

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
February 16, 2021

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on February 16th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

John Wiggins, Commission Chair
Royce Reeves, Commissioner
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Jeanie Bartee, Vice Chair
Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Roland McCarthy, City Manager
Tommy Coleman, City Attorney

Staff present: David Wade, Irene Cantrell, Cpt. Scott Farrow, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Debbie Wright, Steve Fulford, Debra Perry.

Staff absent: Police Chief Lewis Green.

Others Present: Gwen Porter, Mary Beal, Terri Jones, Rosalind Porter, Kenneth Smith, Fannie Graham, Alicia Richey, Louise Lewis, Essex Coffen.

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

Call to Order: Commission Chair John Wiggins called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Rev. Rick Smarr.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentation to Mother Lucille Dennard Shazier – 108 Years old: Mother Lucille Shazier was honored this evening by the Cordele City Commission; Commission Chair John Wiggins presented to Mother Shazier a Proclamation, roses and a key to the City of Cordele.

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

Old Business: Commissioner Shephard expressed her concerns with yard debris and debris all over the City of Cordele. She encouraged all citizens to take responsibility of their yard, neighborhood and Community in picking up debris.

New Business:

1. Commissioner Bartee commended Codes Officer Louis New for cleaning up an area on Fleming Road and 17th Avenue, this area was filled with debris.
2. Commissioner Bartee stated that trains have had Pecan Street blocked for over 72 hours and this is prohibited by law for the trains to block an area this long; the train also blocked Greer Street and Midway Road. Commissioner Bartee asked the City Manager, Roland McCarthy to contact the Railroad officials and ask them to please post a sign stating that they are having problems with the train. This will alert the citizens to detour.
3. Commissioner Rainey informed the Commission that Keep Crisp Beautiful has had several meetings and they are making an effort to hire a sub-contractor to assist with a debris problem in our community. Keep Crisp Beautiful is concerned because this problem has become so

complex and they need assistance with funding. They will consult with County, City and other entities throughout to assist with funding to hire a sub-contractor to pick up debris. The contract supposed to be for a year, the contractor supposed to pick up debris in the City and around the County, they are working on the boundaries now and they supposed to cover the entire area once a month; the County will forfeit the tipping fee.

Motion: Commissioner Rainey moved for the City to assist with funding Keep Crisp Beautiful contract, with the money that the County will not charge the City for the tipping fees; the amount that is being requested is \$25,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission to assist Keep Crisp Beautiful to hire a sub-contractor to help clean the community; the sub-contractors supposed to clean the entire community once a month.

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

1. **Sidewalks on 8th Street and 11th Street (Joe Wright Drive) south of 24th Avenue –** Sidewalks on 8th, 11th Street and 13th Streets south of 24th Avenue, North 11th Street – Currently funds are not available. Will engineer each street separately, as the City receive funds. The Commission has set the priority as follows:
 - I. 11th Street (Joe Wright Drive) South 24th Avenue West
 - II. 8th Street, South 24th Avenue West
 - III. 13th Street, South of 24th Avenue
 - IV. 11th Street North (From 16th Avenue, North to City Limits)
2. **Sidewalk for Pecan Street:** The City has completed their portion of the sidewalks. Steve Fulford has conversed with CSX and they were supposed to be finished with this project by the end of January, 2021, but now hopefully, they will be finished by the end of February.
3. **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 12th 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 18th Avenue.
 - **2020 CDBG:** All CDBG paperwork has been submitted to the State and we are waiting to hear back from them concerning the clearance of all the “Special Conditions” then we will be able to draw 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.
4. **Demolish Dilapidated Structures/Remove Abandoned Vehicles:** In Progress with UBPO Cases. Landbank Authority Board has been established and had their first meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2021. Code Enforcements Officers will continue to work on cases. City Attorney is also working on dilapidated property.

Commission Priorities – Future Projects:

1. **16th Avenue Widening –** This is on a TSPLOST Referendum that the City will be working on in the future. DOT is paving West 16th Avenue. (From West City Limits to 5th Street Vicinity) (15 years)

City of Cordele Commission Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

Page Three

2. **11th Street Improvement Project - (From 16th Avenue, North to City Limits)** The City has worked this project with the latest SPLOST Issue that was approved. 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.

CITY MANAGER REPORT – Roland McCarthy reported.

Past Meetings & Events

Lions Club Meeting and Luncheon, Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 12:00 noon: Roland McCarthy attended the Lions Club Meeting and Luncheon on the said date. Roland introduced himself to the members and answered questions concerning the City of Cordele.

Kiwanis Club Meeting and Luncheon, Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 12: noon: City Manager Roland McCarthy was the speaker at this meeting. He gave them an update as to the City plans for FY 2021.

Presidents' Day Observed, Monday, February 15, 2021: Non-essential personnel recognized this holiday; they were given the day off.

Future Meetings

Landbank Authority Board Meeting, Friday, February 19, 2021, 11:00 AM at the Crisp County Power Boardroom: The Landbank Authority Board will meet on this date at the Crisp County Power Boardroom. Roland McCarthy attended this meeting.

Action Report

Approval is requested for a Resolution to move funds from the Quiet Community Project to the Train Observation Platform: Commission approval is requested for a Resolution to be sent to the Georgia General Assembly to amend HB 529 Act No. 109 approved by the Governor on April 30, 2013; this Resolution is requesting to move funds from the Quiet Community Project to the Train Observation Platform. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval is requested for a new appointment to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board: Commission approval is requested to appoint Mr. William Chandler to the Cordele Carnegie Library Board, this is a three-year term board. Mr. Chandler will replace Mrs. Ida Rose Oliver on the board. If approved by the Commission, the Library Board and Mr. Chandler will be notified. Commissioner Barte moved to approve the new appointment to the board; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval is requested for the First Reading of an Ordinance amending Section 5.1 of the City Code of the City of Cordele by Adopting new Building Codes: Commission approval is requested for the First Reading of an Ordinance amending Section 5.1 of the City Code of the City of Cordele by

City of Cordele Commission Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021

Page Four

adopting new Building Codes; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the First Reading on an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Barte; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval is requested for the new Purchasing Agreement: City Manager Roland McCarthy requested approval from the Commission to accept the new Purchase Agreement. Purchasing Agreement will be given to each Department Head upon approval. With a brief discussion about the Purchasing Order, it was moved by Commissioner Reeves to accept the Purchasing Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Barte, after clarifying an issue, Commissioner Barte rescinded her seconded. The motion failed for a lack of seconded. Commissioner Rainey moved to table this matter for further discussion; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission. Commission Chair John Wiggins requested to have a Work Session before the next meeting, March 2nd at 4:30 p.m. to discuss this matter further.

Approval is requested for a Resolution to declare a State of Emergency at the Waste/Water Treatment Plant: Commission approval is requested for a Resolution to declare a State of Emergency at the Waste/Water Treatment Plant on the Trickling Filter System. City is requesting GEFA funds in the amount up to \$1,815,000.00. Upon your approval the necessary paperwork will be executed to receive the Grant. Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

City Attorney Report: Tommy Coleman, City Attorney reported. Property Maintenance Court was held, there were five judgments:

Final judgments:

- 1005 South 8th Street
- 2011 West 25th Avenue - this can be torn down

These properties have to come to court one more time:

- 902 South 4th Street
- 515 East 9th Avenue
- 510 East 9th Avenue

Next court date has been set for March 23, 2021 and at this time the property at North 11th Street and 6th Avenue. The Peanut Gin will be addressed.

Finance Director Report: Roland McCarthy reported.

- Revenue is over Expenses in FY2021 to date: \$325,319.00
- FY2020 Property Tax Collections are \$2,215,180.13 collected of the \$2,657,949.08 due or 83% total collected.

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

Fire Chief Report: Chief Telfair reported.

Responded to 14 calls: 5 activated alarms, 1 unattended cooking, 1 accidental, 1 bad sensor, 2 false alarms, 1 powerline down, 1 grass fire, 2 rubbish fires, 1 odor investigation, 2 fully engulfed structure fires, 1 structure fire in the City, 1 structure fire in the North end of the County, 1 gas odor investigation.

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

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

- **EDRLF** – We have four (4) outstanding Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Loans with current monthly loan payments. Several prospective business owners have requested Loan Applications.
- **CPC** - We have several persons anticipating the approval of a Zoning Amendment and/or Conditional Uses approval through the BZA to include the location of Residential Manufactured Mobile Homes.
- **BZA** - There are no current requests for conditional use variances to present to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- **CHPC** – There are no pending Applications for Certificates of Preservation under review and consideration within the two Historic Districts.

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

Chief Codes Official Report: Jack Wood reported.

Harris Manufacturing Expansion/Remodel. Plans approved for Phase One
Value of Job: \$2,376,325.00 Permit Fee: \$5,434.00

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

Personnel Director Report: David Wade reported.

Out of an abundance of caution, Judge Wright cancelled all arraignments and trials for the month of January.

Arraignments were held on February 9, 2021 with the following case load:

Traffic cases	329
Criminal cases	46
Total cases	375

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

Police Chief Report: Cpt. Scott Farrow reported.

Part I Crimes	20
Homicide/Murder	0
Rape	0
Robberies (Armed/by force/strong arm)	(1) Armed Save-A-Lot
Motor Vehicle Thefts	0
Aggravated Assault	(1) 1 arrested
Larceny (Thefts)	(17) 8 shoplifting-8 arrests; 2 enter autos; 7 other thefts
Arson	0
Burglary	(1) 3 residence
Part II Crimes	40
Incidents Reported	75
Family Violence Incident Reported	(4) 0 arrests
Miscellaneous Incidents	31
Motor Vehicle Crashes	(19) 9 roadway, 10 private properties
Arrests Made from Incidents	45
Citations Issued	194
Warnings Issued	66

Total Calls for Service 805

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

Public Works Director: Steve Fulford reported.

- Mr. Fulford gave the Commission pictures of the Welcome signs that have been made and will be put at North and South on 7th Street and East and West on Hwy. 280.
- Advertised for bids on the LMIG Project 2020 and 2021 projects, both will be done, which includes all Pecan Street, Ross Street and then all over town.

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

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

- Trickleing Filter #1 is under repair in January 2021. It probably will be a sixteen-week process to repair the Trickleing Filter.

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

March 2, 2021

Date