

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
January 3, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on January 3rd, 5:30 p.m., 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-Shepard, Commissioner	Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Isaac Owens, Commissioner	Angela Redding, City Manager
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Staff present: Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Jackie Walker – Chief Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Jim Jackson – Water Superintendent, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

Staff absent: Steve Fulford.

Media Present: Deepayah Sinha - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Chris Lewis.

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Irene Cantrell.

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		✓
Royce Reeves, Sr.	Commission Vice Chairman		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – January 3, 2023: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for January 3, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 20, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Minutes for January 20, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion 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.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE: Andrew Jackson, Gas Department

Mr. Jackson was recognized and honored by the City of Cordele Commission for more than forty-eight years of service to the City of Cordele. City Manager Angela Redding presented Mr. Jackson a gift.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers Reported.

November LOST	received 12/29/2022 - \$228,919.79
October SPLOST	received 12/19/2022 - \$221,910.45
November TSPLOST	received 12/30/2022 - \$29,474.82
Total	\$480,305.06

2022 Property Tax Billing	\$2,850,219.18
2021 Property Tax Billing	\$2,735,931.54

2. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.

Types of Activity	Number of Incidents Reported
Fire alarm investigations	26
Rubbish fires	6
Vehicle fires	5
Dryer fire	1
Smoke investigation	2
MVA calls	3
Medical assist	2
Cancelled enroute	1
Natural gas leak calls	2
Electrical fires	2
Structure fire	1
Misc. calls	2
Total calls for Service from Dispatch	53

Department News: Cordele Fire Department has three (3) Firefighter Vacancies.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

CORDELE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

The Cordele Planning and Zoning Commission conducted a public hearing and meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

After a thorough review and discussion of the zoning amendment request from BINGO, LLC (Kavish M. Patel, Mgr. and Sole Member), the CPC members voted to recommend to Cordele City Commission that the request be granted to amend the zoning for all of Lots 4 and 5, Parts of Lots 1 and 3, in Block 134, on the City of Cordele’s Official City Maps be amended from Office and Institutional District (OI) to Highway Commercial District (HC).

CORDELE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

The Cordele Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing and Meeting on Thursday, December 22, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

To consider an amendment to the City of Cordele's Official Zoning Map as follows:
All of the area bordering on 16th Avenue from the East side of 5th Street to the West side of Fleming Road should be amended from its current zoning of Office and Institutional District (OI) to Highway Commercial District (HC).

After a thorough discussion and consideration of all comments from the CPC members, the Codes Department Staff, Cordele City Manager, Angela Redding, and comments from some area property owners, the CPC members voted to recommend to the Cordele City Commission that the Zoning amendment to the City of Cordele's Official Map all of the area bordering on 16th Avenue from the East side of 5th Street to the West side of Fleming Road should be amended from Office and Institutional District (OI) to Highway Commercial District (HC).

The Cordele Planning Commission also held a discussion and considered an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cordele, Georgia to allow for Loft Dwellings in the Central Business District (CBD) and to establish rules and regulations regarding such dwellings and repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith and for other purposes.

After a thorough discussion and consideration of comments, questions, etc., the Cordele Planning Commission Chairman and members agreed to further review the pros and cons of this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance at a future CPC meeting.

4. Codes Report: Jack Wood, Sr. Reported.

Hunt Brothers Pizza Warehouse:

2142 Pateville Road, Job Valuation \$913,500.00; Permit Fee \$2,508.00. Job is completed.

Single Family Home: Single Family residence for Tyler at 71 Aberdeen Circle

Job Valuation \$392,264.00 Permit Fee \$1,080.00

5. Human Resources: David Wade Reported.

December 07, 2022 Processed and submitted the semi-annual renewal of the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program. The policy renewed with a 13% decrease in premium.

December 08, 2022 Meet with Noel Williams and Alissa Wilkerson of Partners Benefit Group to review insurance renewal quotes for this coming year.

6. Municipal Court: Jackie Walker Reported

Monthly Court Summary Report:

Total Traffic Cases	184
Total Criminal Cases	26
Total Court Cases	210
Bench Warrants Ordered	7
License Suspension Ordered	13
Total Cash Bonds Paid	\$15,479.00
Total Fines Collected (Late Payments, Citations)	\$11,040.25
Total Deposits From CSRA:	\$12,947.62
Total Deposits from CSRA Pretrial Sentences	\$ 3,898.00
Total Deposits from Restitution	178.00

Total Deposits from Web Payments Collected	\$ 9,787.00
Total	\$53,379.87
Total Defendants Incarcerated	2
Total Days Jail Sentenced	32

7. Police Department – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

Calls for Service – Numerical Breakdown

Part I Crimes	45
Rape	1 (1 arrest)
Motor Vehicle Thefts	1
Aggravated Assault	3
Larceny (Thefts)	31 (8 enter auto, 12 shoplifting w/13 arrests)
Burglary	9 (8 residential, 1 business)
Part II Crimes	74
Incidents Reported	137
Community Contacts	76
Citations Issued	222
Warnings Issued	98
Total Calls for Service	1,204

Department News

The Department have three cadets that are starting the Police Academy on January 3, 2023. Autumn Rooney was hired as a Front Desk Clerk.

8. Public Works – Jim Jackson Reported.

Water/Sewer

Since the last commission report, the Water Department has repaired three broken water mains at the following locations:

- 2009 East 16th Avenue
- 7th Street & 9th Avenue
- 6th Street & 8th Avenue

Ongoing Projects

Raise water valves covered up by contractors during the widening of 16th Avenue. Project is 75% complete.

Assist contractors with the installation of low flow sewer system in the McLeod Circle Subdivision. This project 50% complete.

Upcoming Projects

Installation of 3 water services to Gillespie Gardens. Waiting on customer to apply for service.

Installation of a low flow sewer system on Exa Avenue from Pearl Street to Trucker's Route. Will schedule work once the McLeod Subdivision Project has been completed.

Installation of water/sewer services to Foam Works Auto Spa

The Water/Sewer Department has completed 52 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

9. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.

We faired very well as a water system during the hard freeze during Christmas. Although we had many leaks and many people had busted pipes; we were able to make sure everyone had water and sewer service.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Elect Vice Chairman

Commissioner Owens moved to elect Commissioner Shephard; Commissioner Shephard declined, but the motion failed for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Rainey moved to nominate Royce Reeves, Sr.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission. Commissioner Royce Reeves Sr. is the City of Cordele Vice Chair.

2. Appoint/Set Retainer – Municipal Court Judge

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint/set retainer for Judge Russell Wright as Municipal Court Judge; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried by the Commission. Commission Chair Joshua Deriso stated, it is time for Judge Russell Wright to come before the Commission and give a report.

3. Appoint/Set Retainer – City Solicitor

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint/set retainer for Blake Brantley as the City Solicitor; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was carried by the Commission. Commissioner Owens stated all (Municipal Court Judge, City Solicitor and Public Defender) should be able to come and share some of the points about their position and how they are working within the City.

4. Appoint/Set Retainer – Public Defender

Commissioner Rainey moved to appoint/set retainer for Dustin Land as the Public Defender; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was carried by the Commission.

5. Appoint/Set Retainer – City Attorney

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint/set retainer for Tommy Coleman as the City Attorney; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried by the Commission.

6. Consider Reappointment of City Manager

Commissioner Shephard moved to reappoint Angela Redding as the City Manager; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves. Commissioner Shephard moved to give City Manager Angela Redding a three-year contract; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Commission Chair Deriso stated he would like for the Commission to evaluate the persons that are appointed by the Commission.

7. Consideration and Approval of a Parade Permit for the Crisp County NAACP. The proposed route begins at the corner of 24th Avenue and 13th Street, proceed to Joe Wright Drive, turn left over to 11th Avenue to 15th Street and ends at A.S. Clark Auditorium. Commissioner Shephard

moved to approve the Parade Permit for the Crisp County NAACP; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the Parade Permit was approved by the Commission.

8. First Reading of an Ordinance to Set and Publish Qualification Fees for the 2023 General Election for the Offices of City Commissioner Ward One and City Commissioner Ward Four.

Background and Summary: Georgia Code 21-2-131(a)(1) requires that qualification fees for public offices are fixed and published no later than February 1st.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance to Set and Publish Qualification Fees for the 2023 General Election; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the First Reading was approved by the Commission.

9. Consider Board Reappointments and New Board Appointment:
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint new board members and reappoint board members; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Cordele Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals - Term – 3 years

Sue James 12.31.22

Harold Perry 12.31.22

Sus James has moved from Cordele and a replacement is needed.

Commissioner Shephard recommended Mr. Robert Alford to replace Ms. Sue James.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to have Mr. Alford to serve on the Cordele Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals for three years; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Cordele Carnegie Library Board – Term 3 years

Arleeta Henry 06.30.22

Dr. Benny Wade 06.30.22

Katrisha Williams 06.30.22

Commissioner Shephard asked if the board members have to live within the City Limits.

The City Attorney will bring that information back to the Commission.

Cordele Cemetery Study Committee – Term - Indefinite

Replacement for Debra Perry, Alisha Williams, City of Cordele Assistant City Clerk will Serve on this board.

Cordele Electrical Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals - Term - 3 years

Anthony West 12.31.22

Johnny Dennis 12.31.22

Commissioner Owens moved to reappoint Mr. West and Mr. Dennis to the board; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Cordele Fire Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals – Term - 3 years

William Hurt 12.31.22

Kevin Fulmore 12.31.22

Thomas Rainey 12.31.22

Carl Brown 12.31.22

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint the board members; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Cordele Gas Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals – Term – 3 years

Sammie Mumphery 12.31.22

Jeff Cobb 12.31.22

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint the board members; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Cordele Housing Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals – Term - 3 years

Kevin Jennings 12.31.22

Greg Turton 12.31.22

Willie J. Patrick 12.31.22

Commissioner Owens moved to appoint the board members; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Cordele Mechanical Board of Adjustments and Appeals - Term - 3 years

Roger Alexander 12.31.22

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint the board member; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Cordele Planning Commission and Platting Authority – Term - 5 years

Jeff Smith 12.31.22

Alyssa Wilkerson 12.31.22

Commissioner Shephard Commission moved to appoint the board members; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Flood Plain Appeals Board - Term – 3 years

Willie Colson 12.31.22

Blake Hobbs 12.31.22

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint the board members; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

City of Cordele – New Board Appointments

DDA Board – Term – 4 years

Sandra Arnett (Southern Belles)

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint the board member; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

10. Consider and Approve a time limit of two (2) minutes per elected official to discuss items on the agenda and make comments. **(Vice Chairman Reeves)**

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve a time limit of (2) two minutes per elected official to discuss items on the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

11. Consider and Establish a deadline for elected officials to request an item be placed on the agenda with the exception of an emergency item. (Vice Chairman Reeves)
 Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to establish a deadline for elected officials to request an item to be placed on the agenda with exception of an emergency item; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
 Commissioner Owens asked, “what is considered an emergency?” Parameters needs to be established.
 Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated, he will remove, “with an exception of an emergency item”, but the Commissioners needs to submit items to go on the agenda by Thursday before the Meeting. City Manager Angela Redding suggested to leave it as is for the citizens (Wednesday at 5:00 PM), but for the Elected Officials to submit items for the agenda by Thursday at 5:00 PM.
 Commissioner Shephard stated, let it remain the same for the general public, but for Elected Officials, let it be Thursday by 5:00 PM.
 Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved for agenda items for the general public to remain the same, Wednesday by 5:00 PM and for Elected Official, Thursday by 5:00 PM. The motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye; Commissioners Shephard and Rainey – aye; Commissioner Owens – nay.

12. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

Public Hearings

Public Hearings scheduled for the next City Commission Meeting on January 17, 2023 are listed below:

1. Two zoning amendments on 16th Avenue East changing the zoning from (O/I) Office and Institutional to (HC) Highway Commercial.
2. 2022-2023 Proposed Budget
3. Fast Top – Alcohol Renewal

Request to Donate labor and Equipment – Standard Field

Crisp County Power Commission approved the request for Standard Field.

Alcohol License Renewal Applications

Alcohol License Renewals received since the December 20th City Commission Meeting Are included in this report. There are no exceptions noted. **All alcohol licenses expired December 31, 2022.**

NAME	ADDRESS	
Shell Food Mart	2105 E 16 th Avenue	Beer Off Premises
BP Food Mart	2009 E 16 th Avenue	Beer Off Premises
Michelle’s	908 E 16 th Avenue	Beer Consumed on Premises and liquor by the drink
Sonny’s	412 E 16 th Avenue	Liquor/Beer/Wine off Premises
Cordele Supermarket	311 W 24 th Avenue	Beer/Wine off Premises
El Girasol	102 E 14 th Avenue	Alcohol/Beer on Premises

Cordele Recreation Parlor	105 W 11 th Avenue	Alcohol/Beer on Premises
EZ Stop	501 E 16 th Avenue	Beer off Premises
Flint River Food Mart	904 E 16 th Avenue	Beer off Premises

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the renewals for Alcohol Licenses; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 16th in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr, Day.

Hearing for Fast Stop – Alcohol License Renewal

On December 21, 2022, an employee at Fast Stop was issued a citation for selling alcohol to a minor. Per the Code of Ordinances, a hearing before the City Commission will be scheduled for the applicant to show cause why the application for renewal should be granted.

Commissioner Owens moved to have the Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission, the Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

13. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: No Report.

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

City Manager Angela Redding requested an Executive Session.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation at 6:27 PM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

15. REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to reconvene the Meeting at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Rainey moved to agree with the Revolving Loan Board decision on the appeal. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

16. COMMENTS BY THE GOVERNING BODY: Commissioner Owens stated the Local Chapter of the NAACP is looking at doing more of a Parade than a March this year for MLK Day.

17. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Rainey moved to adjourn the Meeting at 6:54 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.