

**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 19, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held On August 19, 2025, 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chairman	J. Wesley Rainey, Commission Vice Chairman
Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Tommy Coleman, City Attorney
Shamica Fairfax, Recording Secretary	

**Staff present:** Maurice Hill – Community Advancement Manager, Mary Darby – Planning and Community Development Director, Sonya Alexander – Finance Director, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, David Wade – Human Resource Director, Nancy Crook - Municipal Court Clerk, Captain Jeremy Taylor, Marcia Pridgen – Interim Public Works Director, Rick Smarr – Social Media Marketing Manager, Debbie Wright - U, C & T Director, Bobby Stennett – IT.

**Staff Absent:** Janice Mumphery, City Clerk/Recording Secretary, Police Chief Jalon Heard.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Joshua Deriso, called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**Opening Remarks:** Chairman Deriso also stated that this is a Regular Meeting, and comments will not be taken from the audience. Department Heads and City Officials will speak to give Reports during this Meeting. If there is a subject that needs an expert opinion, then the expert on that subject matter will be allowed to speak

Chairman Joshua Deriso asked all attendees of the Meeting to put their phones on silent or vibrate, preferably silent. If anyone needs to take a call, please step outside the door, away from the doors, so your conversation will not be heard.

**Invocation:** There was a moment of silence.

**Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman J. Wesley Rainey.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established

Attendee's Name	Title	Present	Absent
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman	✓	
J. Wesley Rainey	Commission Vice Chairman Ward Four	✓	
Vesta Beal Shephard	Commissioner Ward One	✓	
Vacant	Commissioner Ward Two		
Isaac H. Owens	Commissioner Ward Three	✓	

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** August 19, 2025: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for August 19, 2025; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.

Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.

The Commission approved the Agenda for August 19, 2025.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES –** August 5, 2025: Vice Chairman Rainey moved to approve the Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Owens.

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Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.  
The Regular Meeting Minutes were approved by the Commission.

**SPEAKERS' APPEARANCES:**

- a. Mr. Orlando Wolkooski: Adjustment to the City form of Government – Strong Mayor  
Mr. Orlando Wolkooski – 818 Pateville Heights Circle, Cordele, GA. 31015.  
Mr. Wolkooski gave a brief description of a Strong Mayor Form Government and elaborated on a Strong Mayor Form of Government and how it will benefit the City.  
Mr. Wolkooski suggested a Work Session to consider a Strong Mayor form of Government.  
**Motion:** Commissioner Owens moved to have a Work Session for a Strong Mayor Form of Government; The motion failed for a lack of a second.

**SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:** No Request.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS/GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**1. Community Advancement Manager Maurice Hill Reported**

**Department Report:**

- a. Innovation Technology Meeting - Met with the CTAE Director on August 5th to discuss AR/VR Interactive technology modules that align with CC School curriculum as a Workforce component.
- b. CHIP Grant Update – Attended a meeting on August 6th with SWGRC in Camilla for updates on the CHIP Grant processing and procedures.
- c. Smith Douglas Homes Meeting – Attended the meeting on August 8th to discuss Workforce Housing options with investments totaling \$17 million in housing and infrastructure in Cordele.
- d. Land Bank Programs Meeting - Attended the meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> to finalize the work sessions, speakers, presenters and sponsor information for the October GALBA Annual Summit.
- e. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Redevelopment Plan Meeting – Attended a workshop on August 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss strategies and the upcoming community meeting at the Community Clubhouse.
- f. USDA 502 and 504 Grant Workshop – Talked with a USDA Servicer about conducting (3) additional funding workshops to assist residents that did not qualify for the CHIP Grant.
- g. The Orchard Subdivision – The surveyor will be onsite in a few weeks to layout the Plat.

**Goals and Accomplishments:**

- a. CHIP Grant Update - SWGRC picked up 22 CHIP Grant Applications for review on June 18<sup>th</sup> and I will be attending a meeting with SWGRC on August 6th in Camilla for additional updates.

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- b. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Redevelopment Plan Meeting – Working with DDA and RVRC to schedule a Community Meeting at the Community Clubhouse in August or September.
- c. USDA 502 and 504 Grant Workshop - Scheduling a Home Repair Workshop for August 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at the Community Clubhouse to assist residents in completing the Grant Applications.
- d. Innovation Technology Meeting - Met with a local Grant Writer on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to discuss AR/VR Technology Learning Opportunities and working to identify grants and service providers.
- e. Economic Development Administration Grants Meeting - Attended the EDA Grant meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Crisp Regional Hospital to discuss potential infrastructure funding.
- f. Community Leaders and Business Partners Meet and Greet - Attending the meeting at Crisp County High School on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 am to participate in the program.

**2. Finance Department – Sonya Alexander Reported**

Sales Tax: \$457,751.11

New Customer Service Representative hired – Barretta King,

**3. Fire Department – Chief Todd Alligood Reported**

**Department Report**

**Calls for Service:      Total 79**

Smoke Scare	6
Grass/Rubbish Fire	3
Medical	39
Motor Vehicle Accident	5
Car Fire	1
Structure Fire	3
False Alarm/Other	11
False Call	9
Trash Fire	1
Power Line Down	1

**Department News**

- Crisp County active shooter/mass casualty event was held at the old middle school 7/22-7/24. Approx. 170 people and over 11 agencies attended/participated. Great training event...cannot simulate this type of emergency exactly but we did get to work together and form a plan.
- We assisted with the recertification of Crisp County Teachers for stop the bleed and first aid 7/28.
- Training with our new air lift bags. Great tool for extrication and rescue.
- Reminder that heat indexes are high. Stay hydrated and indoors whenever possible.

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**Fire Safety Week Oct. 5-11 "Charge into Fire Safety...Lithium-ion Batteries in your Home".**

- a. Always use the charger provided with the device and avoid using cheap, generic chargers.
- b. Ensure the device is fully charged and unplug it promptly.
- c. Charge batteries at room temperature and avoid extreme temperatures.

**Goals and Accomplishments**

**Goals**

- a. Provide best possible service to the citizens and visitors of Cordele through firefighter recruitment and retention, professionalism (actions and appearance), extensive training, quick response, effective emergency mitigation, community risk reduction programs, and community engagement.

**Accomplishments**

- a. Had a safety meeting with the Cordele Gas Department in the Public Works conference room.
- b. Attended the monthly Safety Committee Meeting.
- c. Ladder 1 attended the quarterly Traffic Incident Management (T.I.M.) meeting at the EOC.
- d. I will be in Auburn Alabama next week 8/25-8/27 assisting the Auburn Fire Department with Battalion Chief promotional testing. Will be Chiefs from Perry Ga, Cobb Co Ga, Dothan Ala, and Daphne Ala.
- e. Received a \$12,000 Grant for ADs.

**4. Human Resource Director – David Wade Reported.**

**Department Report**

June 27, 2025	Received the semi-annual renewal documents for the First Responder PTSD Program. Period of coverage is July 01, 2025 through December 31, 2025.
July 08, 2025	Began conducting interviews for the vacant Customer Service Representative position in the Finance Department. A conditional offer was extended on July 18 <sup>th</sup> at Berretta King came on board on July 29 <sup>th</sup> .
July 15, 2025	Received a retirement notice from the Water and Sewer Superintendent in Public Works, his retirement was effective July 31, 2025.
July 17, 2025	Began accepting internal and external applications for Water and Sewer Superintendent and Utility Billing Clerk in the Finance Department.
July 17, 2025	Extended conditional offers of employment to an Equipment Operator in Cemetery and Parks, and a Mechanic in the Fleet Department. Both started on July 22, 2025.
July 21, 2025	Conducted interviews for the vacant N=Maintenance Technician position at Public Works. This is to assist Wes with some of the maintenance issues. He started on July 11, 2025.
July 25, 2025	Began accepting internal and external applications for the vacant Assistant City Manager position.

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July 28, 2025      Began compiling information to submit the Annual GMEBS Retirement Plan valuation census. Report was due on August 15<sup>th</sup>, it has since been completed and submitted on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Human Resource Goals and Accomplishments**

- a. A Lunch-and-Learn titled "Understanding Your Retirement Benefits" is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> for all interested employees.
- b. A skills inventory is being developed to identify gaps in key skills needed for public service.
- c. Continuing updates to the City's website with job openings along with "We're Hiring Wednesdays" video updates.
- d. Updated the Sage HR platform, installed on both computers.

**5. Municipal Court – Nancy Crook Reported  
Municipal Court Summary Report July 2025**

Traffic Cases	244
Criminal Cases	50
Total Court Cases	294

Bench Warrants	4
License Suspensions	29

Total for all payments \$39,668.80

Total Court Ordered Refunds: \$770.00

Total Cases Transferred to Superior Ct.	0
Total Defendants Incarcerated	0
Total Days Jail Sentenced	0

**Goals and Accomplishments**

**Goals**

- a. Report accurate information for the Court and Public to aim to efficiently adjudicate cases, process cases quickly and maintain accurate records.
- b. Complete the Court docket for the Judge in a timely manner.
- c. Strive to provide accessible services, maintain integrity, and ensure accountability.

**Accomplishments**

- a. All dockets and Court Dispositions were turned into the State on time.

**6. Planning and Community Development Director – Mary Darby Reported  
Department Report**

Continuing the review of Cordele's 2044 Comprehensive Plan (2024-2029). Below are recommendations to provide an annual review of the Comprehensive Plan and Community Work Program (CWP).

- a. Update the CWP. Remove, Delete, and add projects to the program.
- b. Create a Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for the city.

- c. Review and make recommendations to revise the city's 31-character areas.
- Added to this section:**
- d. Working with stakeholders to ensure the plan has one voice.
  - e. A meeting is scheduled with DCA/RVRC/Cordele to review and discuss the 2044 Comprehensive Plan, 7th Street Redevelopment Plan, and the FLUM.
  - f. Toured all Wards with the Commissioners. Input was provided on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in their communities.

**Creating a training program focused on Planning, Zoning, and Land Use for staff.**

- a. Discussions have been held on What zoning is? Why zoning is important? And How zoning complements land use (comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance).

**Updating zoning applications to make them more user friendly for on-line services.**  
**Designing workflow diagrams of city processes to inform and educate stakeholders. Thus far, only the demolition permit application has been created to illustrate the workflow process. This diagram is still being reviewed internally.**

**The city website is being reviewed and recommendations are made to update the Planning and Community Development Department.**

**Reviewed over 70 applications for the Community Specialist Position.**

- a. The applications were narrowed down to the top seven. The next step is to narrow the applications down to the top three. Upon completion of this phase, interviews will be scheduled. Interviews for applicants will start in October 2025.

**Preparing a staff report for the Board of Zoning Appeals public hearing scheduled on August 28, 2025 for property located at 202 East 12th Avenue for a proposed ex-offender home.**

- a. The proposed property is located within the O'Neal Historic District and within a quarter-mile radius of the Central Business District and a children's facility.
- b. Staff report will be completed and submitted for CM Redding review by August 11, 2025.

**Conducted research for the proposal of providing historic signs in the Gillespie-Selden Historic District. Based on site visits, 48 local street signs were identified in the district with a potential of seven pole signs needed to complete brand the area.**

- a. Preparing agenda for meeting scheduled on August 20, 2025. Agenda's will go out to Board Members on August 8, 2025.

**Continuing to research the development requirements for a GIS framework system for the city. A meeting is schedule with RVRC on Friday, August 1, 2025 to discuss potential data for system.**

**Meetings Held or Attended during this report:**

- a. Sent out emails of introductions to BZA, PC, and HPC Board members.

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- b. Attended a GICH meeting with Dr. Jermaine Durham to update me on the status of the city's program.
- c. Attended meeting with Dean Thaxton on a proposed Community project.
- d. Met with City Manager on budget and other city requirements and processes.
- e. Reviewed expense reports with Financial Director, Sonya Alexander.
- f. Attended a one-on-one meeting with Chief Heard regarding our department functions; Also, set up an internal iWorQ's training with Manager Keith Lodge.
- g. Attended a meeting at the Crisp Regional Hospital with a representative from Merchant McIntyre, a Washington, D.C.-based firm engaged by the hospital to pursue federal grant funding. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how potential EDA (Economic Development Administration) grants might support infrastructure projects that could significantly benefit Cordele and Crisp County.
- h. An official iWorQ's virtual training will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2025. Marcha Toussaint and Mary Darby will attend the training. Also, a meeting is scheduled with Jasmine Ashcroft of iWorQ's to review the Planning and Zoning Module.
- i. Attending a meeting on Friday 1, 2025 at DCA/RVRC with Marsha Toussaint regarding city plans and maps.
- j. Attend Manager's Meeting on Friday, August 4, 2025.

**Goals and Accomplishments**

**Reviewing Cordele's Comprehensive Plan (2024-2029), Zoning Map, and Future Land Use Map.**

- a. Updating the CWP with all operating departments as projects, programs, activities are removed, updated, or deleted.
- b. Working with the River Valley Regional Commission to create an up-to-date zoning map and Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for the city.
- c. Reviewing the city's 31-character areas to be consistent with the FLUM.

**Working on GIS system for Community Development.**

**Reviewing and commenting on the 7th Street Corridor Redevelopment Plan.**

- a. Held a working session with Mainstreet, RVRC, Chamber of Commerce, and the city Community Advancement Manager to plan for a public meeting for stakeholders to review and comment on the plan. The public meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2025, at the Community Clubhouse from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Attended an update, review and training session with Brenda Wade, Grants Administration Manager with SWGRC on the CHIP program. Ms. Wade provided an update on the number of grants submitted and the next steps.**

**Attended a presentation by Mike Beatty's representative of Smith Douglas homes to consider entering into a partnership with the city for a grant up to \$2.5 Million. The purpose of the grant is to construct rural workforce development homes in a R.75S Zoning District classification.**

- a. The next step for the city is to locate 10 to 15 acres of land to construct new one-story (ranch style, with or without garages) single-family residential units with varying bedrooms and bath sizes.

**Continuing to create a training program focused on Planning, Zoning, and Land Use for staff.**

- a. Discussions have been held on What zoning is? Why zoning is important? And How zoning complements land use (comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance).

**Updating zoning applications to make them more user friendly for on-line services. Designing workflow diagrams of city processes to inform and educate stakeholders. Thus far, only the demolition permit application has been created to illustrate the workflow process. This process is being finalized.**

**Updating the city website. Making recommendations for the Planning and Community Development Department.**

**Working on scheduling interviews for the Community Development Specialist Position in October 2025**

- a. The top three applicants will be interviewed and considered.

**Preparing a staff report for the Board of Zoning Appeals public hearing scheduled on September 25, 2025, for property located at 202 East 12th Avenue for a proposed ex-offender home.**

- a. The proposed property is located within the O'Neal Historic District and within a quarter-mile radius of the Central Business District and a children's facility.
- b. Staff report will be completed and submitted for CM Redding review by September 17, 2025.

**Prepared a proposed historic district sign for the Gillespie-Selden Historic District for review and consideration at the HPC meeting scheduled on August 20, 2025.**

**Continuing to research the development requirements for a GIS framework system for the city. A meeting is schedule with RVRC on Friday, August 1, 2025 to discuss potential data for system.**

**Meetings Held or Attended during this reporting period:**

- a. Attended the Gillespie-Selden Historic District Reunion on August 9, 2025.
- b. Attended a GALBA meeting on August 11, 2025.
- c. Attended a Land Bank Authority Meeting on August 12, 2025.
- d. Reviewed and commented on IT Internship Program proposal.
- e. Prepared legal notice and packet for HPC meeting on August 20, 2025.
- f. Attended a PROPEL meeting on August 14, 2025

**7. Police /Codes/Animal Control – Captain Jeremy Taylor Reported  
Police Department**

**Reporting Period: June 24, 2025 through July 28, 2025**

<b>Part I Crimes</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Larceny (Thefts)</b>	<b>33 (8 entering autos, 5 shoplifting w/5 adult arrests, 20 other</b>



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Burglary	Thefts 1 (1 Business – fireworks stand)
<b>Part II Crimes</b>	<b>156</b>
Incidents Reported	142
Community Contacts	9
Arrests	47
Citations Issued	81
Warnings Issued	28
Total Calls for Service	1,422

**Departmental News**

Our department has three applicants in the hiring process for Patrol Officer and three applicants in the hiring process for records technician. We hired one applicant for Police Officer Position and he will start on August 5<sup>th</sup>. We have two cadets that are on their fourth week of the Police Academy.

The Police Department now provides FREE Child Safety ID Cards. We will issue these cards every Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No appointments are needed.

We will be attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Bash Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This event will be held at the Crisp County Recreation Department from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM. We welcome everyone to come by our table to receive information for their Child Safety ID Cards.

**Goals and Accomplishments**

We will continue to provide professional law enforcement service through our hiring process, training, and self-accountability. **Currently there are four applicants in the hiring process. One certified applicant was hired this past month as a Sergeant. One cadet started Working this past week. We also hired one record technician that started last week.**

**We have speed limit signs on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also, the Speed Detection Sign is in use.**

**Develop strategies to attract more experienced officers. We are continuing to promote on Our sign boards and on our Facebook page.**

**We will continue to connect with the community through community related events, increasing public contacts and through partnering with local groups and businesses. We are working on some events for National Faith and Blue Weekend which is the first of October.**

**We will continue to make advancements towards obtaining Excellence in Policing Certification with the larger goal of state certification. We are continuing with policy reviews to make them align with state requirements. We have recently promoted Tramiska Jones as our Accreditation Clerk.**

**Department Report – Animal Control – Reporting Period – June 24 – July 28, 2025**

Dod & Cate Intake Total	166
City Intake	54

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Intakes from Crisp County	68
Intakes from Other Entities	44
Number of Calls Received	69
Number of Adoptions/Rescues	48 Adoptions/44 Rescues
Animals at the Shelter	26 dogs + 7 newborns 17 cats
Citations Issued	5
Warnings Issued	17
Open Shelter Slots	2 dog kennels/8 cat kennels

**Division News:**

ADOPT! DON'T SHOP! Adoptions and rescues have slowed down.

Dog food donations are continuing to come in. Probation, Tractor Supply and the public!

The new signs for the Shelter and directional signs are up and look good!

**Goals and Accomplishments – Animal Control**

Get more animals rescued/adopted by being more active in the Community and on Social Media.

- a. Adoptions and rescues are slow but hoping they will increase once Summer slows down.

Work towards implementing a volunteer program at the Shelter.

- a. We are working on a schedule and paperwork to have volunteers. Several people have inquired and are very interested in helping the Shelter.

Make Shelter improvements: grates for drains, seal the floors, replace rusted kennel pipes, add a few more kennels outside.

- a. New signs are up at the Shelter and 15<sup>th</sup> St @ 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Actively promotes better animal welfare. (Spay/neuter, vaccinations, correct Shelter/Housing), Kennel Ordinance Control).

- a. Educating people about proper Shelter and living conditions.

Host events with the hope of bringing awareness to the Shelter, animal health and welfare and Increasing donations.

- a. Have been helping people decrease the number of unsterilized animals.
- b. Microchips are a big hit still! Several people come to get a chip!

**Department Report – Codes Compliance Division – Reporting Period June 24 – July, 2025**

Abandoned Vehicles	5
Inspections	10
Tampering with Utility Property	1
Unsafe, Unsanitary, Etc.,	1
Weeds, Junk, Etc.	61
Other	15

**Departmental News:**

Code Compliance Officers assisted with two commercial demolition projects on 112 S 7<sup>th</sup>

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Street and 108 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Code Compliance Officers are continuing training with inspections at Christian Homes Complex construction project and Aldi renovations.

Code Compliance had four blighted property cases in Municipal Court for the month of July. Judge Wright allowed each property more time to clean up or to sell the properties.

**Code Compliance Division Goals and Accomplishments:**

- a. The Codes Division will continue Code Enforcement efforts to increase Code Compliance in all wards. This will provide more attractive and presentable neighborhoods for the current citizens, future citizens, workers and travelers with hopes to attract new businesses, industry and potential residents to the City.

**Code Officers collaborated with Public Works to install cameras in some repeat dump site areas. The goal is to impose fines on repeat offenders.**

- b. The Codes Division will continue sending Codes Officials to advanced training and certification seminars through the International Code Council (ICC) and the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement (GACE) with the hopes of each official becoming certified in multiple inspection categories.

**Code Officer New and Mercer scheduled to attend training class in Tifton on August 28, 2025.**

- c. Address blighted commercial and residential properties through education, Code Enforcement, private funding, grant opportunities and working relationships with reliable, certified Contractors. **Code Compliance Team approved three more demolition permits at 510 E 9<sup>th</sup>, 508 E 5<sup>th</sup>, 712 S 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- d. Increasing our social media presence and utilizing other innovative ways to relay information and announce code issues and problems. The aim is to educate and keep the public informed about code related issues that concern them. **Code Officers continue to meet with multiple lawn services to educate the Public on limb removal policies.**

**8. Public Works Department – Marcia Pridgen Reported**

**Cemetery/Parks**

Routine grass maintenance is ongoing.

Cemetery/Parks has completed 92 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

**Gas Department**

Annual valve maintenance is complete.

Georgia Public Service Commission is scheduled to be here August 25<sup>th</sup> through August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to perform inspections.

Annual Regular and Relief Valve Inspections are scheduled to start in August/September.

Annual Leak Survey is scheduled to begin September/August.

The Gas Department has completed 46 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

**Street**

The Department has worked on ditch maintenance, storm drain maintenance, alley repair, tire removal and driveway repair.

The Street Department has completed 41 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

**Water**

Water Department has completed 55 customers reported and routine maintenance work orders.

**Public Works Goals and Accomplishments**

Goal 6: Michael Mitchum, ESG – Overseer of Water/Sewer Department Reported

ARPA 1 Update: Phase I is near completion

ARPA 2 Update: This phase began this week on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, cleaning and looking through a camera to see if there is any repairs that need to be done.

**9. Social Media Marketing Manager – Rick Smarr Reported**

**Department Report**

Did attend the Back to School Bash – it was over 700 children in attendance, along with parents.

The news outlets, media outlets, not only locally but around the State, Macon down to Albany. They tend to look at the City's Social Media sites and pull out some of those things to use as news content.

October 1<sup>st</sup> will be the launch date for the new website.

**Social Media Marketing Goals and Accomplishments**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the City Manager Angela Redding and Rick Smarr had a Meeting regarding Social Media Marketing vision and goals, moving forward. The last quarter of 2025 and the first quarter of 2026 – Goals were given to the Commission. These goals are geared to increased citizen information and communication. Social Media followers have grown upwards to 3500, which is very good.

**10. UC&T Director – Debbie Wright Reported**

**Department Report**

- Debbie Wright Reported that Waste Water Treatment actually treated less wastewater than drinking water was pumped.
- For July rainwater 3.7"
- Passed the Whole Effluent Toxicity Test.
- We collected all the data needed to renew our Groundwater Use Permit and emailed it to EPD on July 1st. They contacted me on July 29<sup>th</sup> and said they never received it. I resent it and asked to be notified when they got it! They did receive it.

**Goals and Accomplishments**

- Lightening struck the flowmeter at Rockhouse Rd Well (Newtown). We had an old one that we were able to have recalibrated and is working now. We will have a new one installed this week.
- The exterior painting of the Penia Ground Storage Tank is complete and looks very good.
- We had the annual service check of the Generator at the Primary School Lift Station done. They found that the fuel pump was no good and we had it replaced. In further checking the fuel tank was found to be seriously damaged by old diesel. It can't be cleaned and must be replaced at a cost of \$22,000.

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- Our SCADA/Telemetry system is obsolete and must be replaced. The current system was installed in 2010 and can't be upgraded. We are looking at vendors to receive quotes.
- We had the bearings and seals replaced on Trickling Filter #2. Trickling Filter #1 is due for the same.
- Well levels dropped an average of 8' from July to August.

**11. IT Department – Brett Lavender Reported**

Brett gave an update on Windows 11 upgrade and computer replacement. Holding on to the old equipment for a while, to make sure everything is transferred.

Bobby Stennett can now remote access, maintain and support all computer devices. Bobby can also create tickets, and he is backed up by InterDev support team, they can also access, maintain the server, computers and devices.

SCADA problem – one thing that is important for everyone is the internet connectivity. They have struggled with getting the appropriate speed.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Consider and Approve an Event Permit: Two Wheel Sunday – Black Duster Motorcycle Club, 606 S 10<sup>th</sup> St., Cordele, GA. Date of Event: September 14, 2025; Time of Event: 1:00 – 6:00 PM. Requesting to block off S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Police Chief Jalon Heard reviewed and recommended it on July 4, 2025.  
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Owens.  
Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.  
The Event Permit was approved by the Commission.
2. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of \$1,500.00 for the Crisp County Community Council; Repealing All Resolutions In Conflict Herewith; And For Other Purposes.  
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Owens.  
Commissioner Shephard stated that these are emergency funds for the City of Cordele for those who are misplaced from their home or need a place to stay.  
City Manager Angela Redding asked the Commission about the balances that they have on their discretionary funds, do they want to roll them over to FY 2026?  
By consensus, the Commission will roll over their discretionary funds, if they have some left.  
Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.  
The Resolution was approved by the Commission.
3. Consider and Approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and Between Georgia Department of Transportation and City of Cordele.  
Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.  
City Manager Angela Redding stated this is the Agreement that was mentioned at the last Commission Meeting regarding the Bridge replacement on Frontage Road. The Commission approved to move forward with the Bridge Agreement on Frontage Road. The Letter of

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Support was provided, and it requires a \$75,000 match because it is a Tier Two Project. The match is for Acquisition of Right-of-way, if any funds remain after completion of the project, then the funds will be refunded to the City.

The \$75,000 match will come from TSPLOST.

Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Shephard voted aye.

The Memorandum of Agreement was approved by the Commission.

4. Consider and Approve the First Reading of an Ordinance to Authorize and Direct the City Attorney to Initiate Judicial In Rem Foreclosure Proceedings For Delinquent Ad Valorem Taxes Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-4-78 et seq.; To Provide For The Orderly Enforcement and Collection of Municipal Tax Liens; To Provide for the Transfer of Title to the City or Other Authorized Entity; To Provide For Severability; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and For Other Purposes.

Commissioner Owens moved to approve the First Reading on an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

This Ordinance shortens the regular process of redeeming property with delinquent taxes. After a judgement, it is sixty days to redeem the property.

Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Shephard voted aye.

The First Reading of an Ordinance is approved.

5. Consider and Approve the First Addendum to the Mobile Communications America, Inc. Terms and Conditions and Quote.

**Background and Summary**

The attached Quote along with the First Addendum to the Mobile Communications America, Inc. Terms and Conditions is to replace the Milestone Server for the city camera system.

Commissioner Owens moved to approve the First Addendum; seconded by Vice Chairman Rainey.

Commissioner Shephard, Vice Chairman Rainey, Commissioner Owens voted aye.

The First Addendum was approved by the Commission.

**6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Recap on Events**

Monday, August 18, 2025

Community Café at Sunset Homes

Crisp Regional Hospital presented the program

City Hall Selfie Day

August 12, 2025

City Hall Selfie Day turned 10 years old this year.

Fun tradition to highlight public service and the people who work behind the scenes.

Faith Based Organizations Meeting

August 14, 2025

Topic: Collaboration

Community Clubhouse

9:30 – 10:30 AM

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**Upcoming Events**

Keep Crisp Beautiful Meeting  
Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
Chamber of Commerce  
10:00 AM

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
City Hall Courtroom  
6:00 AM

Crisp County Community Council Collaborative Meeting  
Thursday – August 28, 2025  
Dowdy Building – 1129 Noth 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
9:30 AM

**City Updates**

City Dumpster Location Hours  
Thursday and Friday – 12:00 PM (Noon) to 4:00 PM  
Public Works have started the interview process for this position.

Qualification for the General Election in November  
At-Large, Ward 2, and Ward 3  
Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Fee: \$270  
Candidates qualify with the City Clerk

Deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 6<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 PM.

**2025 Goals**

Goal 1 – Joe Wright Drive Improvements – Contact RR Companies – Improvements at RR Crossings

Goal 3 – Enhance Employee Experience  
Re-establish the Pension Committee  
Coordinate with HR to Schedule Retirement Benefits Employee Lunch and Learn Meetings  
1<sup>st</sup> Lunch and Learn – September 15, 2025.

City Offices will be closed Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> on observance of Labor Day.

**8. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

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

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** Commission Owens move to adjourn the Meeting at 11:25 AM; seconded by Commissioner Owens.

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**Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, Vice Chairman Rainey voted aye.**  
**The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM by the Commission.**