

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**April 20, 2021**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> 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, 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.

**Staff absent:** Steve Fulford, Debbie Wright.

**Others Present:** Mary Beal, Beth NeSmith, Monica Rentfrow, Charlie Butts, Sherry Evans, Lacey McCreevy, Jennifer Slade, Mandy Vaughan, Vanessa Haugabrook, Ivana Akin, Sara Henderson.

**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.

**Proclamation – National Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Commission Chair John Wiggins presented the Proclamation to employees of Healthy Families, Gateway Center and Crisp Community Council.

**Mrs. Monica Rentfrow, Director of Mainstreet – Cordele Railway Park:** Mrs. Rentfrow informed the Commission on how well the Railway Park is doing. She stated that she is looking at getting a caboose for the Railway Park, she has done some research, to get a caboose to Cordele, already refurbished; to ship the caboose, the cost is approximately \$100,000. She also stated that there are some items that need to be done to the Park.

**Ms. Mary Beal – Cordele Housing Authority:** Ms. Beal stated that she is coming in the capacity of being the Chair of the Cordele Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Ms. Beal expressed her concerns and safety for the residents in the Housing Authority, especially Sunset Homes, which is located in the area of West 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. There are people coming on private property and destroying the premises, people that have been barred from the Housing Authority are also coming on the property.

**Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2021:** Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 6, 2021; it was seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the meeting minutes of April 6, 2021 were approved unanimously by the Commission.

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**Old Business:** Commissioner Reeves inquired about the policy for the Commission voting over the telephone. City Attorney Tommy Coleman advised the Commission that it is unlawfully for the Commission to vote over the phone.

### **New Business:**

- Commissioner Wiggins requested for the City Manager, Roland McCarthy to look into speeding on East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Love's Travel Center. He stated he has gotten several complaints about speeding in that area.
- Commissioner Reeves stated that with the 4-way stop signs it should be something that alert a person to a 4-way stop before they get to the stop. Commission Chair Wiggins stated that there is supposed to be a warning sign before you get to the 4-way stop. Commissioner Wiggins asked the City Manager, Roland McCarthy to look into the warning signs being placed before the 4-way stop sign.

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

1. **Sidewalks on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Street (Joe Wright Drive) south of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue –** Currently funds are available for sidewalks on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Sidewalks on South 13<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Street, South 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue West
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Street, South of 24<sup>th</sup> 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 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:** In Progress with UBPO Cases. 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. **16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Widening** – This is on a TSPLOST Referendum that the City will be working on in the future. DOT is paving West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (From West City Limits to 5<sup>th</sup> Street Vicinity) (15 years)
2. **11<sup>th</sup> 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 First Reading of a Revised Ordinance:** Commission approval is requested for the First Reading of a Revised Alcohol Beverages Ordinance. This is Chapter 3, Alcoholic Beverages in the Code of Ordinance Book. City Attorney Tommy Coleman suggested to the Commission to look over the Ordinance to make necessary changes and let him know, as to the changes, before a Second Reading is done. City Manager Roland McCarthy stated that this Revised Ordinance was reviewed by the Cordele Police Chief, the City Clerk and himself, they did a lot of revisions to this Ordinance. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of a Revised Alcohol Beverage Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commissioner Bartee voted nay. Commissioner Rainey inquired about policing; the proper procedure for setting this Ordinance up. Commissioner Rainey wants to know who will police this Ordinance and the details, the zoning: “who supposed to look over that first before it comes to the Commission?” City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated that this is an Administrative decision, the City Manager will make the decision on who he (City Manager) wants to do that kind of inspection. Usually, the Police Chief is responsible for criminal background checks. Commissioner Rainey inquired, “that the business is opened five days a week”. City Attorney Coleman stated that this is a Code Enforcement question.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

**Approval for a SPLOST Purchase:** Commission approval is requested to purchase three Police Vehicles with SPLOST Funds. The following three bids were received:

1. Griffin Ford, Tifton, GA – 2021 Ford Police Utility Vehicles, \$32,802.00 each for a total of \$98,406.00 to be delivered in 12 – 14 weeks.
2. Sunbelt Ford, Cordele, GA - 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle, \$33,058.00 each for a total of \$99,174.00 to be delivered in 20-22 weeks.
3. Brannen Motor Company, Unadilla, GA - 2021 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicle, \$33,800.00 each for a total of \$101,400.00 to be delivered in 12 weeks.

Contingent upon your approval, purchase orders will be placed. The local purchase for these vehicles would be acceptable per the city’s guidelines, if the Commission chooses to purchase local. Commissioner Reeves moved to accept the bid from Sunbelt Ford, Cordele, GA in the amount \$99,174.00; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

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

1. **BZA** - The Board of Zoning Appeals held a public hearing as scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., in the Cordele City Hall Courtroom and approved a conditional use permit to allow an existing structure zoned as Mixed Use District (MU) to be used as a law office building and to allow a sign to be erected at 801 East 14th Avenue. The property is owned by Mandy K. Mercer and will be occupied by the law firm of David Forehand, Jr.
2. **CHPC** - The Historic Preservation Commission has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in the City Hall Courtroom to review and consider two CP Application for Rick and Lydia Deavours, 602 East 14th Avenue, for a room addition and a CP Application for Mandy Mercer and David Forehand, Jr., 801 East 14th Avenue to replace the existing fence and erect a small yard sign.
3. **CPC** - The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on Thursday, April 29, 2021, to consider two amendments to City's 1999 Zoning Ordinance Section 625.3 Multi-Family Residential District (R-4) Conditional uses (Manufactured homes and mobile homes.) and Section 620.3 One and Two Family Residential, Medium Density (R-7.5). 620.3 Conditional uses (Manufactured homes and mobile homes.)

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

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

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

**Personnel Director Report:** David Wade reported.

Mr. Wade stated he exchanged several phone calls and email with Michelle Warner of GMEBS regarding a retirement enhancement cost study. This enhancement for retirement will be 30 years out for Public Safety (Fire and Police). To implement this enhancement a cost study will have to be done to see if it is physical feasible. The first cost study will be \$1200, any additional will be \$900. To look at the Police and Fire Department the cost will be \$1200 and for the entire City to offer the same provision it will be \$900. Commission approval is requested to enter into an agreement with GMBES to conduct a Cost Study, first Cost Study \$1200 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> \$900. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the cost study amounts regarding retirement; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

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

**Police Chief Report:** Chief Lewis Green reported.

<b>Part I Crimes</b>	<b>17</b>
Aggravated Assault	1
Larceny	(13) 5 shoplifting-4 arrests; 5 entering autos; 3 other thefts
Burglary	(3) 3 residence
<b>Part II Crimes</b>	<b>48</b>
Incidents Reported	64
Family Violence Incident	(6) 2 arrest
Miscellaneous Incidents	42
Motor Vehicle Crashes	(34) 27 roadway, 7 private properties
Arrests Made from Incidents	33
Citations Issued	70

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Warnings Issued 22  
**Total Calls for Service from Dispatch 732**

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

**Public Works Director:** Steve Fulford not present.

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

**U T & C Director's Report:** Debbie Wright not present.

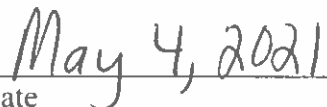
**\*\*Please see report that was submitted for additional information.**

**Other Reports:** No other City reports.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Bartee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John E. Wiggins, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roland McCarthy, City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date