

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2023**

The City of Cordele Commission held a Regular Meeting on February 7, 2023 at 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

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| Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair | Royce Reeves, Sr., Commission Vice Chair |
| Vesta Beal-Shepard, Commissioner | Wesley Rainey, Commissioner |
| Isaac Owens, Commissioner | Tommy Coleman – City Attorney |
| Alisha Williams – Recording Secretary | Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager |
| Angela Redding, City Manager – Via Telephone | |

Absent: Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Staff present: Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Koby Worley – Street Superintendent, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

Media Present: Ricky Smarr - South GA TV; Chris Lewis – Cordele Dispatch

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the Public Hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION: Prayer was rendered by Mr. Ricky Smarr.

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 | | ✓ |
| Royce Reeves, Sr. | Commission Vice Chairman | | ✓ |
| Vesta Beal-Shephard | Commissioner Ward 1 | | ✓ |
| Isaac Owens | Commissioner Ward 3 | | ✓ |
| Wesley Rainey | Commissioner Ward 4 | | ✓ |

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA – February 7, 2023: Commissioner Rainey moved to Amend the Agenda to include Agenda Items # 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

Commission Chair Deriso stated, this is not the City's process, he will not carry the motion; we will approve the agenda that is printed.

Commission Chair Deriso asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for February 7, 2023.

Commission Chair Deriso asked for a motion to adjourn the Meeting for this morning. Commission Chair Deriso stated, it is either a motion to approve the agenda or a motion to Adjourn.

Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the Meeting; the motion failed for a lack of a second.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated the agenda reads approval of the agenda, the other

Commissions see fit not to approve certain items on the agenda, a motion was made, the motion was seconded to remove some of the items from the agenda, that is not a sign of disrespect; this is a voting

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body who has decided not to discuss certain items on this Agenda, he thinks it is the Chairman's duty to carry the motion.

Commission Chair Deriso stated, it is also his duty to make sure the Meeting is running properly.

Commissioner Rainey stated, this Agenda says Cordele City Commission Meeting, which is all of us and we have had countless approved Agendas this last year where items were skipped over.

Commission Chair Deriso stated, when he did skip over an Agenda item, he stated the Charter makes no provisions for some of the items that were placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Rainey asked the City Attorney if there is a provision in the Charter about the Agenda.

City Attorney Coleman responded, in saying, the motion has been moved and seconded, it is competent for the Chair to carry the motion.

Commissioner Owens stated, he restates his motion to adjourn, it we are not going to move any further.

Commission Chair Deriso asked for a second to adjourn.

Commission Chair Deriso asked Commissioner Rainey what items does he want to remove for discussion?

Commissioner Rainey stated, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Commission Chair asked, what is his rationale?

Commissioner Rainey stated his rationale is most of the items does not need to be discussed; #4 – privately owned businesses.

Commission Chair Deriso asked Commissioner Rainey rationale for #5.

Commissioner Rainey stated, "I do not have to state this."

Commission Chair Deriso stated, he will carry the motion to amend the Agenda for February 7, 2023.

Commission Chair Deriso stated, a motion has been made to amend the Agenda Items to consider Agenda Items #1, 2, 3, 6, of the actual Agenda Items and to proceed on with reports from the City Manager and City Attorney; the motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 17, 2023: Commission Vice Chair Royce Reeves, Sr. moved to approve the Minutes for January 17, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; 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: No Requests.

PRESENTATION: Judge Russell Wright, Municipal Court Judge, did not appear.

PRESENTATION – Monica Simmons, Cordele Crisp Chamber of Commerce:

Ms. Simmons stated at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, the Chairman Award was presented to the City of Cordele; in recognition of outstanding leadership and special support for the Cordele Crisp Chamber of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

- 1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers was not present to give his report.**
- 2. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.
Reporting Period: December 28, 2022 to February 1, 2023**

Calls for Service- Numerical Breakdown

| Types of Activity | Number of Incidents Reported |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fire alarm investigations | 10 |
| Rubbish fires | 3 |
| Vehicle fire | 1 |
| Dumpster fire | 1 |
| Smoke investigations | 4 |
| MVA | 1 |
| Medical assist | 2 |
| Cancelled enroute | 1 |
| Natural gas leak calls | 1 |
| Odor investigations | 2 |
| Structure fire | 2 |
| Grass fire | 1 |
| Electrical fire | 1 |
| Misc. calls | 1 |
| Total calls for Service | 31 |

Department News

Cordele Fire Department has filled the captain position on A- Shift. Sgt. Reginald Patrick will be the New Captain starting February 6, 2023 on A – Shift. Sergeant Patrick has been employed with the Fire Department since January 23, 1985.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND:

The EDRLF Committee is in the process of scheduling a public hearing/meeting to consider a Revolving Loan Application submitted by Davontae Hunt. The December 31, 2022 Semi-annual Revolving Loan Fund Report has been prepared and submitted to DCA.

CDBG 2020 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

The Construction Contractor, RPI Underground, Inc. continues to make progress with the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements and per the Project Engineer the project is nearing completion.

CORDELE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

The Cordele Historic Preservation Commission met on January 19, 2023, to review one “Application for Certificate for Preservation” submitted by Ms. Juanita Harrold for her property located within the Gillespie Selden Historic District. Ms. Harrold was requesting to construct wooden and chain link fences each at 409 West 13th Avenue and 301 South 11th Street, Cordele, Georgia. The Application was reviewed and approved with some modifications to adjust for proper right-of-way clearance.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

The BZA has scheduled two (2) public hearings for Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 10: a.m., as follows:

ARTICLE VI. USE PROVISIONS BY DISTRICT: Section 625.3 Conditional Uses. This request is for a variance to locate one new (16’ X 75’) Single-Wide Manufactured Home at Block 105, Lots 6 and 7, 510 East 5th Avenue, City of Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia. The

zoning classification of this property is (R-4), Multi-Family Residential District. Kayla Marie Smith is the property owner and the potential manufactured home owner.

ARTICLE VI. USE PROVISIONS BY DISTRICT: Section 660.3 Area regulations: Maximum Height: 45 ft. This request is for a variance to accommodate a 100-foot building height. The City Codes' regulations maximum building height is forty-five (45) feet. The building will be used as a storage warehouse for agricultural commodities for distribution. The site consists of seventy (70) acres and is zoned (HI), Heavy Industrial District. The Crisp County-Cordele Industrial Development Authority is the property owner and applicant.

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

PERMITTED COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Total of Job Valuations (Commercial): \$28,740,374.00 Total Permit Fees: \$48095.40
Total of Job Valuations (Residential): \$13,240,923.00 Total Permit Fees: \$29,632.00

Combined Total of Commercial/Residential: \$41,981,297.00

5. Human Resources: David Wade Reported.

- January 1, 2023 The open enrollment period for medical and prescription coverage was held during the entire month of January.
- January 11, 2023 Held an open enrollment meeting for any employee with operations regarding their medical and prescription coverage. Information about Medicare supplements were also provided to those nearing retirement age.
- January 11, 2023 Began accepting in-house and external applications for the upcoming Fire Chief vacancy.
- January 19, 2023 Completed and submitted all paperwork for COLA increase, COLA Was effective January 09, 2023 and reflected on the January 27, 2023 Paychecks.
- January 23, 2023 Promoted a Distribution Mechanic to Assistant Superintendent in the Gas Department.
- January 24, 2023 Extended formal offers of employment to a Distribution Mechanic applicant in the Water & Sewer Department and an Auto Mechanic applicant in the Maintenance Shop.
- January 31, 2023 Met with Susan Fuller, and her assistant Reese Roobin, about the Work-Based Learning Program. Mrs. Fuller provided the agreement new and With sample documents.

6. Municipal Court: Jackie Walker Reported

Total Traffic Cases: 232
Total Criminal Cases: 64
Total Court Cases: 296
Bench Warrants Ordered: 9
License Suspensions Ordered: 23
Collected a total cash bond, fines, probation payments \$44,557.43

Total Defendants Incarcerated 0
Total Days Jail Sentenced 0

7. Police Department – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Part I Crimes | 56 |
| Motor Vehicle Thefts | 2 (1 recovered) |
| Aggravated Assault | 13 |
| Larceny | 35 (6 entering autos, 11 shoplifting with 11 arrests and 2 juvenile arrests, 18 other thefts) |
| Burglary | 6 (3 residence, 2 ministorage until 1 business) |
| Part II Crimes | 256 |
| Incidents Reported | 195 |
| Community Contacts | 123 |
| Citations Issued | 265 |
| Warnings Issued | 205 |
| Total Calls for Service | 1,681 |

Departmental News

The Police Department held Coffee with a COP on January 30th at Star Bucks. The event was a big success.

The department attended the Teen Maze Planning Meeting. The Police Department will be participating with this event in March. It will be held at the Crisp County High School for 8th – 12th grade students.

8. Public Works – Koby Worley Reported.

○ **Cemetery/Parks**

The department is in the process of changing out faded street signs within the city limits. This includes stop signs, street markers, and speed limit signs. This project is 95% complete.

○ **Engineering**

2022-0103 Annual 2022 SWMP report. Submitted on 1/24/23

○ **Gas**

Odorant testing has been completed for 1st quarter
Critical valve designation is in progress and is 75% complete

○ **Street**

The surveillance cameras at the manned dump station have been installed.
We are now waiting on the gates next door to the dump station to be installed.

○ **Water/Sewer**

Installation of 3 water services to Gillespie Gardens. Waiting on customer to apply for service.

Installation of a low flow sewer system on Exa Avenue from Pearl Street to Trucker's Route. Will schedule work once the McLeod Subdivision Project been completed.

Installation of water/sewer services to Foam Works Auto Spa

○ DOT has approved the LMIG; an email was received on Monday, February 6th.

Payment should be received in 10 (ten) business days.

○ A schedule for the Grapple Truck was given to the Commissioners.

9. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.

Pumped from Wells 52,000,000 gallons

Water Treated 111,000,000 gallons
Rain for month 8.8”

Debbie Wright stated there have been a lot of requests to check Backflow Preventers. When People come to get their Business License Renewed or Open a new business, they are required to have Backflow Preventer; everyone has to have one, at a house, at a commercial business, restaurant, industrial site. It depends on what the person or business is doing to determine the kind of Backflow the person or business will have to have. It is done by a case-on-case basis, but everyone has to have them, it is a federal law, not a city law.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider and Approve Crumley's Billboard Agreement. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Crumley's Billboard Agreement; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Consider and Approve a Resolution Supporting the Application by the Community for the Connected Resilient Communities Program; Repealing all Resolutions in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Resolution; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
3. Consider and Approve the Chairman Executing the Opioid Settlements Agreement. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Opioid Settlements Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Removed from the agenda.
5. Removed from the agenda.
6. Discussion of an Ordinance to Establish and Designate Food Truck Zones (areas in which food trucks are allowed to use throughout the year by completing an annual form). Commissioner Rainey moved to discuss establishing an Ordinance to Designate Food Truck Zones; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Shephard stated, her understanding about the food trucks were, they were parking on owners' property with permission.
Commission Chair Deriso stated, he has had complaints of the Food Truck vendors having permission to be on the property, the citizens report to the City about the Food Truck vendors does not have permission. Something needs to be in place to diffuse with the problems.
Commissioner Owens asked, is there a set time for the Food Trucks? Will they have to do notification prior or just show up at the spot?
Commission Chair Deriso stated, it is the Commission's responsibility to set perimeters with the advice of the City Attorney.
7. Removed from the agenda.
8. Removed from the agenda.
9. Removed from the agenda.

10. Removed from the agenda.

11. Removed from the agenda.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Steve Fulford Reported.

1. The CSX Railroad Crossing: CSX scheduled maintenance to work on a project that begins in Ware County, GA and ends in Crisp County. The project consists of four (4) maintenance teams that will be performing various types of maintenance on the tracks. The anticipated date for railroad closure in Cordele/Crisp County is the week of March 13th at the following locations: Burnette Blvd, Midway Rd., Greer Street, South Pecan Street, 1st Street, 2nd Street, and 3rd Street.
2. The back doors at City Hall are now an employee only entrance.
3. City Offices will be closed Monday, February 20, 2023 for President's Day.

13. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): No Executive Session Requested.

15. COMMENTS BY THE GOVERNING BODY:

Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated there is a citizen of Cordele present, Mr. Harry Fox, picked up a person's wallet and the person was found and his wallet given back to him.

Commissioner Shephard stated the City Officials of Cordele attended the Georgia Cities Summit the entire Commission Board attended, along with the City Manager and some of the other staff, the Executive Assistant also attended.

Commission Chair Deriso apologized to the public for the behavior of this body, which is one of the reasons I took the position of having a Youth Commission or a Youth Council because if we continue to disregard any civility and respect for one another being the people chose each and every one of us to represent our area, with me being City wide. I do not what it is going to take to move in the right direction. I know I started mine, at least, to move in a more positive direction beginning of the year and part of what we learned in the training, there is a whole initiative from the Georgia Municipal Association to establish more civility.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Shephard moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:20 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.