

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**March 16, 2021**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on March 16<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

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

**Others Present:** DeVontae Hunt.

**Media present:** Ricky Smarr – South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – not present.

**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 March 2, 2021:** Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 2, 2021; it was seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the meeting minutes of March 2, 2021 were approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Old Business:**

- Commissioner Rainey commended the sub-contractors and Public Works on cleaning the City. Commissioner Rainey stated that it is important to let everyone that the sub-contractors are cleaning up the rights-of-way only, they cannot go on private property. Commissioner Rainey requested the citizens to please take care of your private property and pick up paper and other yard debris.
- Commission Chair Wiggins inquired about angle parking on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, maybe make it a two-lane road instead of four-lane. He asked, has anyone contacted DOT about the angle parking and also adjusting the time on the traffic lights on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Steve Fulford, Public Works Director will find out more about these matters.
- Commissioner Shephard inquired about the status of the Sewer Service for the McLeod Subdivision. Steve Fulford stated, the date to start on this project is undetermined at this time. The funds are available for this project. Please see City Manager's Report on the status of the 2020 CDBG.
- Commissioner Bartee inquired about the yellow double line striping on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Steve Fulford stated this is still on the list to get done.

**New Business:** Commissioner Reeves requested a 4-way stop at West 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and South 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Commissioner Reeves stated that he had gotten complaints about speeding from West 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Commissioner Reeves also stated he would like for a speed study to be done before a 4-way stop is placed there. Commissioner Rainey stated, he would like for the Commission to have a Work Shop before making a road a 4-way stop because there has been some kick back on a few

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streets that were done. He suggested opening this matter to the public, to get the public concerns about 4-way stops; he would like to get more of the citizens input before one is done. Commission Chair Wiggins stated, it is a good idea to have a Work Shop before making a decision on 4-way stops, but this particular area is in great demand for one because the residents have complained to Commissioner Reeves and him about cars speeding in the area.

**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.
  - 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. Steve Fulford stated the CXS Railroad supposed to complete this project in the next two weeks, which will be the end of March.
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.
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.

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**Approval is requested for the Second Reading of an Ordinance:** Commission approval is requested for the Second Reading of an Ordinance of the City of Cordele adopting a utility accommodation policy; repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance of the City of Cordele adopting a utility accommodation policy; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Approval of a Resolution:** Commission approval is requested to approve a Resolution authorizing One Chief Elected Official to sign and another Official of the borrower to attest both copies of the GEFA loan agreement, the promissory note and any related documents necessary to execute the loan agreement. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission. Chair John Wiggins and Vice Chair Jeanie Bartee will sign papers. Attached Resolution

### CITY MANAGER REPORT:

**Approval to advertise for bids - Sidewalks on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street:** Commission approval is requested to advertise for bids for Sidewalks on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, South of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue West. Upon the Commission approval, advertisement for bids will be initiated. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve advertising for bids on the Sidewalks on South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, South of 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. West; Commissioner Shephard seconded the motion; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Approval for a Movie Production:** Commission approval is requested to produce a movie at the Cordele Police Department on March 20, 2021. The Movie Producer and Company is Isaac Owens, JAIDO Studios/Two Fish Five Loaves Entertainment, LLC. The Permit was approved by Police Chief Green on March 15, 2021. If approved the Producer will be notified. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the production of a movie at City Hall; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission. Chief Green stated there will be a meeting held in reference to the movie on March 19, 2021 in his office.

**City Attorney Report:** Mr. Coleman reported on trains blocking the intersection. He stated that there is a concept in law called preemption. Preemption says if a higher level of government, federal or state, passes a law, it is prohibited for anything else to be done. The Federal Railroad Safety Administration policy contains a preemptive provision, it states that preemptive state of municipal law regulates and orders standards related to railroad safety. Mr. Coleman stated, it is also a State law that prohibits Cities and Counties from giving tickets to engineers and anybody working on the railroad. Mr. Coleman stated, he doesn't think the City can pass a law to stop the trains from standing. He also stated that the City does not have the right to regulate the trains, the Federal government does that.

**Finance Director Report:** Roland McCarthy reported.

- Mr. McCarthy informed the Commission that a new Finance Director has been hired and she will be starting on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, her name is Joy Causey.
- Revenue is UNDER Expenses in FY2021 to date: \$852,631.00  
City pending reimbursements for One Georgia Grant \$500,000.00 GEFA Loan expenses to date of \$771,000.00

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

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**Fire Chief Report:** Chief Augusta Telfair reported.

Three smoke investigations, one dumpster fire, two activated fire alarms, 1 alarm malfunction due to a power outage, one motor vehicle accident, EMS assist call, one rubbish fire, two structure fires on North Joe Wright Drive, one Fireman was injured.

Chief stated he wants assistance with enforcing fire alarm violations, 6-7 false alarms \$50; 8-10 false alarms, \$100; 13 and up \$300; failed to register \$100. There is an Ordinance in place, but someone has to enforce it, whether it be Codes Enforcement or Police Chief Green.

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

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

- **2020 CENSUS** – The Census.gov will be conducting a webinar on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Codes Officials, City Engineer and Irene Cantrell will be attending this webinar Census conference regarding the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) Maps.
- **CHPC** – A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., in the Cordele City Hall Courtroom to hear CP Applications and to address concerns regarding several properties within the O'Neal Historic District from Mr. Ben Drennan who resides in the O'Neal Historic District also.

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

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

- Value of jobs: \$4,935.00.
- **For Your Information:** When a person applies for a permit, Codes does accept the permit, but a person cannot start to work on a project until the permit is signed, by a Codes Official, and posted on a job site.
- Certificate of Occupancy (CO) has to be issued before a person receives a Business License. This is needed to receive your Business License, if you do not have a CO, you will not receive a Business License.

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

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

- On February 23, 2021, The Georgia Public Service Commission conducted an audit of the City's anti- drug and alcohol testing protocols. This was a comprehensive review of the plan, policies and procedures along with five years of testing data. No violations were found.
- On March 09, 2021, participated in a webinar presented by GMA regarding a comprehensive update on COVID – 19 including statistics on cases, hospitalizations, infection rates, deaths, trends and updates on vaccines.

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

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

Rape	1
Aggravated Assault	(2) 2 Arrests
Larceny (Thefts)	(17) 5 shoplifting-2 arrests; 3 entering autos; 9 other thefts
Arson	2
Burglary	(3) 2 residence; 1 storage unit

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Family Violence Incident Reported (6) 1 arrest  
Miscellaneous Incidents 46  
Motor Vehicle Crashes (28) 18 roadway, 10 private properties  
Arrests Made from Incident 26  
Citations Issued 89  
Warnings Issued 47  
Total Calls 734

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

**Public Works Director:** Steve Fulford reported.

Mr. Fulford informed the Commission of bids will be taken on the sidewalks on Pecan Street on March 23, 2021. He will have information about the bids at the next Commission Meeting.

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

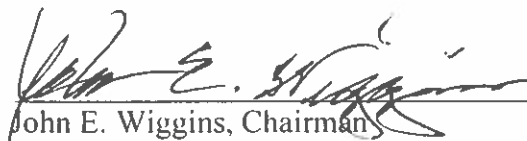
**U T & C Director's Report:** Debbie Wright reported.

- Mrs. Wright stated the work on Trickle Filter will start on Monday, March 22, 2021. The support system that holds the media will be put in and it is projected to take two months.
- Will start flushing fire hydrants next week, a crew will be out next week.

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

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

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Bartee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

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

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

4/6/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date