

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
December 5, 2023**

The City of Cordele Commission held a Regular Meeting on December 5, 2023 at 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Royce Reeves, Sr. Commission Vice Chair	Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner	Angela Redding, City Manager
Tommy Coleman, City Attorney	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Absent: Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair; Isaac Owens, Commissioner

Staff present: Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, David Wade – Human Resource Director, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

Media Present: Sarah Brown – Cordele Dispatch.

Call to Order: Commission Vice Chair Royce Reeves, Sr. called the Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

INVOCATION: There was a moment of silence.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

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 – December 5, 2023: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Agenda for December 5, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Agenda was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – November 21, 2023: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Minutes of November 21, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES: No Request.

SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM: Speaker will have three (3) minutes:

Mr. Ronald Michael – Agenda Item #6: 101 E 27th Ave., Cordele, GA.

Mr. Michael expressed his concerns regarding the Alcohol License Renewals.

Mr. Benjamin Gatliff – Agenda Item #6: 101 East 13th Avenue, Suite A, Cordele, Georgia.

Mr. Gatliff expressed his concern regarding the Commission granting an Alcohol License to a business near a DUI School. Mr. Gatliff asked if the Commission would reconsider granting an Alcohol License to this business.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORT:

1. FINANCE DIRECTOR: Rusty Bridgers Reported.

Goals for the Finance Department will be more defined in the future; to include revenue and expenditures.

2. FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Alligood Reported.

Calls for Service: Total 49

Structure Fire	1
Grass Fire/Rubbish	2
Vehicle Fire	0
Canceled In Route	4
Fire Alarm	4
Medical Assist	21
Motor Vehicle Accident	11
Smoke Scare	6

Department News

Engine 2 (hit on I-75 South) is at the body shop being repaired.

3. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – Irene Cantrell Reported.

• **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:**

The Board of Zoning Appeals has scheduled a public hearing and a meeting for December 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., copy of the agenda is attached for your information.

• **CORDELE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

The Historic Preservation Commission has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. A copy of the agenda is attached for your information.

• **CHIP 2018 GRANT PROGRAM:**

Preparing to start on the Application process for additional CHIP Funds in the next funding year with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Grant Administrator with the CHIP Housing Rehab Program.

• **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

There have not been any new Loan Applications submitted for review.

- **CDBG 2020 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:**

Lanier Engineering Firm has submitted the tentative final pay request to the City Public Works Department. Pending the final punch list and any possible change order items for the McLeod Subdivision sewer improvements project.

4. HUMAN RESOURCE: David Wade Reported.

- November 01, 2023 Completed and submitted the Georgia Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program 2024 renewal census. The rates for the 2024 benefit year renewal will remain the same as the 2023 rates.
- November 01, 2023: Received the group medical insurance quote for the upcoming 2024 plan year. The current plan expires January 31, 2024.
- November 02, 2023: Began gathering and compiling information to complete the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts annual Immigration Report. The report is due December 31, 2023.
- November 14, 2023: Completed and submitted the EEO-1 report. Deadline for submission is December 05, 2023.
- November 22, 2023 Began assembling responses from members of the Workforce Needs Assessment Committee for submittal to Georgia City Solutions.

5. MUNICIPAL COURT: Jackie Walker Reported.

Monthly Court Summary Report: November 2023

Traffic Cases	174
Criminal Cases	45
Total Court Cases	219
Bench Warrants Ordered:	4
License Suspension Ordered	23
Total Payments	\$30,268.58
Total Cases Transferred to Superior	0
Total Defendants Incarcerated	0
Total Days in Jail Sentenced	0

6. CODES/POLICE DEPARTMENT– Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

CODES COMPLIANCE DIVISION – November 1 – 27, 2023

Numerical Breakdown

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>
Abandoned Vehicle	22
C & D (Construction & Demolition	2
Curb stoning: Vehicle sales	0
Dilapidated Property	8

Inspections	39
Business License	5
Alcohol License	0
Trash (Dumping, Limb & Debris	30
Overgrown Grass Weeds	12
Panhandler/Loitering	0
Parking	0
Utility Complaint	1
Other	43

Departmental News

Code Compliance is developing a Facebook page, coming soon.

Code Compliance Division have a new email that has been set-up as codes@cityofcordele.com

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reporting Period November 1 – 27, 2023

Part I Crimes 42

Motor Vehicle Thefts	2 (1 recovered)
Aggravated Assault	13 (1 adult arrest; 3 juvenile arrest)
Larceny (thefts)	21 (13 entering autos, 4 shoplifting w/3 adults/1 juvenile Arrest, 4 other theft)
Burglary	6 (6 residential)

Part II 44

Incidents Reported	114
Community Contacts	14
Citations Issued	48
Warnings Issued	52
Total Calls	910

Departmental News

- Participated in the Christmas Parade on November 30, 2023.
- Upcoming Events: Department's Christmas Party, Shop with a Cop 2023.
- The Police Department is collecting unwrapped toys for Adopt an Angel Toy Drive, collection deadline is December 8th.

Commissioner Rainey asked who is responsible for checking the State Laws and distances for an Alcohol License.

Police Chief Heard stated, different state laws are looked at, as it is pertaining to distances. A lot of times, someone goes out to check distances. Basically, the language was changed from approval to reviewed. Chief Heard stated he is not approving the Alcohol License, he is reviewing to see, and he does not see any issues. There is section that is marked, if there are discrepancies or concerns. Chief Heard stated that the law is looked at, as it is related to the distances and measure them.

Commissioner Rainey asked, each Alcohol License that comes before the Commission complies with the law, as it is interpreted by the Police Department.

Police Chief Heard: Yes, if there are any questions or concerns that the Police Department has, we will bring it to the City Manager's attention.

7. PUBLIC WORKS – Steve Fulford Reported.

- Weekend clean-up of alleys is coming well.
- 2023 LMIG has been finished, except for manholes that have to be raised, paving has been finished. The second LMIG is waiting on the Chairman's signature.
- Public Works has been working with Express Disposal, getting ready for the transition.

8. UT&C – Debbie Wright Reported.

- Waste water treated is the lowest it has been in years; treated 49,000,000 gallons.
- We have made significant progress with our Backflow Prevention Program. This program is to provide safety in the drinking water system by not allowing anything to back-siphon into the distribution system. It is also mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act and the City's Cross Connection and Backflow Ordinance.
- We are doing some "fall" cleaning and will have some surplus items for GovDeals in the next month.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider and Approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance Regarding the Disposal of Discarded, Dismantled, Wrecked, Scrapped, Ruined, or Junk Motor Vehicles in the Possession of the City of Cordele; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Second Reading of an Ordinance was approved by the Commission.
2. Event Permit: Falling 4 Cordele Family Engagement Festival December 17, 2023, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM at the Cordele Community Clubhouse, 108 East 15th Avenue. Sponsored by Crisp County Community Council, 1129 N. 5th St., Cordele, GA, Monica Robinson – Executive Director. Approved by Chief Heard on December 1, 2023. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the Event Permit was approved by the Commission.
3. Consider and Approve the Lease Agreement with Express Disposal for Rental of the Facility Located at 809 E 11th Avenue. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Lease Agreement with Express Disposal; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Lease Agreement was approved by the Commission.
4. Consider and Approve the Quit Claim Deed between the City of Cordele and Horizon Cordele, LLC. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Quit Claim Deed; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Quit Claim Deed was approved by the Commission.
5. Consider and Approve the Permanent Utility Easement between Horizon Cordele, LLC and the City of Cordele.

Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Permanent Utility Easement; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Permanent Utility Easement was approved by the Commission.

6. Consider and Approve Alcohol License Renewals. With No Exception Noted.

Police Chief Heard reviewed applications.

Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Alcohol License Renewals; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the Alcohol License Renewals were approved by the Commission.

Beer Only Consumed Off Premises

Fast Stop	104 W. 6 th Avenue	Tiffany Graham
Flint River Food Mart	904 E 16 th Avenue	Manish B. Patel
L & B Wings	507 S. Joe Wright Dr.	Bobby Rogers
Cordele Food Mart	316 E. 24 th Ave. Ste. B	Dibya Joshi
Cordele Gas & Go	1815 E 16 th Ave.	William S. Perry, Jr.
EZ Food Mart	501 E. 16 th Ave.	Chetan P. Prajapati

Beer Only Consumed On Premises

VFW Post #4742	1611 S. 7 th St.	Danny Ross, Quartermaster
El Girasol	102 E 14 th Ave.	Yolanda Medric
Cordele Recreation Parlor Inc.	105 W. 11 th Ave.	Randy Bridges

Beer & Wine Consumed Off Premises

Enmark Stations, Inc.	402 N. 7 th St.	Matt Clements, President
Dollar General Store #2386	402 S. 7 th St.	Abby Holden License Specialist
Dollar General Store #4025	1101 E. 16 th Ave. Ste. N.	Abby Holden License Specialist
Horizon Cordele	2302 GA Hwy. 300 S.	Pankajkumar Patel
Circle K	1717 E 16 th Ave.	Jennifer Bennett License Analyst
CVS	214 E 16 th Ave.	Gloria St.Onge Licensing Coordinator
Family Dollar	704 N. 7 th St.	Sheteria Lewis Store Manager
Harvey's Supermarket	1011 E 16 th Ave	M. Sandlin Grimm
Hampton Inn & Suites	1709 E. 16 th Ave.	John Donohue General Manager
Love's Travel Stop #801	1525 E 8 th Ave.	Amy Guzzy
Pilot Travel Center #416	2201 E 16 th Ave.	Adrienne Flowers Licensing Manager
Stop & Go	2001 US Hwy. 41 N.	G. B. Patel
Valero 601 Ave. LLC	601 E 8 th Ave.	Breanna Knight

Package Store

Thrifty Package Store	501 W 16 th Ave. Ste. B	Mukur S. Patel
Sonny's Package Store	512 E 16 th Ave.	Sunil Mehta

Harry's Liquor	1807 Central Ave.	Harry Patel
24 TH East Package Store	316 E 24 th Ave Ste. A	Dibya Joshi

7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

City Manager Angela Redding presented a Power Point for her report.

Community Meeting with Express Disposal

The Second Community Meeting with Express Disposal, will be Thursday, December 14, 2023, 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Community Clubhouse.

Information on transferring from Waste Management to Express Disposal

Express Disposal will be the new waste provider for the City of Cordele, starting January 1, 2024. The following changes will begin during the month of December 2023:

- All Carts will be delivered curbside. Trash service will no longer be provided in the alleys.
- New trash carts will be delivered beginning the week of December 11th – 15th. Do not use this trash cart until Waste Management removes their trash carts.
- Please leave your Waste Management cart out after it has been serviced as a contractor will be removing the empty Waste Management cart.
- Once your existing Waste Management cart is removed, begin using your new Express cart.
- Beginning January 1st Express will begin servicing your carts.
- If you have any questions, please call Express Disposal at (229) 352-4300.

Comprehensive Plan – Community Input Survey 2023

Crisp County, Arabi and Cordele are updating our joint Comprehensive Plan and need your input. Please answer a few questions to help develop the community's vision for a better future. Online assess: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Crisp_Community_Input. This information will be sent to River Valley Regional Commission.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Public Hearing – 212 N. 2nd Street – New Tenant - Bridging the Gap Educational Services
December 6, 2023 – 5:30 PM

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting

December 7, 2023
City Hall Courtroom – 10:00 AM

Community Clubhouse Committee Meeting

December 13, 2023
City Hall Courtroom – 10:00 AM

SAM Shortline Holiday Trains – One hour train ride

December 9th, 15th, & 16th

Christmas Holidays Observed

City Offices will be closed: Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

Action Item

Approval of the City Holiday Schedule 2024:

Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Holiday Schedule 2024; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the City Holiday Schedule for employees were approved by the Commission.

- 8. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No Report.
- 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): There was no Executive Session.
- 10. ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Shephard moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:52 AM; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVED