

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
May 4, 2021

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on May 4th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

John Wiggins, Commission Chair	Jeanie Bartee, Vice Chair
Royce Reeves, Commissioner	Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Steve Fulford, Assistant City Manager
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary	Flinn Coleman, Attorney

Absent: Roland McCarthy, City Manager; Timmy Coleman, City Attorney.

Staff present: David Wade, Police Chief Lewis Green, Irene Cantrell, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Joy Causey, Debra Perry, Jack Wood, Sr., Jeremy Taylor, Debbie Wright.

Others Present: Velezia Grant, Charlie Butts, Ricky Dawson.

Media present: Ricky Smarr – South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee.

Call to Order: Commission Chair John Wiggins called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Rev. Ricky Smarr.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2021: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 20, 2021; it was seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the meeting minutes of April 20, 2021 were approved unanimously by the Commission.

Old Business:

- Commissioner Shephard inquired about the 6th and 8th Avenue Connector; when will the road be repaired. Steve Fulford, Public Works Director, stated the road will be repaired when it is dry enough.

New Business:

Commissioner Rainey presented images to the Commission on an event that happened on May 1, 2021, in the area of South 11th Street and West 24th Avenue. There was no event permit issued for this event. Commissioner Rainey stated that he is sure that there are a large number of Ordinances that are on the books that are not being policed, during these events; until the Ordinances that are already on the books are policed, he does not think the Commission should pass another Ordinance or anything until the Commission gets the policing of the Ordinances under control. Commissioner Rainey stated that this is totally unacceptable; this also happened on Easter Sunday and this event also ended with gun shots; both of the events have not been policed and have ended with gun shots.

Motion: Commissioner Rainey moved to turn the Cordele Police Department over to the Crisp County Sheriff Department for management. The motion failed for a lack of second.

Commission Chair John Wiggins stated he believes that the Commission needs to converse about this issue in a Work Session or do it another way. After a lengthy discussion, Commission Chair John Wiggins stated he wants a Police Chief and a Sheriff to sit down at the table to plan, manage and to work together for the betterment of the City.

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Commission Priorities – In Progress: Roland McCarthy, City Manager reported.

1. **Sidewalks on 8th Street and 13th Street (Joe Wright Drive) south of 24th Avenue –**
Currently funds are available for sidewalks on South 8th Street. Sidewalks on South 13th Street will be completed as funds become available. Lanier Engineering is drawing up specs and plans for this area, this should be finished around the end of May; advertisement for bids should start around the first of June.
 - 8th Street, South 24th Avenue West
 - 13th Street, South of 24th Avenue
2. **Sidewalk for Pecan Street:** The City has completed their portion of the sidewalks. The City is now waiting on CSX Railroad to complete their portion of the project. It is undetermined when the Railroad will finish their portion.
3. **Inflow/Infiltration Program for Wastewater Collection/Treatment Project in Progress –**
SPLOST funds committed for project and the City has been approved for the GEFA Loan to rehabilitate the Trickle Filter System. Materials for this project have been received and the first Phase of this project has begun.
4. **Gillespie Selden Rehab Project/Urban Renewal:**
 - **2018 CHIP (Community Housing Improvement Program) Grant:** Work is currently being performed on the Environmental Documents for the potential housing rehabilitation of the home located at 307 South 12th Street. The CHIP Housing Inspector has been contacted to schedule dates for the next two home inspections located at 107 Ross Street and 509 West 18th Avenue.
 - **2020 CDBG:** All CDBG paperwork has been submitted to the State and the City has been approved for the drawdown of funds. Lanier Engineering is currently working on the project design and should be furnished within a few months. When the project design has been completed, we will be ready for the bidding process.
 - **Historic Gillespie Gardens:** This project will be done in the Gillespie-Selden Historic District, developers have filed tax credits to pursue project.
5. **Demolish Dilapidated Structures/Remove Abandoned Vehicles:** All UBPO Cases that are pending, will be torn down by the 1st of June, 2021. Landbank Authority Board has had their second meeting. Code Enforcements Officers will continue to work on cases. City Attorney is also working on dilapidated property.

Commission Priorities – Future Projects:

1. **16th Avenue Widening –** This is on a TSPLOST Referendum that the City will be working on in the future. DOT is paving West 16th Avenue. (From West City Limits to 5th Street Vicinity) (15 years)
2. **11th Street Improvement Project - (North – South to City Limits) 2018-2022 SPLOST**
Funds are committed to this project.
3. **DOT Study Request/Extend Ga. 300 –** This is still on DOT radar. Requesting Update.
4. **Widening US Hwy 280 from Cordele to Americus (has been put on the DOT's TSPLOST approval list.)** TSPLOST approval list. Bridge over Lake Blackshear is completed.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES – Steve Fulford reported.

Approval of Second Reading of an Ordinance: Commission approval is requested for the Second Reading of a Revised Alcohol Beverages Ordinance. This is Chapter 3. Alcoholic Beverages in the Code of Ordinance Book; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Second Reading of a Revised Alcohol Beverages Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commissioner Bartee voted nay.

Approval of First Reading of an Ordinance: Commission approval is requested for the First Reading of the Application and Licensing process for Special Events. The Commission has had a workshop and were given two options for this Ordinance. Approval is requested on the Ordinance the Commission wishes to have enforced; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commission Chair Wiggins asked the Commission, "Is it the consensus of the Commission to adopt an Ordinance tonight?" The Commission replied, "yes". Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the original Event Ordinance, which Tommy Cotton wrote with modifications to say Commission, instead of Committee; the Commission will make all decisions on events; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the First Reading of the original Event Ordinance is approved unanimously by the Commission.

*****The first Special Events Ordinance (O-19-08) was prepared by Former City Attorney, Tommy Cotton and was approved (2nd Reading) by the Commission on August 6, 2019. Tommy Coleman presented a Special Event Ordinance at the Work Shop, which was held on April 20, 2021.**

Approval of First Reading of an Ordinance: The Cordele Planning Commission met on April 29, 2021 and approved an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele to provide for Manufactured/Mobile Homes. Commission approval is requested for the First Reading of the Amendment to the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele to provide for Manufactured/Mobile Homes; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Assistant City Manager, Steve Fulford, stated that the City Attorney Tommy Coleman advised him to alert the Commission that a Public Hearing needs to be done first before having a First Reading on this Ordinance; he stated the Commission should advertise the Public Hearing fifteen days before having the Public Hearing. Commissioner Reeves moved to have a Public Hearing on June 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Approval for an Event Permit: Commission approval is requested for an Event Permit for an event sponsored by the Downtown Business Organization to display Historical Pictures. The permit is requested by Monica Renfrow, Cordele Main Street Director. This is a Family Event to be held on May 13, 2021, from 5:30PM to 7:00PM at 302 North 7th Street. The Chief of Police and City Manager have approved this event. Upon the Commission's approval, Monica Renfrow will be notified. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Event Permit to display Historical Pictures; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

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Approval for an Event Permit: Commission approval is requested for an Event Permit for an event sponsored by the Downtown Business Organization, a Food Truck Event. The permit is requested by Monica Renfrow, Cordele Main Street Director. This is a Family Event to be held on May 21, 2021, from 11:00AM to 6:00PM at the Community Clubhouse. The Chief of Police and City Manager have approved this event. Upon the Commission's approval, Monica Renfrow will be notified. Commissioner Bartee moved to approval the Event Permit for a Food Truck Event; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval for a Parade Permit: Commission approval is requested for a Parade Permit, the permit is requested by Monica Simmons, Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Watermelon Days Festival Parade will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at 9:30 AM. line-up will start at 8:30 AM at the Cordele Community Clubhouse. The parade route is: starts at the Community Clubhouse 15th Avenue, proceeding East, ending at Pecan Street. Assistance is requested from the Police Department at the intersections. The Chief of Police and City Manager have approved this permit. Upon the Commission's approval, Monica Simmons will be notified. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Parade Permit; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

A Memorial for the Former City Manager, the Late James Edward Beach: A Memorial has not been decided for the Late James Edward Beach. The Commission did discuss a bench in memory of and a caboose in memory of Mr. Beach. The Commission will need more time to see about getting the caboose in memory of Edward beach. Commission Chair asked Mr. Fulford to look into honoring Mr. Beach and Robert C. Gaston.

Four way Stop intersections: The 4-way Stops in the city of Cordele do not have a warning sign posted prior to arrival at the intersection. The City when they make a new intersection a 4-way Stop, they place a Stop Sign in the middle of the intersection for approximately 30 days to ensure residents are aware that the intersection is going to be 4-way. After 30 days a Stop Sign with a notice of it being 4-way is placed at each intersection to remind drivers to stop, look, and proceed as the law allows. Commission Chair John Wiggins asked Steve Fulford to check and see if there is a State Law on putting warning signs before the 4-way stops.

Payments Received: The City has received the reimbursements on the following:
One Georgia Grant in the amount of \$500,000
The City has received the 1st Installment payment of the GEFA Loan for \$771,000.00
The City has received the SPLOST payment for February in the amount of \$85,263.48

City Attorney Report: City Attorney Tommy Coleman was not present. Flinn Coleman, Attorney was present. Commission Bartee inquired about an intersection (Pecan Street) being blocked for three days by the railroad. "Why it is not illegal for the Railroad to block this intersection for three days?" Commissioner Bartee requested for City Attorney Tommy Coleman to reiterate to the Commission the reason it is not illegal for the trains to block intersections for three hours at the next Commission Meeting, May 18, 2021.

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Finance Director Report: Joy Causey reported.

- Revenue is OVER Expenses in FY2021 including received reimbursements: \$615,039
- Any payments made with a credit card will be imposed a processing fee of \$3.00, this is the credit card company, not the City of Cordele.

***Please report that was submitted for additional information.

Fire Chief Report: Chief Augusta Telfair reported.

- One electrical fire
- Natural gas leak (gas line was hit at Circle K; 250 lb. LP tank at South GA Roofing was leaking).
- Four activated fire alarms
- One smoke investigation
- One CO² alarm
- One motor vehicle accident
- One power line
- One controlled burn that got out of hand at Griffin Lumber Co.

***Please see report that was submitted for additional information.

Housing & Urban Advancement Director's Report: Irene Cantrell reported on the CHIP Program on the rehabilitation of three homes. Mrs. Cantrell stated she received an email from Brenda Wade, the Grant Administrator, in reference to, Mrs. Ida Patrick's home being rehabilitated. Mrs. Cantrell stated, Mrs. Grant reports that an inspection team has performed an inspection on Mr. Ida Patrick's home; an assessment report, environmental review and noise study report; all this has to be done to start the process of rehabilitating the home. Mrs. Cantrell stated, Mrs. Grant submitted the appropriate paper work to the City, and the Commission Chair and Mrs. Patrick have to sign off on the paperwork. Mrs. Cantrell also stated, the other two homes that are being rehabilitated, Diane Ford and Mattie Gary, the pre-set-up documents have been received by DCA and have they have been given a verbal approval to proceed with the contract.

***Please see report that was submitted for additional information.

Chief Codes Official Report: Jack Wood, Sr. reported.

- Value of Jobs: Approximately \$5,000,000.00
- Harry's Liquor is now open for business.

***Please see report that was submitted for additional information.

Personnel Director Report: David Wade reported.

- Mr. Wade gave the Manpower Vacancy Summary to keep the Commissioners abreast of the staffing pattern at the City.
- Mr. Wade stated that Steve Fulford, Roland McCarthy and himself met last week and they reallocated some personnel to the Cemetery and Parks Department to assist them with some of the maintenance issues.

**Please see report that was submitted for information.

Police Chief Report: Chief Lewis Green reported.

Part 1 Crimes

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Aggravated Assault	4
Larceny	(7) 4 shoplifting-4 arrests: 3 other thefts
Burglary	(2) 2 residence
Part II Crimes	48
Incidents Reported	56
Family Violence Incident	(4) 0 arrest
Miscellaneous Incidents	33
Motor Vehicle Crashes	(19) 15 roadway, 4 private properties
Arrests Made from Incidents	(35) 3 arrest came Saturday night
Citations Issued	61
Warnings Issued	10
Total Calls for Service from Dispatch	602

**Please see report that was submitted for information.

Public Works Director: Steve Fulford Director.

**Please see report that was submitted for information.

U T & C Director's Report: Debbie Wright reported.

Mrs. Wright informed the Commission that the City won the Gold Award for the City's Drinking Water System Year 2020.

**Please see report that was submitted for additional information.

Other Reports: No other City reports.


Adjourn: Commissioner Bartee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.



John E. Wiggins, Chairman



Roland McCarthy, City Manager



Date