

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on October 18th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair	Royce Reeves, Sr., Commission Vice Chair
Vesta Beal-Shepard, Commissioner	Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Isaac Owens, Commissioner	Angela Redding, City Manager
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary	Tommy Coleman – City Attorney

Staff present: Police Chief Jalon Heard, Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Augustus Telfair, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Teddy Hubbard – Water & Sewer Superintendent, Bobby Stennett – Information Technology, Koby Worley – Street Superintendent, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk.

Staff absent: Debbie Wright – UT&C Director, Steve Fulford – Public Works Director/Asst. City Manager.

Media present: South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Kerri Klatt.

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

Invocation: There was a silent moment of prayer.

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

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman		✓
Royce Reeves, Sr.	Commission Vice Chairman		✓
Vesta Beal-Shepard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

Commissioner Isaac Owens entered the Meeting at 5:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – October 18, 2022: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Agenda for October 18, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES – September 27, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Work Session for September 27, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 4, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Minutes for October 4, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Speakers Appearances: Speakers will have five (5) minutes: No Requests.

Speakers on a Specific Agenda Item: Speaker will have three (3) minutes: Agenda Item #10, Confederate Statue Removal Bids.

Joyce Dean Fowler, 211 Midway Church Road, Cordele, GA, President of the Cordele Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. Fowler gave background on the Confederate Memorial; it is a Memorial not a Monument. It is dedicated to commemorate individuals who are deceased. The UDC placed this statue here in 1911, as a sort of tombstone. stated the statue should not be removed because of the sentimental value. She stated this is a memorial not a statue; it signifies the death of both White and Black soldiers. The UDC would not like to see anything happen to that Memorial, we would like for it to stay where it is currently located and for nothing to happen to that trust, so that nothing happens to the rest of that property, plus, not to mention the lawsuits that are currently going on in Newton, Henry and Rockdale Counties.

DEPARTMENT HEADS GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers Reported.

UTILITIES

Billed	\$611,374.22
Collected	\$760,357.58

SERVICES

Added 29
Transferred or Reconnected 67

BUSINESS LICENSE

License Fees Collected	7,517.22
Late Penalties Collected	888.47
	\$8,405.69

Renewals	2
New Licenses	10

PROPERTY TAX

Penalties & Interest Collected	\$6,458.60
2021 Tax Digest	\$2,735,931.54
2021 Taxes Collected	2,478,168.56
	91%

CASH

Total Wages	\$444,892.21
180 Total Invoiced Disbursements	\$ 1,078,840.25

ACHIEVEMENTS

07/2023 - Extension of Audit Filing Deadline granted
Hired a Payroll Clerk on 9/29

GOALS

Complete implementation of Paychex Time & Attendance

We're replacing paper cards with electronic devices for time keeping

Improve Electronic Records

Replace manual documents with spreadsheets

Develop network file sharing

Departmental Reporting

Monthly expenses with budget v/s actual

Identify key metrics for managers

Hire an Assistant Finance Director

Job still posted and interviews are ongoing

Department Heads reports were temporarily halted to allow Monica Rentfrow, DDA/Main Street Director to present her report to the City Commission.

Monica Rentfrow – Downtown Development Director: Quarterly Report:

- Cordele will be highlighted in Georgia Trend next month.
- Downtown Spooktacular – October 27th, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- City Manager Angela Redding and Downtown Director Monica Rentfrow met with Kirby Glaze, Developer. Mr. Glaze assist with funding projects. Mrs. Redding, Mrs. Rentfrow and Mr. Glaze toured the old Allied Building.
- The Initial Project Assessment for the Alamo House has been approved by the Department of Community Affairs. This will be approximate \$2,000,000 project, to include Airbnb rooms with retail spots with another ground room on the first floor for handicapped.
- Monica Rentfrow presented a session on Railway Park at a Region 8 Meeting.
- Attended the Georgia Downtown Conference in Macon, GA.
- The Old William Pitts Building sold, it is now Southern Belle's, which is a consignment, antique thrift store.
- The Old Cordele Bank Building is occupied; Cotton Alley, Dry Cleaners and the Working Studio.
- There have been three exhibit receptions at Gallery 41.
- There is a downsize to all of this, with all the new businesses downtown, complaints about speeding cars on 7th Street, U Turns on 7th Street and 11th Avenue (wrong way parking).
- Our Next Events: SAM Shortline 20th Anniversary – October 26th and the Rail Fan Festival is November 12th and also the Cordele Recreation Parlor Car Show.

Commissioner Rainey asked Mrs. Rentfrow to keep up with the complaints for the Downtown Area.

2. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.

Goals

- Primary goal is protecting the life and properties of our citizens and victories.
- To fill the two firefighter positions and captain position on A – Shift.
- We have our newly hired fireman registered for Basic Fire Training awaiting selection.

Accomplishments

- We have filled one of the three firefighter position in the fire department.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

CDBG 2020 New Goal is: - Prior to the End of the Year 2022, we would like to be near 90% complete with the Ground Installation of the Sewer Pumps and Sewer Line Improvements for the forty-eight (48) home owners living within the McLeod Subdivision.

Accomplishments – CDBG 2020 - McLeod Subdivision Project:

Progress is being made as follows:

- bidding process completed
- contract documents have been reviewed and signed
- contractor has been given a delivery date for PVC/fittings, materials, etc.
- we are steadily moving forward with the project.

Goal – CHIP (Community Home Improvement Program) 2018 – Home Rehabilitation Project:

Started and complete the Home Improvements for at least three (3) of the four (4) homes with the CHIP 2018 Grant Funds and be prepared to start the application process for additional CHIP Funds in the next funding year.

Accomplishments:

Progress is as Follows:

- Two of the home owners have signed DCA Loans and Grant Agreements.
- This month one of the Certified Housing Rehab Contractors have signed two Home Rehab Contracts.
- The Housing Contractor has purchased building permits and have started home repairs.
- The Contractor has to date completed all of the major repairs on two homes and is on the job sites finishing up the small items and clearing the area for the final close-out inspections.

4. Codes Report: Jack Wood, Sr. Reported.

- Added \$12,000,000 to the valuation of construction jobs coming into Cordele since the last meeting.
- Working with the public, in reference to, the dilapidated houses.

5. Human Resources: David Wade Reported.

Recruitment

On October 12th, attended a H.R. Roundtable at South Ga Tech, hosted by Cordele/Crisp IDC and discussed the YouScience program which acts as a talent pipeline for high school and college students.

Improve the Employee Experience

Worked in conjunction with the City's Wellness Center to offer free flu vaccines for all employees and eligible dependents.

Succession Planning

Hired a Sergeant in the Police Department along with a Finance Director in the Finance Department.

September 5th, there was a promotion in the Police Department, a Patrol Officer was promoted to Corporal.

Leveraging H. R. Technology

October 11th, Kick off call with Paychex to begin compiling information to build the Benefit Administration module in the new Paychex system.

**6. Municipal Court: Jackie Walker, Municipal Court Clerk
Monthly Court Summary Report - August 2022**

Traffic Cases	185
Criminal Cases	66
Total Court Cases	251
Bench Warrants	13
Suspended License	25
Total Funds	\$36,746.53 (Cash Bonds, Fines, Probation Payments and Restitutions)
Incarcerated	1 person for twenty-two days

7. Police Department – Police Jalon Heard

Goals:

To maintain the day-to-day operations of the department and address morale, staffing, and salary issues.

Fill 6 vacancies in the department (2 Corporals, 4 Patrol Officers)

Accomplishments:

Faith and Blue events were a great success!

As for the Blood drive on Friday October 7th, we exceeded our goals.

The Recovery Walk on Saturday October 8th had a great turnout and everyone had a good time for a great cause.

On Sunday October 9th the United by Faith event was well attended and (from what we've heard) really made a positive impact in the area.

Chief Jalon Heard successfully completed the Chief Executive Training Course done by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. This is an eight-day course designed for new Police Chief, Heads of a Law Enforcement Agencies and senior command staff and provides them information concerning various aspects of the position.

Arsons: 604 North 3rd Street and 505 East 5th Avenue – Fire Marshals are currently working the sites. \$10,000 Reward is being offered for conviction.

8. Public Works – Koby Worley Reported.

Goal 4:

- To perform the leak survey for natural gas distribution and transmission lines by the end of the year. This should be accomplished by the first week in December.

Goal 5:

- Complete the Annual Report (AR) Stormwater Management Program

- Jim Jackson and Angie Craig drove/rode Cedar Creek for observation on September 20, 2022.
- Submitted Stormwater Advisory Committee Member list to Janice for Commission review on October 3, 2022.
- Issued LDPs for TA Express and for Crisp Regional MOB.
- Zoom meetings for potential projects at 8th St., Greer and at Midway, Hwy. 280.

Goal 6:

- Submitted the NOI on September 26, 2022

9. UC&T – Teddy Hubbard Reported.

- Water restrictions are still in place since 2011. You cannot irrigate/water your property with City water from 10 am till 4 pm. This applies to residential and commercial property. If you have an automatic irrigation system, make sure your timer is set properly.
- Our second samples at the WWTP for Heptaclor and Cyanide came back as Not Detected.
- We are looking into fixing some of our existing aerators in the old pond. We have several that needs the wire to be replaced and a couple may need rewinding or replacing.
- We have several big projects in the proposed budget but cannot get started without knowing what is being approved. The price of everything has gone up so much since the budget was first written in the first of the year that we don't really know what has changed and the availability of these items.
- The UV System is on hold and a ton of chlorine just went up another \$200 a ton last week. It is now over \$2000 a ton. Last year at this time we were paying \$960 a ton.

10. Information Technology Update – Bobby Stennett Reported: No Report

AGENDA ITEMS

1. 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. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the First Reading of the Solar Panel Ordinance; second by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Second Reading of an Ordinance of the City of Cordele, Georgia Adopted Pursuant to the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4.1 Reapportioning the Election Districts from which members of the Governing Authority of the City of Cordele are Elected; Providing an Effective Date; Repealing Prior Ordinance and Charter Provisions in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Second Reading of Reapportioning the Election Districts from which members of the Governing Authority of the City of Cordele are Elected, Map One; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted - aye; Commissioners Rainey and Shephard voted - aye; Commissioner Owens voted – nay.

3. Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 12.1-44 of the City Code of the City of Cordele to Provide for Additional Security of Windows and Doors; Requiring Current Properties not in compliance with the Ordinance Requiring Doors and Windows to be in sound working condition and good repair to bring them into compliance within thirty days; Repealing all ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Second Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 12.1-44 of the City of Code of the City of Cordele; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: The sponsoring organization and applicant is the 1st Street Church of Christ and Glenn Jarrett. The event will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 4 PM to 7 PM. Special requests for the event include blocking East 15th Avenue between 1st Street and Hickory. Cpt. Jeremy Taylor approved the application October 11, 2022. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Consideration and Approval of an Event Permit: The sponsoring organization and applicant is Cordele Main Street and Monica Rentfrow/Gail Reynolds. The event will be held on November 12, 2022 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Request to close 9th Avenue between 6th and 7th Street. Have their own barricades. Cpt. Jeremy Taylor approved the application October 11, 2022. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
6. Consideration and Approval of Contractor Right of Entry License Agreement between Heart of Georgia Railroad and the City of Cordele. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Contract; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
7. Consideration and Approval of the Administration Service Contract between River Valley Regional Commission and the City of Cordele for the State ARPA Grant. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Contract; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
8. Approval of the Tax Millage Rate for 2022 Property Taxes. Commissioner Shephard moved to approved the Tax Millage Rate of 11.060 for 2022 Property Taxes; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
9. Forensic Audit Discussion.
Commission Chair Deriso stated that the Commission voted for a Forensic Audit to be done in February, 2022. However, this Commission voted for this Forensic Audit and it has not been done, so it is a discussion. Commission Chair stated that citizens have been asking him about it, what are we going to do and how we are going to proceed. There was three votes for it and then it was some discussion, and it has not been done.
Commissioner Shephard stated, "I thought we opted out not to do the Forensic Audit at that time because we had Elaine to come in and everything mellowed out, I thought we opted out not to do it at that time."
Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated that the first motion needs to be rescinded.

Commission Chair Deriso stated that the people asked for a Forensic Audit. We voted 3/1 for a Forensic Audit. We had people to come in and said, that we did not need one and that is totally fine, but the suspicion that I have, is when a governing body come in, especially, two new people under the Commission body, if they want to start fresh to see where we are and what we have and what's been going, that's usually standard and what I say about everything, this body gets to make the decisions. I found it odd, people who has been working for the City for years and with some issues being in the Finance Department for years that the same people make a determination about we don't need a Forensic Audit. However, being the reason, I asked for it to be put on the Agenda is because it needs to be cleaned up. Whether you all go with it or not, the decision rests here and no where else. Even though, if it is a waste of time and money, which I am not for, but even if it is a waste of time and money, it should have been worth us doing.

Commissioner Shephard stated, since we have a new Finance Director and we are moving forward in 2022-2023, if I am in order.

Commissioner Shephard moved to rescind original motion for having a Forensic Audit, that was made in February of this year; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated that the Commission hires the City Manager and hire the City Attorney, and if it was something I wasn't sure about, I would always come to them. Commission Vice Chair Reeves asked the City Manager her findings about the City needing a Forensic Audit. City Manager Angela Redding stated based on what she has reviewed in the department, and I have gone through line items and that's how I have found things that I have reported that we should not have an agreement with, for instance, the 311 services and other things. So based on going through the accounts, my recommendation is I personally do not feel at this time, that we need a Forensic Audit.

Commissioner Owens asked the new Finance Director his thoughts on coming in at this point, what is his thoughts on the Forensic Audit. Mr. Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director stated, there is a lot of work to be done. The City did get an extension on the Audit itself, because it is a backlog, there is a good bit of work to be done. Mr. Bridgers stated that he does not have any reasons to suspect that there is any kind of fraud or any concerns in that nature, but because of the situation with the previous Finance Director and the work load that has been in the lap of a consultant. Mr. Bridgers stated that he thinks that by the nature of the Audit itself, in time, we will find, everyone will know what they need to know.

Commissioner Owens stated, even if we rescind the motion, I still think it is something we need to be prepared for because the Finance Director is going to be the person that's there, and if we have any questions about it, the Finance Director, is the person that we will go to and ask. The motion was approved with a 3/1 vote. Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted – aye; Commissioners Rainey and Shephard voted – aye; Commissioner Owens voted – nay.

10. Confederate Statue Removal Bids.

Commission Chair Deriso stated, again this is something we have not cleaned up. On February 1st, the Commission voted with a motion to have the Confederate Statue moved, the vote was 3/1. Commissioner Reeves was not here, Commission Chair Deriso had to cast the deciding vote, somehow our 3/1 vote was not respected. We were told we had too many lawsuits to go forward, that we would be sued, but again that is not a decision, when the Commissioners and Chairman makes a decision, they understand the consequences of which they make a decision. On February

1st, the motion was made by Commissioner Owens and seconded by Commissioner Shephard and it was voted 3/1 to remove the Confederate Statue. This is where we are and work has been done. Commission Chair Deriso stated it is an Agenda discussion on whether we are going forward with it and then make sure we get companies to bid to remove it.

Commissioner Shephard stated, if she is not mistaken, at another meeting, the Commission decided at the advice of the Attorney to wait on the ruling from the Supreme Court.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated he would like to, personally, see this on the ballot and if this is what the citizens want, let us see them come on down and say this at the ballot.

Commission Chair Deriso stated the we can put it on the ballot and no doubt, it probably would be voted to be removed, but that is wasting time and resources. Elections cost money and so we are asking our people to go and vote and spend money and the resources on something the majority has already spoken.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to wait until the Georgia Supreme Court Ruling before removing the Confederate Statue; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

City Attorney Tommy Coleman explained about the referendum being on the ballot. Mr. Coleman stated, if this is done, the Commission will have to get an authorization from the General Assembly to set up a referendum. But the reason where there are referendums, like SPLOST and Bond Issues and various things, is provided for in a Georgia Law. The Attorney General has ruled, that if it is not specifically provided in law, you cannot spend public money for it. You can do it, but you can ask our delegation to allow it. The motion was approved with a 3/1 vote; Commission Vice Chair Reeves – aye; Commissioners Rainey and Shephard – aye; Commissioner Owens – nay.

11. Budget Discussion of Appropriations for the Office of the Chair:

Commission Chair Deriso stated, the Commission had a Work Session, this item was presented and the citizens spoke that they would like to see the Office of the Chair. Before the budget comes out, it needs to be some strong considerations and you all can let the people know and what you all think about making it a priority to create the Office of the Chair and whether this Commission is going to make financial provisions for it or not.

Commissioner Owens: “When it was discussed, the Commission was somewhere in agreement of certain aspects of the Office of the Chair. I think the biggest hang-up of the Commission was who would they answer to. I am in favor of us moving forward and the Commission looking at the two positions that we talked about at that time, the element of compromise of who those positions would answer to is the City Manager.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “This was presented four times to this Commission and for restructuring for those same positions to be put under the City Manager, it was no interest shown. I was told in email, restructuring if any, would be done during budget time. Well, how I know, it has not been considered was because, we also got an email with Budget Meetings, with no consideration of restructuring the City Government. Every item that was on there, was still for the most part, what we have now in place. The biggest indicator, whether it wants to be done the way that is recommending or saying will be reasonable, is, if we go into budget, and it’s not put into the budget, then we won’t have the money for it, so that’s the biggest indicator whether someone is for it or not. It’s been no appropriations for those, under what we have listed. And I think when the people stood up here during the Work Session, I think they were clear about who the two people should speak to, they said, give it him, they were referring to the Chair. My

position has always been, we have to do something different, we've been up here for nine months, ten months now and I don't see many people bring up ideas of something they would like to see; putting a bench for a Former City Manager is okay, changing names of roads and bridges, okay, but they are not impacting or improving the lives of people."

Commissioner Shephard: "At that meeting, I remember that two gentlemen said we should put it in your hand. Like you said, it going to be left up to the Commission to vote as to whether it goes under the Chairman hand or the City Manager hand. But on the report for our Budget, there is a section that says, Legislative, and I was thinking that this will fall under that section when we go into our Budget Planning, am I reading right?"

City Manager Angela Redding: "That is correct."

Commissioner Shephard: "It says legislative, so, executive, police, different departments. When it says, legislative, I thought this was coming out of that section, but if you want what I feel tonight, I will tell you, if that's what you need to know now. I mean, maybe I am misunderstanding some things."

Commission Chair Deriso: "The proposal for the Office of the Chair, when it says at the last bullet point, other administrative executive, it should have been flushed out, because we are the legislators, so when you say that, that's not including the Office of the Chair. Unless, you and someone else had conversation that I wasn't aware of, who can make that leap and assumption, because under our current budget, which one of things I was going to address is too high, we get paid about \$62,000 and our budget was about \$400,000 with travel and expenses, but we took care of the Per-diem, which was causing the City a lot of money. So, the reality is, again and again, the section of the Charter, which I've sent emails and emails, about, it says the Chairperson suppose to propose the budget, that has not been respected either. So, the whole process in which we are going to budget conversation is out of whack, it's out of process. The fact that you guys been doing that way, doesn't mean you'll being doing it right, like we have to remove people from the Ethics Committee that was not done right, and so it is about cleaning things up. Legislative means us specifically. I didn't see Office of the Chair, no discussion of that and like I said, the biggest indicators whether, somebody wants to do it or not, or whether the four times I've sent prior, there was no interest in doing it. What I was told in email, restructuring if any, would be done during budget. The "if any" for me speaks a lot. So, that's where I stand on it."

Commissioner Shephard "During that meeting, I made the comments that day, that I think the positions are needed, but my concerns were, the processes in which we take to get these positions. I said Marketing and Social Media Manager, first and then the Community Advancement Manager and maybe next year, we can hire the third person. I did not go with all three at one time and I did not go with it under your auspices. I will go with these two tonight, as long as they go under the City Manager. I didn't know you wanted us to discuss this tonight, as per say, I thought we were going to discuss it in the budget meetings, that's where I thought it will be discussed."

Commission Chair Deriso: "the thing about putting it under the City Manager is, it was presented several times to be restructured under and it was not met with excitement nor energy, or a need or want to do it. Again, as I told you guys during the Work Session, I didn't want to be over any of it, and so when you submit something to someone four times, and they did not bring it up, and then you put it on the Agenda. You remember our conversation about the ignorance

word, that was the whole exchange. You'll didn't second the motion, that was went forward at all. So, you all had already said no, to these positions under the City Manager; then when I asked for the positions to be put under me, now you'll want them under the City Manager, you'll can't keep doing this and the people should know. So, if you'll read the paper, which is your job to read the paper, the people pay you'll, we get paid from the people. So, when people send stuff in these emails, you'll should have enough in you'll to read what's being presented, whether it is a proposal or not. Those same positions, the four times I presented them, were slated to go under the City Manager each time. What you suppose to do, you suppose to look at it when that first went on, the way it works, in places that know what they are doing, when they have a City Government, they say, well this is a discussion, I like this, I don't like that, and we should talk about or schedule a Work Session for it to happen. You guys, sat there and said "no" to it, Commissioner Owens was only one motion for things and wasn't seconded, if I brought it to the table. That was your job then to say, I think we like this. It's funny and ironic when I ask for them to go under me, now you want to put them under the City Manager.

Commissioner Shephard: "May I get another understanding, in order for you to take control of these three departments, it would have to be voted on by your City Commission Board, am I right?"

Commission Chair Deriso: "You mean the three positions, I just want to be clear, not departments? It will be essentially creating another Department, which will be the Office of the Chair.

Commissioner Shephard: "That will have to be voted on by your four City Commissioners, am I right?"

Commission Chair Deriso, "It would. Yes ma'am. You are clear, that's why it has been brought to the Commission, that's why anything is brought to the Commission. Because it takes three votes, as Commissioner Reeves always says, to get anything done. Everything is brought before the Commission. The problem is, people making decisions that's not the Commission, and that shouldn't be done, boarder policy decisions, let me correct myself."

Commissioner Rainey: "Basically, if we are going to talk about the Office of the Chair, I am not for the Office of the Chair. There is lots of other things that the City needs, instead of the Office of the Chair. For example, if any position needs to be put in place is for the Land Bank, you need a full-time position and somebody over the Land Bank, that's probably the number one position that we need. We also need raises for the employees. The way you came about the Office of the Chair you were talking about the cutting the Clinic and you would not let me explain to you the value of the Clinic in the Work Shop. You had to get David Wade to explain to you at the next meeting.

Commission Chair Deriso – "I trust him more than you on that."

Commissioner Rainey – "I happen to have an insurance license, but I don't sit up here and brag to you about my criteria. But, I understand it and I understand that it is repercussions on the employees and what it's going to cost and their raises would go to compensate for the health care increases. So, some of the stuff that you are proposing and how you were going to pay for the Office of the Chair is not beneficial to the employees of this City.

Commission Chair Deriso – First of all Sir, I did not propose anything. I said we should look at the Budget. I never one time said that we should cut the Clinic; I said at some point we made a decision to pay \$235,000 for Clinic and the people should know, that is their money, that is essentially paying for employees' extra health care. If you are working here, you get health

insurance, but what this Commission did at some point, they created a Clinic and it cost \$235,000, now I didn't know enough, whether it was cost valuable, cost effective, that's why you ask questions. But, to sit here and pretend, like, we don't do things, we don't spend money on this or that, out of nowhere, yes, we do, we bought a bench outside for the Former City Manager, that cost money, we do stuff all the time that cost money, the thing is whether it lines up with our interest or not. That's why we had a Work Session and the people said they wanted it. So, the reality is, it lines up with some people interest and some people don't, just like politics, it's who gets what, when, where and how. If you look at the dynamics at what's going on right now, with the power struggle, it is obvious who gets what, and so when you have a critical position, like a Community Advancement Manager, that would increase non-profit, that answer to some of the poverty and help disparities that people have outside. You got other people drowning in hospital bills that they can't go to a free clinic for the most part and get help with that, but that is the people money, so if the people say they don't want the Health Clinic and we are talking theoretically, then we should listen to the people about that and maybe listen to that because it is their money, it's not our money, we make the decisions.

Commissioner Rainey: "The City was self-insured for a number of years, pre going back on the regular health care plan. The Clinic was used to reduce the health care claims while..."

Commission Chair Deriso: "You are having a conversation that I am not disagreeing with..."

Commissioner Rainey: "It's because you don't know about it, but you are sitting here talking about things..."

Commission Chair Deriso: The point is sir, is that we have decided, we have moved large groups of money before, to do something that we have made a decision needs to be done, whether it is the health clinic or whether it is anything else, we have moved large groups of money. I just said to myself that I didn't know whether it was cost effective or not, I pointed to it, just like the Police Department, I pointed to and said that's probably 40% of our budget. I pointed to several things, which cuts can be made, because at the end of the day, we are only going to have, the money we have. Just like people in their households, they only going to get what they have coming in, and they have to make decisions, so the question on the table, whether we are going to prioritize, which is a word I kept alluded to when we first brought up in the Work Session, whether we were going to prioritize these positions and the Office of the Chair."

Motion: Commissioner Rainey moved to not entertain the Office of the Chair; motion failed for a lack of a second.

Commission Chair Deriso: "I think your motion died, sir, just like your recall."

Commission Chair Deriso: "At some point this issue needs to be resolved and it needs to be entertained before the budget and I will say for the record, "the Charter speaks to the Chairperson for proposing the budget, that has not been done, so before we enter any meetings about the budget, that needs to be done. I sent several emails, now if we are not going to respect the Charter in one way, we should respect in other ways."

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: "It sounds like to me, Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Owens, were in favor of two or three of the positions, and I believe you both want them to go under the City Manager?"

Commissioner Shephard: "Yes sir."

Commission Chair Deriso: "Well, I do not".

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: "Chairman I was talking..."

Commission Chair Deriso: "Hold on, but I hear you."

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “Chairman when you are talking, you would tell people, now let me have my say and you can get right back to it, please sir, please sir, please sir.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Well you had a break, you had a break, I hear you. But, if we are going to do this, I rather my plan and the way it’s suppose to work, not go under somebody who don’t want to do it.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “But if it’s for the people, if it’s for the people, if the positions are good for the people, we bring these positions in and put them under our City Manager. In my nine years in office, I have never known a City Commissioner to be over anybody that’s getting paid from the City.” I am asking my City Attorney that.

Commission Chair Deriso: “You asked a question, first of all, hold on, no, you asked a question, you did not say City Attorney.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “I asked the City Attorney.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Well, you did not say City Attorney, so I am going to speak.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “Well, if the City Attorney say it is possible, if he tells me it is possible, I will make a motion to give them to you right now.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Well, you already know because he said that during the Work Session, so I am not going to entertain this at all, so you already know, what you are trying to do put somebody on the spot, this is the problem.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “This is what you do all the time, put somebody on the spot, is the same thing, it’s exactly the same thing Chairman.

Commission Chair Deriso: This is the reality, I don’t put him on the spot, I don’t trust his opinion to be honest, which I don’t trust his opinion because he has led us wrong several times, so I don’t ever put him on the spot and ask him no questions. So, the reality is, and what I am saying to you. The positions that I created, that I want for the City, not to go under somebody, that you sat in my living room on election night and said, whatever the Chairman wants and shook my hand. I will put the picture on Facebook later and you haven’t kept that promise.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “I said, if there is something that you want, we need to get together, sit down and talk about. I am not going to do this back and forward. Is there a motion on the floor?”

Commission Chair Deriso: “The motion died”.

12. Nomination of the 3rd Appointment to Ethics Committee:

Commission Chair Deriso stated, “again this is a nomination the Chair gets to make, he gets two. Because the Charter was not followed, we had two people on the Ethics Committee that did not reside in the City. So, by the Charter the Chairperson gets to nominate two people, one from a confirmation from the Commissioners and one without. I made my nomination for the one without and I would like to make my third nomination with consent of the vote from the Commission. My nomination is Comeshia Battle, seventh grade Science Teacher, she as been faithfully serving the Crisp County School and our students, so that is the nomination I make, do we have a motion to approve. Commissioner Owens moved to approve Comeshia Battle to be on the Ethics Committee; motion failed for a lack of a second.

Commission Chair Deriso: “It is odd how we put somebody relational to a Commissioner, this Commission before myself and Commissioner Owens before we got up here on the Ethics Committee.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “Chairman you constantly sit here and beat up on your Commissioners.

Commission Chair Deriso: “No, I am telling the truth.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “Well if it died, then it died, you beat up on your Commissioners.

Commission Chair Deriso: “I am telling the truth.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “Watch the meeting you can see it.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “I make it clear to people.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “You siting here talking to us like we are children.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “I am telling the truth, the truth is, this Commission approved two people that should not be on the Ethics Committee, but I have been putting up somebody for months now and you’ll have not approve.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “What two people we approved? Cause I had nothing to do with it.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Mary Beal and Dr. Jackson.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “I had nothing to do with it.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “It’s in the minutes.”

Commission Vice Chair Deriso: “Was this done while I was suspended?”

Commission Chair Deriso: “No, this was done years ago. And somebody who was supposed to make sure we’re following the Charter, which will be a City Attorney, should’ve caught that. It was caught when I had nominated somebody, it was caught very quickly.”

Janice Mumphery-Recording Secretary: “It was Attorney Cotton at that time.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “I did not say who it was, I said that the City Attorney, I do not say Coleman, I said the City Attorney. I did not say which Attorney it was, I said the City Attorney. But, thank you for that. It was in 2017, I believe, Mr. Cole was one of the persons that was appointed.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “I was in office, but I can’t remember, I can’t go back to 2017 to remember who we put on. I don’t remember.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “It is not beating up, it’s being honest with the folks and letting them know what happened.” I am sorry, Ms. Battle and thank you for serving this Crisp County School System so faithfully. I appreciate your time and I am sorry that this Commission won’t do their Charter jobs and do what they supposed to do.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “Ms. Battle, let me say this, I have seen you grow into a mature young lady, beautiful woman. I saw you bring yourself from the bottom, I believe I can remember you were one of the bottom girls. You have worked your way all the way to the top. Keep doing what you are doing. But, this Commission has already decided that we were going to bring in some people from outside this Community to hear these complaints because there are people that’s on the Boards, that’s for one and against the other and it’s to be fair to everybody. It makes more sense to bring people in that don’t know none of us to hear these Ethics Complaints.

Ms. Comeshia Battle: “What I think, I am hearing, you don’t think I’ll be fair?”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “That’s not what I am saying.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “The problem with that is, we said temporarily, just to hear the Ethics Complaints against me, we’ll bring people in. We actually decided to not change our Ordinance, to change up the process from how we would do it. Temporarily, we were going to bring people in because, as Commissioner Reeves said, he did not trust, I wanted Mr. Don Cole recused because of the article he wrote against me and Commissioner Reeves said, he did not trust, who I nominated, Mr. Hunt and so the solution was...

Commission Vice Chair Reeves; “Mr. Hunt went after Commissioner Shephard.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Right, but the general principle is, we decided that we would do it temporary basis, that we would not change our Ordinance because at the end of the day, our Ordinance is the Democratic Process, when we have three people. The Original thing was, push back the City Attorney, Ethic Officer, in which we will have pay a lawyer, like they tried to push in Camilla with those City Councilmen had some Ethics Complaint. There are political tricks going on around, especially when...starts to look like ours and I’m going to be keen on that each and every time. The reality is we said on a temporary basis, that’s not the Ordinance that is before us, if you read the language. By way, we should not approve that Ordinance because, as usually, it’s some typos in there that if we approve it...technically, we do not have what they specify we have in the Ordinance. But, that’s what happens when you copy and paste a lot, when you move from City to City and copy and paste. So, if you read the whole Ordinance, it ain’t even the type of Government we have. So, the reality is, we said, we wasn’t going to change our Ordinance, we were going to bring people in temporarily to hear these cases for now. But what is currently on the table, we still got a Ethics position to fill and it is our Charter obligation to fill that. What has happened, we have had some people, again, trying to go around us and throw something down our throat that we did not ask for. At the end of the day, I want people to understand who supposed to run the City, as far as, policy decisions and that’s the five of us up here. We take advice from the City Attorney and City Manager, but we have made decisions, those decisions supposed to be followed through. Now, you’ll can keep you’ll self to keep getting under minded in that way, but I will not. Especially, when I hear from the people.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “We all talk to the people. There is a lady that sat here, in that Work Shop, a couple days later, she came back and said, you know what, I like those positions, but I wasn’t listen correctly, but I don’t think they should go under the Chairman. So, people talk to us too. The people talk to all of us.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “I don’t sit up here and think they only talk to me. I do think sometimes, I am the only one listen to them because I do not play favorites, I don’t need a nickel from the City, I do not rely on nobody money from the City, and the reality is I’m going to do what the people ask me to do. The reality is when we are talking about the Ethics and the Ethics Ordinance and the whole Committee, we decided that it will be on a temporary basis. That was your idea.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves; “I seconded the motion”.

Commission Chair Deriso: What motion, there’s no motion on the floor.”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: I mean, I need to move on.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “You cannot second nothing...”

Commission Vice Chair Reeves: “For Ms. Battle let’s do it.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “The motion has been properly moved and seconded to have Ms. Comeshia Battle.”

Commissioner Shephard: “I thought you said, the motion died for a lack of a second, sir?”

Commission Chair Deriso: “The Commissioners talking, you look at me like that again, don’t roll your eyes.

Person in the audience: “I did not roll my eyes.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Yes, you did, don’t do that, we will not do that today.”

Commissioner Rainey: “You will not attack my wife inside this Meeting. This is our Meeting, she is outside in the audience, I rolled mines.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “Sir, first of all, she rolled her eyes at me, you tell her to fix her face. Don’t touch me! Do not touch me!

Commissioner Rainey: “That’s disrespectful.”

Commission Chair Deriso: “She is disrespectful, cause her and that lady has been talking the whole time and I could have raised the gravel.” But, first of all, you better fix your face.”

Commission Vice Reeves: “Your Mama came to me and said I was a backstabber, your Mama approached me outside.”

After a conflict, the Meeting was Adjourned: Commissioner Shephard moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:23 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

The Meeting was adjourned before other items on the Agenda was discussed.

APPROVED