

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on September 21<sup>st</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, Attorney

**Staff present:** David Wade, Irene Cantrell, Debra Perry.

**Others present:** Brian White, Willie White, Robert Cooke, Velesia Grant, Joshua Deriso, Don Cole, Lisa Garcia, Charlie Butts, Devontae Hunt, Al Bartell, Kenneth Edwards, Rev. U. Morgan, Phillip Ramsey, LaQuana Alexander.

**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.

**Approval of Agenda – September 21, 2021:** Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for September 21, 2021; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**Approval of Rescheduled Work Session Minutes – August 14, 2021:** Commissioner Bartee moved to approve the Rescheduled Work Session Minutes, August 14, 2021; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**Mr. Robert Cooke, Executive Director of Southwest Georgia United Empowerment Zone, Inc.:** Mr. Cooke appeared before the Commission to report the accomplishments that were made by the Empowerment Zone in Year 2020.

**ADMINISTRATION - FISCAL:**

**Approval of the Tax Millage Rate for 2021 Property Taxes:** The Tax Digest and 5 Year History of levy was advertised in the local newspaper on September 11 and September 15, 2021. It is requested that the Commission approve the millage rate as stated in this advertisement at 11.060 mils. A millage rate of 11.060 will bring in approximately 2.6 million dollars and the City FY2022 budget revenue for these taxes are 2.6 million dollars. If approved, we will proceed with the tax billing process. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the millage rate at 11.060; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

**ORDINANCE – COMMISSION APPROVAL:**

**First Reading of an Ordinance:** Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele by Adopting a New Ad Valorem Tax Ordinance; the Millage Rate for the City Property Tax shall be 11.060. Repealing all prior Ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Bartee; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**CITY MANAGER UPDATE:**

**Commission Approval:** Commission approval is requested for the engraving on the bench for Former City Manager James Edward Beach. Roland McCarthy is requesting recommendations, if there be any. **Recommendation:** IN MEMORY, James Edward Beach, City Manager, July 1, 2013 thru December 1, 2020. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the engraving on the bench For Former City Manager Edward Beach; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval:** At the Work Session on September 14, 2021, Mr. Steve Edwards, Public Sector Account Manager for Waste Management appeared before the Commission. With everything that was said by Mr. Edwards; Commission Approval is requested to give Waste Management a one-year extension with amendments, on their contract, their contract ends December 31, 2021; or to go forward with the request for proposals (RFP) for Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection Services. **Motion:** Commission Reeves moves to extend Waste Management contract for one (1) year with amendment (Waste Management will pick up garbage that is on the side of the garbage cart in garbage bags) to the contract; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. Commissioner Rainey asked if Waste Management will give kickbacks for not picking up the yard debris; will there be a recourse for not picking up the yard debris for four (4) months? City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated, if Waste Management does not pick up yard debris according to the contract, they will breach their contract. After a brief discussion, the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval:** The County has a CDBG Project to install a drainage system at Meadow Park and wants to install a pipe on the City's property that was donated to the City by Ben Turner Estates. This property attached to Gum Creek and has no direct access. Commission approval is requested to give the County easement to the ditch to install the pipe. Upon the Commissioners approval the County will be notified. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve to give the County an easement to a ditch to install a pipe, this is in Meadow Park; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval:** Commission approval is requested to dispose of the property via GovDeals.com. This is a surplus list of items; all of these items are either not operational or antiquated. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the disposal of surplus property via GovDeals.com; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval:** Recommendation from the Cordele Board of Zoning and Appeals for a variance and conditional use permit for Brian White to locate a single wide Mobile Home at 606 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, GA. This request was approved by the Board of Zoning and Appeals. Commission approval is requested to locate a single wide Mobile Home at 606 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, GA.

Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the request; Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval - Event Permit:** Commission approval has been requested for the Downtown Spooktacular to be held Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 6 to 8 PM, this is a family event. Sponsors for the event are the Downtown Business Organization and the Crisp Area Arts Alliance. Special requests are to close 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets from 5:45 p.m. until all the families have gone. Commissioner Bartee moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval - Event Permit:** Commission approval has been requested for the Cordele Rail Fan Festival to be held November 13, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Sponsor for the event is Cordele Main Street and organizers are Monica Mitchell and Gail Reynolds. This is a family event and will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. We are also requesting to close 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, at 9:45 p.m. until all families are gone. Commissioner Bartee moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Commission Approval – Event Permit:** Commission approval is requested to have a wedding at 112 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, one of the City's Park. This is requested by Candance Davis on October 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve this request; seconded by Commissioner Reeve; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

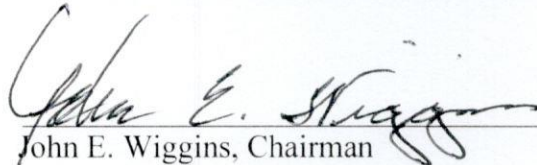
**MAJOR PROJECT UPDATE:**


\*\*\***Sidewalks on 8<sup>th</sup> Street south of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** The preconstruction meeting was held on August 26, 2021 at Public Works. A Notice to Proceed date of September 27, 2021, has been given to HTS Construction and they will have 180 days, March 25, 2022, in order to complete

**CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Tommy Coleman requested an Executive for litigation matters.

**Executive Session:** Commissioner Bartee moved to have an Executive Session for litigation matters; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Reeves moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m., and go into an Executive Session.

  
John E. Wiggins, Chairman

  
Roland McCarthy, City Manager

10/5/21  
Date