

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
May 18, 2021

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on May 18th. 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	Roland McCarthy, City Manager
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary	Tommy Coleman, Attorney

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

Staff absent: Debbie Wright.

Others Present: Marshall Graham, Shekie Graham, Velesia Grant, Charlie Butts, Ricky Dawson, Lisa Garcia.

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 David Wade.

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

Mr. Marshall Graham - Concerns about an Event Permit: Mr. Graham appeared before the Commission to ask for the approval of an Event Permit for his birthday party, which will be held on June 5, 2021 at 1614 South 7th St., Cordele, GA. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Event Permit, seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was not approved with a 3/2 vote. Commissioners Reeves and Shephard vote aye; Commissioners Rainey and Bartee voted nay; Commission Chair John Wiggins broke the tie with a nay vote. The Event Permit Application was denied with a 3/2 vote by the Commission.

Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2021: Commissioner Bartee moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 4, 2021; it was seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the meeting minutes of May 4, 2021 were approved 3/1 vote by the Commission. Commissioner Reeves voted nay.

Old Business:

- Commissioner Shephard inquired about the status of the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Service. Commissioner Shephard stated, she hopes that the land will be cultivated like the Newtown Sewer Service, where everyone in the McLeod Subdivision will be on the City Sewer line as a group and not as an individual unit or station. Commissioner Shephard stated she heard from a resident in that area that a pump will be placed at each resident's house for Sewer Service; and the residents are fearful that their electricity and water bill will be extremely high if the resident have an individual unit, as oppose to a group, to tie into the City Sewer. City Manager, Roland McCarthy stated, from his understanding, this information is correct, a pump will be placed at each home. Mr. McCarthy stated that letters have gone out to the residents in the McCleod Circle asking if they desire to have City Sewer and if they respond, "no", to wanting City

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Sewer Service, they will have to pay \$6400 to get it later. Commissioner Shephard asked if the letter states that there will be pumps at each house? Mr. McCarthy stated the letter does states that the pumps will be at each resident's house. Commissioner Shephard stated the when this project initiated, it was not stated that pumps will be placed at each resident's house. Steve Fulford, Public Works Director stated that this is the way this project was designed; it will cost the City \$1,000,000 to build another Lift Station and the City does not have the money. After a lengthy discussion about this matter, Commissioner Shephard requested that the City find other means of funding to put in a Lift Station, so the residents in that area can have Sewer Service like the other residents in the City of Cordele. Commission Chair John Wiggins asked the Roland McCarthy and Steve Fulford to take a look into this to determine the best opinion to rectify this matter.

- Commissioner Reeves inquired about having an Event Permit for an event held inside a building. City Attorney Tommy Cotton stated, an Event Permit will be needed for an inside event. Mr. Coleman stated, the Commission needs to revisit the Event Ordinance that they adopted.
- Commissioner Reeves asked Commission Chair Wiggins, if he understood him correctly at the last meeting, when he stated that the City of Cordele has no Law Enforcement. Commissioner Reeves asked Human Resource Director, David Wade, how many Court Cases has it been in the last year? David Wade responded, total cases within a year up to April 2021 is 3,367 cases that was in City Court; of those 2,644 criminal and traffic cases were by the Cordele Police Department, Georgia State Patrol – 712 cases, Crisp County Sheriff Department – 11 cases. Commissioner Reeves asked if those tickets were inside the City Limit? Mr. Wade answered “yes”. Commissioner Reeves stated he wanted the citizens to know, there is law enforcement inside the City Limit.

New Business:

- Commissioner Bartee stated that she would like to commend Monica Simmons, Director of the Cordele Chamber of Commerce, and the Watermelon Festival Committee for the Watermelon festivities that will take place starting May 22 through July 4, 2021.
- City Attorney Tommy Coleman recommended to the Commission on having the City Commission Meeting once a month and a Work Session once a month. He presented Agendas for the Work Session and for the City Commission Meeting. The Department Heads will make a report once a month and that will be at the Work Session. The Work Session will assist the Commission with ironing out all the bugs before it is actually voted on at the City Commission Meeting. The Ordinances, contracts and other business will be on the Agenda for the City Commission Meeting. The Work Session will be scheduled on an as needed basis at 4:30 PM, the first Tuesday at the month. The Regular Commission Meeting is intended to pass into law those things that have been discussed and decided upon in the Work Session. Commission Chair John Wiggins stated this change of meetings will start on June 1, 2021; Work Sessions will be on the first Tuesdays of the month, beginning at 4:30 PM and Commission Meetings will be held on the third Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 PM.

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 has completed the plans for

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this area, and it will be put out for bid; 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. The contractors will finish the Railroad portion of the sidewalk on Thursday, May 20th.
 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 Trickling 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 – Roland McCarthy reported.

Approval of Second Reading of an Ordinance: Commission approval is requested for the Second 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. The Commission approved the First Reading of this Ordinance for Special Events at the

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meeting held on May 4, 2021, but requested for the Special Event Permit (O-19-08) to be modified to state The Commission, not a Committee. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance for Special Events, which was written by Former City Attorney Tommy Cotton; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was not approved with a 3/1 vote. Commissioners Rainey, Reeves and Shephard voted nay; Commissioner Bartee vote aye. The Second Reading of the Special Event Ordinance was not approved by the Commission.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Event Permit: Commission approval is requested for a Yard Birthday Party, to be held on Saturday, June 5, 2021, 4:00 PM – Until. The Organizer's name is Marshall Graham, the party will be held at 1614 South 7th Street, Cordele, GA. Police Chief Lewis Green and City Manager Roland McCarthy denied the application. Upon the Commission decision, Marshall Graham will be notified. Event Application Attached. The Event Permit was not approved with a 3/2 vote; Commissioners Reeves and Shephard voted aye; Commissioners Bartee and Rainey voted nay; Commission Chair John Wiggins broke the tie with a nay vote. The Event Permit was not approved with a 3/2 vote.

Commission Approval: Commission Approval is requested to set a Public Hearing for the FY2022 Budget on June 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Commissioner Reeves moved to have a Public Hearing for the FY2022 Budget on June 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Public Hearing Scheduled: A Public Hearing for the Manufactured/ Mobile Homes, Amendment to the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele has been scheduled for June 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM at City Hall Courtroom.

City Attorney Report: City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated the Commission requested him to review the City's Historic Commission Ordinance and make recommendations. By consensus of the Commission, they asked the City Attorney to wait and make the recommendations later. Commission Chair John Wiggins stated he will be on the Agenda for the Work Session on June 1, 2021.

Finance Director Report: Joy Causey reported.

- Revenue is OVER Expenses in FY2021 including received reimbursements of \$1,255,995.

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

Fire Chief Report: Chief Augusta Telfair reported.

- One stove fire
- Odor investigation
- Six activated fire alarms
- One power line down
- One dumpster fire
- One motor vehicle accident

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- Two rubbish fires
- One LP gas leak
- One natural gas leak
- One needed extrication
- One grease fire
- One medical assistant

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

Housing & Urban Advancement Director's Report: Irene Cantrell reported.

CPC - The Planning Commission is in the process of scheduling a Planning Commission public hearing to review and consider an annexation request of about 27 acres of land located in the Southwest section of Cordele on June 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM. This property is owned by Daniels & Daniels Properties, Inc.

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

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

- Value of Jobs: Approximately \$5,148,000.00
- Tesla did get the permit for the battery charge on cars. \$110,000 permit.

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

Personnel Director Report: David Wade reported.

- Working on liability policy to be renewed in July of this coming year.

**Please see report that was submitted for information.

Police Chief Report: Chief Lewis Green reported.

Part I Crimes	17
Aggravated Assault	(2) 1 juvenile arrested. 1 warrant issued on other case
Larceny	(14) 5 shoplifting-4 arrests: 2 enter autos. 7 other thefts
Burglary	(1) 1 mini storage unit
Part II Crimes	65
Incidents Reported	70
Family Violence Incident	(8) 4 arrests
Miscellaneous Incidents	40
Motor Vehicle Crashes	(28) 17 roadway, 11 private properties
Arrests Made from Incidents	39
Citations Issued	132
Warnings Issued	21
Total Calls for Service from Dispatch	707

**Please see report that was submitted for information.

Public Works Director: Steve Fulford Director.

**Please see report that was submitted for information.

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U T & C Director's Report: Roland McCarthy reported.

Commission Approval: Commission approval is requested to renew the 2021 Water Shed Monitoring Annual Report Contract for \$29,778.00. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the contract; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Commission Approval: Commission approval is requested to purchase two new sludge pumps for the Wastewater Treatment Plant; the cost for the two pumps is \$43,800.00. Mr. McCarthy stated that this money will come out of the GEFA loan. Commissioner Bartee moved to approve the purchase of the sludge pumps; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

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

Other Reports: No other City reports.

Adjourn: Commissioner Bartee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.


John E. Wiggins, Chairman


Roland McCarthy, City Manager

6/1/21
Date