

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
May 3, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on May 3rd, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair	Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary
Hayden Hooks, Attorney	

City Attorney Absent: Tommy Coleman

Staff present: Capt. Jalon Heard - Police Chief, Irene Cantrell – HUD Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Debra Perry – City Clerk, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade, - Personnel Director, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Teddy Hubbard – Superintendent of Wastewater, Cathy Mygrant – Asst. Financial Director, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk, Nancy Crook – Asst. Municipal Court Clerk.

Others present: Ronald Michael, Clay Johnson, Charlie Butts, Velesia Grant, Michael Waters, Fannie Deriso, Crandall Postell, Caleb Paul, Marie Williams, Ruby Jackson, Willie McKenzie, George & Kenya Whitehead, Anna Granville, Kathy Hancock.

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

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Invocation: There was a moment of silent prayer.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rainey.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

Approval of Agenda – April 19, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Agenda for April 19, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve minutes for April 5, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the minutes were approved by the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: All Speakers will have 5 minutes

1. Mr. Robert Lee Butts, Sr. – Concerns for the City of Cordele; needs representation in Ward #2. Mr. Butts did not speak on the matters that are on the Agenda, instead he spoke on the following matters: Mr. Butts asked the Commission Chair Deriso and Commissioner Rainey to read something he brought to the Meeting. He asked Commissioner Shephard about the Gillespie Selden Historic District. Mr. Butts concluded by referencing to the Holy Book. Commissioner Shephard response to Mr. Butts, in reference to the Gillespie Selden Historic District: Commissioner Shephard stated the area will have to be evaluated to determine how many youths are in the area, and it had not been brought to her attention that youth development was wanted or needed in the Gillespie Selden Historic District. Commissioner Shephard stated, this is her Ward, and this could be a future plan.
2. Mr. Crandall Postell – Resurface and add sidewalks on 11th Street. Mr. Postell is requesting sidewalks to be resurfaced and added on 11th Street, between 16th Avenue and Peachtree Avenue.
3. Mr. Ronald Michael – Open Records Request and Confederate Statue. Mr. Michael gave information on the Community Clubhouse; invoices submitted to the City; requested records for the City's Vehicle Fleet; requested the City's Verizon Bill; requested the emails from the Commission Chair Deriso personal email account. City Manager Angela Redding responded to the invoices Mr. Michael stated he submitted; she stated the work that was performed by Mr. Michael was not authorized by herself or the Commissioners, that is the reason they have not been submitted to the Commission.
4. Mr. Clayton Johnson – To inform the Commission of a nondenominational recovery ministry held at Cordele First United Methodist Church Activity Center. Mr. Clayton stated that he is spreading the word about Celebrate Recovery; it is a nondenominational ministry for all aspects of recovery. Celebrate Recovery is held every Tuesday, 6:00 PM at Cordele First United Methodist Church.

SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM: No one appeared before the Commission.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

1. Finance Director – City Manager Angela Redding Reported.
 - On April 26th, received SPLOST Funds in the amount of \$109,190.55 for February, 2022.
 - On April 28th, received LOST Funds in the amount of \$239,728.40.
2. Fire Chief – Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.
 - Fire alarms 11
 - Rubbish fire 1
 - Tree fires 2
 - Structure Fires 3
 - Vehicle Fires 1
 - EMS Assist Calls 2
 - False Alarm 1
 - Fire Alarm Malfunction 1

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- Cancelled enroute 1
Total calls for service 23
- April 25, 2022 – Chief Telfair attended an in-person pipeline emergency response training class in Albany, GA.
- April 23, 2022 – The Fire Department participated in the Autism Stroll from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

- **CDBG 2020 SEWER PROJECT** – The Project Engineering Firm (Lanier Engineering) held the bid opening for the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements Project on April 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Six companies requested bid documents with only four (4) companies submitting a bid. The Engineers will review each bid document package for all required attachments. Also, the RVRC, Representative advised that DCA will review all bidders to make sure that the contractors are not listed on the “debarred list” prior to the City Commission review and approval.
- **BZA** – The BZA has scheduled a public hearing and meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., in the Municipal Courtroom to review and consider two requests one for a high-rise sign for the QuikTrip Station to be located at 2110 East 16th Avenue and one to locate a manufactured home at 707 West 12th Avenue, for Ms. Mary Bynes.
- **CHIP 2018** – The Grant Administrative is hopeful that she will receive bids for two of the four approved homeowners at least by Friday, May 6, 2022 and began to move forward with the home improvements.

4. Chief Codes Official - Jack Wood, Sr.

Commercial Construction Projects

Total of Job Valuations: \$7,187,000.00

Total of Permit Fees: \$16,731.00

Residential Construction Projects

Total of Job Valuations: \$12,229,187.00

Permit Fees: \$27,899.00

Total of Commercial/Residential: \$19,416,187.00

5. Personnel Director – David Wade Reported.

Mr. Wade introduced the staff of Cordele Municipal Court; Jackie Walker, Chief Municipal Court Clerk, 22 years with the City and Nancy Crook, Deputy Court Clerk, 19 years with the City.

- April 14, 2022; Met with Brenda Eckman of Corvel to review current and past worker’s compensation claims.

6. Police Chief – Chief Heard Reported.

Part I Crimes 65

Motor Vehicle Thefts 7 (4 recovered, 1 arrest)

Aggravated Assault 6 (2 adult arrest)

Larceny (Thefts) 47 (26 enter autos, 1 shoplifting w/1 arrest, 20 other thefts)

Part II Crimes 99

Incidents Reported 186

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Citations Issued	110
Warning Issued	56
Total Calls for service	1,173

7. Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported.

- 8th Street Sidewalks, Stormwater Drain and Resurfacing Project – the Contractor supposed to be back on sight tomorrow (May 4th), about 90% complete, have until May 25th to complete project.
- Bethel Cemetery – in the process of installing drain towels.
- 11th Street Sidewalks – obtaining information and estimates on sidewalks.

8. UC&T – Teddy Hubbard Reported

- Water Treated 47,733,900 gallons
- Wastewater Treated 113,750,000 gallons
- Rainfall for the month of April was 5.1.
- Total Rainfall for 2022 is 7.21”.
- *These numbers are through March 2022, numbers for April are not available at this date but will be ready for the Commission Meeting.
- Water restrictions put in place in 2010 are still in effect and have not changed. This allows for daily outdoor watering between the hours of 4pm and 10am.
- We received a copy of our NPDES Permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There are 2 chemical testing additions to this permit for at least the first 12 months. These are Heptachlor and Cyanide. This will be an additional cost of \$1,920/year. If after the first 12 months these chemicals don't show up in the analyses, we may be able to drop them from the permit requirements.
- We have published our annual Water Quality Report for 2021. It is available on the city's website at www.cityofcordele.com/water. If anyone has questions about the report, they may call our office at 229-273-2829.
- The cost for a 1-ton chlorine cylinder has gone up \$425 in the last 2 months. This will make a cylinder cost \$1,750 as we were paying under \$1,000 a ton last year. This is a huge increase and availability is 2 weeks out on an order. This is making the UV System for the WWTP a much better and viable way to disinfect the effluent.
- Drinking Water Week is from May 1 to May 7. AWWA has recognized this for over 40 years as a way to recognize all water professionals for all they do for us to keep our water safe and clean.
- We are monitoring our well levels every month. Levels are steady.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Owens moved to go into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. to discuss Personnel and Litigation Matters; second by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

2. **REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** Commissioner Owens moved to reconvene the Meeting at 6:55 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
3. Appointment of Police Chief. City Manager Angela Redding informed the Commission and Citizens of the new City of Cordele Police Chief, Jalon Heard.
4. Proclamation – Drinking Water Week – May 1-7, 2022. Commissioner Isaac Owens presented the Proclamation to Teddy Hubbard, Superintendent of Wastewater.
5. Consider appointment of Clinton J. Perry, Bentley and Carson Funeral Home, to the Cordele Cemetery Study Committee. Mr. Perry is replacing Shamari Bunkley. Commissioner Owens moved to appoint Mr. Clinton Perry to serve on the Cemetery Board; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
6. Consider an Event Permit for Touch a Train, Organizer Monica Rentfrow, Downtown Development Director. The event will be held on May 7, 2022 at the Downtown Depot, 109 East 9th Avenue, 10 AM – 2:30 PM. Special Request to Close Streets 9th Avenue from 7th St. to 6th St. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
7. Consider Street Closure for Gillespie Gardens Project to install Sewer Lines, May 4-25, 2022. Street Closure - South 12th Street, from 16th to 15th Avenues. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Street Closure to install Sewer lines; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
8. Consideration By the City Commission Authorizing the Chairman to Execute the Agreement with Paychex for Payroll and HR Software. Commissioner Shephard moved to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement with Paychex for Payroll and HR Software; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was not carried.
2nd Motion: Commissioner Owens moved to authorize the Chairman to execute the Addendum Agreement with Paychex; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
9. Consider a Second Reading of an Ordinance Establishing and Authorizing an Interment Fee in City Cemeteries; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
10. Consider a First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cordele, Georgia, to Designate Permissible Uses of Solar Electrical Systems; to Repeal all Ordinances in Conflict Therewith; and For Other Purposes. This item was discussed and elaborated on by Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes; will be placed on the May 17th Agenda for Second Reading.

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11. Consider a Resolution to Adopt the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for Crisp County; to Provide for Severability; and Other Purposes. Commission Owens moved to table this item; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
12. Consider to Authorize the Chairman or Signees to sign tips from travel reimbursement. Commissioner Shephard moved to authorize the Chairman or Signees to sign tips for travel reimbursement; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
13. Discussion of Per Diem for City Commissioners. City Commissioners shall receive a per diem as may be established from time to time by the Chairman and City Commission, which is related to official business for the City. Said per diem shall be established as a part of the City's Budget Process, and shall not exceed a reasonable amount that would be needed for subsistence expenses such as three (3) meals per day and tipping while attending the training, seminar, conference, or other business activity related to official business for the City. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the per diem in the amount of \$100 per day; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- City Manager and Staff meet with Mr. Clarke Harrell, County Administrator, as well as, County Staff to begin preliminary discussions regarding E911 Services that are provided too the City. We realized that the 2016 IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) between the City and the County was never signed by the City. City Manager Angela Redding stated that this is an item that will need to be discussed at some point and time, the services for E911, either during a Work Session or Budget Process, as well as discussing a development in the Industrial Park.
- Mr. Johnny Floyd, GDOT Board Representative, and I met to discuss 11th Street (Joe Wright Drive), possible funding for Sidewalks and repaving of Joe Wright Dr.
- The first ARPA report was due April 30th, so the report was submitted in a timely manner. The report covered ARPA Funds that were expended through March 31, 2022. Hopefully, the City will received the other half sometime soon.
- The budget for the \$10,000,000 is currently being reviewed by Staff from the Governor's Office.
- The Public Hearing for changing use of the Boys and Girls Club will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 5:30 PM in the Courtroom.
- A Website Committee has been formed to explore options for a new City website. Each department has submitted names of employees to represent their respected Department on the City.
- Advanced voting started May 2nd and will end on May 20th; time are 8:00 Am – 6:00 PM Monday – Friday, Saturday voting takes place on May 7th and 14th from 9:00 Am – 5:00 PM.

15. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report.

16. **OTHER REPORTS:** Commissioner Rainey suggested adding all Commissioners to sign checks until there is a Finance Director and Vice Chair. Commissioner Rainey moved to add all Commissioners as signatories for City checks; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

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Commission Chair Joshua Deriso stated that it would be more appropriate if a person at City Hall sign checks, rather than a Commissioner, because they are already here through out the day and this will suffice for what is needed. Commissioner Shephard amended the motion for the City of Cordele Executive Assistant, Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery and the City Clerk, Debra Perry be the additional signatories for checks for the City of Cordele, until farther notice; Seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission. Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery – Executive Assistant and Debra Perry – City Clerk will be the additional signatories for checks, along with Commission Chair Joshua Deriso and Assistant Finance Director Cathy Mygrant. The signing of checks will always start with the Commission Chairman and Assistant Finance Director, additional signatories will sign when needed.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Rainey moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:31 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the minutes were approved by the Commission.

APPROVED