan
- Hobo Café – Second Loan
- Ray Ray’s Restaurant
- The Grant building
- R & D Lawncare

- f. U. S. Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) updates will be prepared via River Valley Regional Commission.

5. Municipal Court: Jackie Walker Reported.

Cordele Municipal Court 40-50 Monthly Court Summary Report

Traffic Cases	186
Criminal Cases	<u>21</u>
Total Court Cases	207
Bench Warrants Ordered	9
License Suspensions Ordered	20
Total Of All Fees	\$55,722.81
Total Court Ordered Refunds	\$1,246.00
Total Defendants Incarcerated	0
Total Days Jail Sentenced	0

6. Human Resources – David Wade Reported.

- Promotion in the Street Department: Promoted a Distribution Mechanic who was in the Water/Sewer Department to an Equipment Operator in the Street Department.
- Held interviews for the vacancy in the Water/Sewer Department, hired a Distribution Mechanic to fill the vacancy.
- March 20th – Held interviews for the vacant Equipment Operator (Dump Truck) position in the Street Department. A conditional offer of employment was extended on March 21, 2024. This will fill all positions in the Street Department.
- Extended a Conditional Offer to a Firefighter in the Fire Department. His anticipated start date is April 4, 2024.
- Workforce Needs Surveys is in Phase II in the Program. All surveys, electronic and paper format has been submitted to Mopdog, Cheryl Musial is handling this for the City. This is our Marketing and Outreach portion of this plan.

7. Codes/Police Department – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

Police Department – Reporting Period: February 27, 2024 – March 24, 2024

Part I Crimes	22
Homicide/Murder	1 (2 victims)
Update: The Police CID Division along with the GBI is working very hard on this case.	
Rape	1
Aggravated Assault	2 (1 arrest)
Larceny (Thefts)	16 (2 entering autos, 6 shoplifting with 2 adult and 9 juvenile arrests, 8 other thefts)
Burglary	2 (1 residential, 1 mini storage)
Part II Crimes	139
Incidents Reported	106
Community Contacts	30
Citations Issued	105
Warnings Issued	50
Total Calls for Service from Dispatch	1,026

Departmental News

- On March 22nd, Cadet Ryan Chang and Cadet Jordy Contreras graduated from the Police Academy.
- Our Department hired one (1) applicant for the Police Officer Position. Cadet Dylan Peavy will start the Academy on April 1st. We currently have five (5) applicants in the hiring process, one (1) of which is certified.
- The Police Department attended the Career Fair that was held at the Crisp County High School on March 28th. There were a lot of interest and a lot of applications were received.
- The Department had an Easter Train Ride and Easter Egg Hunt. This was the most attended event.
- Our Event Committee is raffling off a customized fire pit made by P&P Metal Works and Designs. This item is valued at \$550.00. All proceeds will go to community events. Contact the Police Department if you would like to purchase a ticket. Drawing will be held April 8th.
- The Police Department along with Cordele Mainstreet will be hosting the Annual Autism Awareness Stroll on April 20th at 10:00 AM at the Perry Busbee Walking Track at Crisp Regional Hospital.

Cordele Animal Control

Chief Heard highlighted the Cordele Animal Control – Animal Shelter

Chief Heard stated he will start providing stats on Cordele Animal Control every month. He reminded the Public, as well as the Commission that our statue is; Our City is not like many other Cities; we operate an Animal Control Facility, we are not an Animal Rescue. With that being said, anybody that neglects animals or animals that are running wild, we have to, basically take them in and there are regulations that we follow, as far as, the capacity of the animals at the Cordele Animal Shelter. The women at the Shelter, along with the volunteers, work very hard on a daily basis trying to have the animals adopted.

City/Intakes	56
Crisp County/Intakes	25
Neighboring Cities	4
Adoption/Rescues	34
Present at Shelter	24

Chief Heard stated he will provide information on this Department because it is within the Cordele Police Department.

Codes Compliance - Reporting Period: February 27, 2024 – March 24, 2024

Code Compliance Division - Numerical Breakdown

Type of Activity	Number of Incidents*
Abandoned Vehicle	8
C&D (Construction & Demolition)	0
Inspections	9
Keeping & Maintaining Disorderly Property	0
Tampering With Utility Property	1
Unsafe, Unsanitary, Etc., Structures Prohibited	4
Violations	4

Weeds, Junk, Etc., Prohibited	23
Other	9

Departmental News

- Code Compliance Division officers continue in person outreach to educate Citizens on “No Dumping in Alleys” after the Express Disposal Alley sweep.
- They are also focused on city clean up by continuing to close cases including 23 cases for “junk, debris and high weeds”.

8. Public Works – Koby Worley Reported.

Cemetery/Parks:

Has begun their cemetery maintenance. All motorists, please watch for the mowers, as they are on the edge of the street and sidewalks.

Gas:

PHMSA 7100 and EIA-176, both annual reports have been filed.

Has begun Annual Valve on Critical Valves.

Street:

Safety Action Plan is 95% complete, it is closer to a 100%. There were some questions about the stop signs that look like they are 10 ft tall. Mr. Worley stated he went and looked at some of the stop signs and some are taller than they should be and he contacted the Engineer that drew up the plans for this project and he is getting in touch with the General Contractor and they should be able to make any adjustments on the stop signs. The stop signs supposed to be put up with the specifications of DOT, because the City is using DOT Funds (the Safety Action Plan). The bottom of the sign supposed to be six (6) to seven (7) feet from the ground and some of the stop signs are eight (8) feet and up. This is being looked at.

We have begun trying to reclaim some of the alley ways, such as, cutting back over growth, filling in limb loader holes, repairing potholes and leaving alleys in “rake clean” condition. Public Works has two (2) new employees; one started today (April 2nd). Public Works is full staff.

Water/Sewer

Assist Contractors with installation of water and sewer services for QuikTrip on Central Avenue (it is really on Archway).

GovDeals Sales Report for March 2024 \$11,061.99

***NOTE: **Penalty for putting trash in the alley ways:** City Manager Angela Redding responded, the penalty is up to a \$1,000 fine.

Koby Worley mention ways to handle excess garbage:

- a. Take it to the Landfill yourself.
- b. Call Express Disposal and request a dumpster, they will pick it up and charge the customer.
- c. Put it in the alley ways and get a ticket.

Mr. Worley stated, The City finally has a City Manager that wants the City cleaned-up.

Commissioner Rainey stated the garbage can be put out curbside on the day of pick-up, but everything cannot be out curbside. Only four (4) feet pieces on yard debris, pile has to be a

certain size. Brown and white goods: furniture, appliances (two (2) items per week).

9. Social Media/Marketing Report: Rick Smarr Reported.

Website Update:

The Website Committee will meet with Kian Miller with members of his team from Granicus. We will be working on the framework process which leads to the content migration. It looks like a blueprint of a house. This is a three-hour session in the Training Room at the Police Department.

10. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.

Water Treated	4.9 million gallons	MGD average *
Year to Date	104,363,700 gallons	1,747,907 MGD average *
Wastewater Treated	151.81 million gallons	MGD average *
Year to Date	227,910,000 gallons	3,985,000 MGD average *

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Proclamation – Week of the Young Child: Crisp County Headstart**
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to Approve the Week of the Young Child Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission.
- 2. Proclamation – Natural Gas Utility Workers Day**
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to Approve the Natural Gas Utility Workers Day Proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.
The Proclamation was approved by the Commission.
Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation to Tina Breaden, Gas Superintendent.
- 3. Approval of New Board Appointments:**

 - o Cordele Animal Control – Brandy Akin
 - o Cordele Historic Preservation Commission - Susan Barge

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approved the New Board Appointments; Brandy Akin - Cordele Animal Control; Susan Barge – Cordele Historic Preservation Commission; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves vote aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Shephard vote aye.
The New Board Appointments were approved by the Commission.
- 4. Consider and Approve an Event Permit: T-Mobile Hometown Grant Presentation, April 18, 2024, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM at Gillespie Gardens, 601 West 15th Ave. Organizer is Dravian McGill. Special Request: To block off West 15th Ave. to 16th Ave.**

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to Approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

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

The Event Permit was approved by the Commission.

5. Consider and Approve Proposal from TTL, Inc. for Watershed Monitoring, Bioassessment and Annual Report.

Background Summary Information:

The scope of work includes sample collection, sample analyses and reporting for five (5) sampling locations. This project is required by EPD under the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Wastewater Permit.

Commission Vice Chairman Reeves moved to approve the Proposal from TTL; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

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

The Commission approved the Proposal from TTL, Inc.

6. Consider and Approve the Request for Items Listed from the Fire Department to be Declared Surplus and to Allow the City of Cordele to Dispose of the Surplus Items via GovDeals.com. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Request for Items Listed from the Fire Department to be Declared Surplus and to Allow the City of Cordele to Dispose of the Surplus Items via GovDeals.com; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye. The Commission approved the Request for Items Listed from the Fire Department to be Declared Surplus and to Allow the City Of Cordele to Dispose of the Surplus Items via GovDeals.com
7. Consider and Approve LMIG Local Road Assistance (LRA) Projects. Commission Vice Chair moved to approve the LMIG Local Road Assistance (LRA) Projects; seconded by Commissioner Rainey. Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.
8. Consider and Approve a Resolution of the City of Cordele Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 21-27, 2024 and Encouraging All Residents to Support the Celebration and Corresponding Activities. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve a Resolution of the City of Cordele Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 21-27, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye. The Commission approved a Resolution Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 21-27, 2024.

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9. Consider and Approve the First Reading of An Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele to Delete Paragraph K of Section 3.64; Adopting a New Paragraph K of Section 3.64; Repealing All Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And For Other Purposes.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

City Attorney Tommy Coleman this Ordinance is amending how the distance is measured for an Alcohol License for a Church and School. Mr. Coleman stated he found that the City's Code Section was incorrect. It is different from the way it is measured from Churches to Schools. It is saying you go directly out the front door of the licensed premises to nearest way walk or street and then directly to the nearest property line, if it is a School; if it is a Church, it is measured to the Building. Now, this is what the Courts have said. They have defined that the children are playing on the playground. They are defining the Schools and Churches differently. With distilled spirits, it is 200 yards, the City had 100 yards on everything. So, it was changed and the distance method is for the Police to measure by. Also, the definition of school was put in the Ordinance; Housing Authorities and Alcohol Treatment Centers were included, as well.

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

The First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele to Delete Paragraph K of Section 3.64; Adopting a New Paragraph K of Section 3.64 was approved by the Commission.

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

Occupation Tax (Business License) Renewal

Deadline has passed for Occupation Tax. For those who did not renew by April 1st, a penalty has been added and a summons will be issued to appear in Municipal Court.

Signs for the Alleys

Public Works has proposed the signs for the alleys. The sign with red lettering was chosen, so the public can see it, it will not blend in with anything else. As noted on the sign, there is a fine up to a \$1,000.00.

Express Disposal

Express Disposal as started cleaning up the City about a week ago, but there has been inclement weather and the process has been slowed down. They are cleaning up items that were left from our previous Contractors, in cleaning up the alleys, but once the alley has been cleaned, please do not dump anything else in the alley. No Dumping in the alleys is allowed.

Yard Debris and Bulk Items

The same day has your scheduled trash pick-up is when those items can be placed for pick-up as well. Express Disposal send trucks through one behind the other to pick up your trash, yard debris and two (2) bulk items per week.

Comprehensive Plan Meeting

City Manager Angela Redding thanked everyone for their participation in the Comprehensive Plan. We had City, County and Arabi, Elected Officials; the Public came out to discuss housing,

transportation and economic development. River Valley is putting the information together; a draft of the plan is due to DCA this month. The final plan that will be submitted in June.

Photos from LMIG Safety Grant Improvements

Two Flashing lights were placed on West 6th Avenue warning trucks of the low clearance. On 9th Avenue, we have flashing lights where there is flooding at the Railroad Trestle.

New Businesses

AMG Finance
Consumer Lending Company
215 East 16th Avenue

Bud's Flower Trucks
Floral Sales
Limited to the City Limits

Stor Mor Cordele
Storage Building Facility
404 East 16th Avenue

Beards Detailing Service
Mobile Car Detailing
Limited to the City Limits

One Love Mart
Gifts and Souvenirs
204 West 24th Avenue Suite B

Superior High Gloss Floor & Cleaning
Janitorial Services
Limited to the City Limits

Cemetery Guidelines

The City will begin implementing guidelines as outlined in the Codes of Ordinance for Cemeteries. Per the Ordinance, the City, may remove artificial flowers, silk flowers, artificial shrubs, pictures, stuffed animals, miscellaneous objects and ornaments and other items that have become watered logged, scattered, discolored or damaged. A maximum of two (2) of the items, that were mentioned are allowed per grave space; rocks, solar lights and other items not mentioned are not allowed.

City Manager Angela Redding stated, she knows that these things cost money and the City wants to give the family time to remove the items. We are asking that the items be removed before April 16th and after April 16th, as outlined in the City Guidelines, the City will start removing these items. Again, they pose a hazard to the Contractors that the City pay to maintain the Cemeteries for the City.

If there are any questions regarding Cemetery Guidelines, please reach out to the City Clerk and the City Clerk's phone number is (229) 276-2901.

In my report, there is a list of Meetings and Events I attended in March. Regarding Southwest Georgia Excursion Meeting, there was not a quorum. We will meet again on April 10, 2024. This is the Authority for SAM Shortline. City Manager Angela Redding stated she will bring additional information for SAM Shortline.

Chairman Deriso asked if there were any questions for the City Manager.

Commissioner Rainey asked if the items that are listed, are placed within the coping that goes around the perimeter of the grave; are the Contractors maintaining within the lot? Are they allowed to have solar lights within the coping?

City Manager Angela Redding stating, inside the coping is really the responsibility of the families, but the City's Contractors are maintaining these as well, especially if there is a lot of grass, they are cutting inside the coping. City Manager Angela Redding responded that solar lights are not allowed inside the coping.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate):

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation at 9:52 AM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

The Commission approved to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Litigation.

13. REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to Reconvene the Regular Meeting at 10:11 AM; seconded by Commissioner Owens; The Commission approved to reconvene the Meeting.

Motion: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to Approve for Sumter Consulting Group to provide Services for an Interim Finance Director; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

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

The Commission Approved for Sumter Consulting Group to provide Services for an Interim Finance Director.

14. ADJOURNMENT: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:12 AM; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.