

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
February 2, 2021

The regular scheduled meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on February 2nd, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

John Wiggins, Commission Chair	Jeanie Barte, Vice Chair
Royce Reeves, Commissioner	Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Roland McCarthy, City Manager
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary	Tommy Coleman, City Attorney

Staff present: David Wade, Irene Cantrell, Police Chief Lewis Green, Deputy Chief Jeremy Taylor, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Debbie Wright, Steve Fulford, Debra Perry.

Others Present: Ricky Dawson.

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 David Wade.

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

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2021: Commissioner Barte moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2021; it was seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the meeting minutes of January 19, 2021 were approved unanimously by the Commission.

Old Business: Commissioner Barte inquired about the Memorial for the Late City Manager, Edward Beach; a memorial bench. Commissioner Reeves stated since Mr. Beach was very involved with the Train Observation Platform and he would like to see Mr. Beach's name attached to the Platform along with a caboose. in memory of Edward Beach, this idea can go along with the bench. Commissioner Rainey suggested that this project could be a Tourism Project since the caboose could cost a lot; it was suggested to take this idea before the Tourism Committee. Commissioner Shepard and Commissioner Reeves expressed their feelings about Rev. Robert C. Gaston and Rev Ulysses Fulwood, Sr. being remembered also. Commission Chair John Wiggins suggested having a Work Session to discuss the ideas that were presented tonight and for the Commission to alert him as to what they would like to do at the next City Commissioners Meeting, February 16, 2021.

New Business: No Report.

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

- I. **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)

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2. **Sidewalk for Pecan Street:** The City has completed their portion of the sidewalks. Steve Fulford has conversed with CSX and they plan on finished their part of this project by the end of January, 2021.
3. **2020 EIP Grant/Inflow/Infiltration Program for Wastewater Collection/Treatment:** SPLOST funds committed for project and an EIP Grant. Work has been completed on Phase 4 Rehabilitation of the Northside Trunk Line. The trunk line will serve future development in the Eastside Industrial Park, as well as Love's Travel Center and Indian River Transport.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Cordele Railway Park Project:** This project is approximately 97% complete. The contractor for the project has been moving along nicely with the project. Being funded by Tourism and SPLOST funds.

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)
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

IDC Manager's Meeting, Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9 AM: The managers for the City, County, Power Commission and IDC met this date.

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Keep Crisp Beautiful Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 10:00 AM: Keep Crisp Beautiful Board Meeting via ZOOM was on this date.

Rotary Club Meeting, Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 12:00 noon: I was a guest at the Rotary Club Meeting on this date.

Meeting with Downtown Development Authority Director and SAM Shortline Director, Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 1:30 PM: Met with Monica Mitchell-Rentfrow, Downtown Development Authority Director and Chris Lockwood, SAM Shortline Director in my office on this date.

Crisp Community Council-Family Connection Collaborative Partners Meeting, Friday, January 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM: The Crisp Community Council Meeting was held via Zoom. The topic was "How are Crisp County Children and Families Faring?" A Review of the Georgia KIDS COUNT date.

Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Committee Meeting – Via Zoom, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 8:30 AM: The Board of Directors of the Chamber met via Zoom on this date.

Landbank Authority Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM: I attended the Landbank Authority Meeting at the Crisp County Boardroom. which a fifth person was elected to serve on this board.

Crisp County Community Council Monthly Collaborative Meeting-Via Zoom, Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 8:30 AM: The Community Council Monthly Meeting was held via Zoom.

Nominations of 2021-2022 GMA District 8 Officers: Now is the time to initiate the process for nominating and electing GMA district 8 Officers for the 2021-2022 year. If you are interested in being considered as a district officer, please return the attached GMA District Officer Expression of Interest Form. See Attachment.

Action Report

Commission Approval is needed for the reestablished Cordele Cemetery Study Committee: The Cordele Cemetery Study Committee has been reestablished; the persons below have agreed to serve on the Committee:

1. Shamari Bunkley – Bentley-Carson Memorial Funeral Home
2. Tony Moore
3. Wesley Rainey – Rainey Family Funeral Services and City Commissioner
4. Tommy Kilcrease – Hughes & Wright Funeral Home
5. Arthur Parker – J. W. Williams Funeral Home
6. Anthony Brancher - Rainey Family Funeral Services
7. Irene Cantrell – Housing & Urban Advancement Director
8. Debra Perry – City Clerk

Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the reestablishment of the Committee and board members for the Cordele Cemetery Study Committee; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

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Presidents' Day Observed, Monday, February 15, 2021: This is one of the City's recognized holidays, City offices will be closed this date and non-essential personnel will be given the day off.

City Attorney Report: Tommy Coleman, City Attorney reported.

Mr. Coleman reported on the Hotel/Motel tax. He stated that inquiries have been made of whether the monies for the Quiet Community Project can be used for the Train Observation Platform; the answer is yes, but there are some things that would have to be done first. There will have to a contract with the Chamber of Commerce and by law the City of Cordele is the custodian of the monies. Mr. Coleman also pointed out that the Chamber of Cordele suppose to make a presentation to the City about their business plan every year, this plan is to be made by May 1st. After a lengthy explanation of this matter, Mr. Coleman told the Commission that he and Mr. McCarthy had found a Resolution dated 2001, asking the General Assembly to increase the sales tax from 5% to 6% for the Quiet Community Project; he asked the Commission if they would like for him to bring that Resolution back, please let him know. Mr. Coleman stated that the General Assembly is meeting right now and if they wanted to do it right away, it would have to be done before cross-over day. The City Manager, Roland McCarthy suggested for the Commission to make a motion to change the Quiet Community Project to the Train Observation Platform.

Motion: Commissioner Reeves moved to change the Quiet Community Project to the Train Observation Platform Project. This motion was amended.

Motion: Commissioner Reeves moved to amend his motion; Commissioner Rainey seconded the motion.

Amended Motion: Commissioner Rainey moved to, right now, move the proceeds from the Quiet Community Project to pay for the Train Observation Platform Project, but keep the Quiet Community as a potential project; Commissioner Barteo seconded the motion. Commissioner Rainey also stated that there has been some miscommunication about the Quiet Community Project and that is the reason it was dropped. The motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

The City Attorney stated that he will have the Resolution at the next meeting, February 16, 2021 for the First Reading and after the Second Reading the Resolution will have to go the General Assembly and they will change the Resolution for the funds to go to the Train Observation Platform. It was made clear that it has to be a specific project stated, it cannot say just Tourism Project.

Finance Director Report: Roland McCarthy reported.

Mr. McCarthy stated the Revenue is over Expenses in FY2021 to date: \$1,060,559.00.

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

Fire Chief Report: Chief Telfair reported.

Responded to 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 gas leaks, 1 gas odor, 1 trash can fire, 1 lifting assistance, 1 smoke investigation, 1 elevator entrapment.

Chief Telfair had a concern about the fire alarms that the Fire Department is responding to, the Fire Department responded to seven fire alarms within a two-week period and the majority was to the same place. Chief Telfair inquired about putting fines in place for alarms going off while being worked on; the monitoring company supposed to alert E911 when a company they are monitoring is working on the alarms. Chief Telfair asked if the Commission would take this into consideration.

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

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

1. CDBG 2020 - DCA has advised that the Special Condition No. 1 has been cleared and Grant Funds are available for drawdown. These Grant Funds will be utilized for sewer line improvements within the McLeod Subdivision.
2. UBPO - The Crisp County Tax Commissioner has advised that several properties will be advertised for tax sale unless the taxes are paid prior to the 5th day of January, 2021. There are two (2) of the four (4) properties with UBPO Demolition Cost Liens from the City of Cordele included in this proposed tax sale as follows:
 - a) Odessa B Dennard (Deceased) 413 W 15th Ave.
 - b) Chester Lee Everett 711 W 18th Ave.
 - c) Jeffrey Cleveland (Deceased) 506 S 11th St.
 - d) Mildred Allen (Deceased) 512 W 14th Ave.

Also the Crisp County Tax Commissioner has advised via letter that two of the above properties were sold at the auction for delinquent taxes as follows:

- a) Odessa B. Dennard (Deceased) 413 W 15th Ave., was sold to Ray Bland & Robert L. Westbrook for \$1,524.25.
- b) Chester Lee Everett, 711 W 18th Ave., was sold to Emmett Coleman & Marcus Baldwin for \$1,400.00.

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

Chief Codes Official Report: Jack Wood reported.

Crisp Regional Hospital	Completed – Issued Certificate of Occupancy (CO)
	Value of Job: \$323,288.00 Permit Fee: \$1,152.00
China One Restaurant	Completed – Issued Certificate of Occupancy (CO)
	Value of Job: \$50,000.00 Permit Fee: \$280.00

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

Personnel Director Report: David Wade reported.

Manpower and Vacancy Summary

Finance:	Vacancies – 3
Police Department:	Vacancies – 12
Public Works:	Vacancies - 4

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

Police Chief Report: Police Chief Lewis Green reported.

Part I Crimes	19
Homicide/Murder	0
Rape	0
Robberies (Armed/by force/strong arm)	0
Motor Vehicle Thefts	0
Aggravated Assault	1 2 arrested
Larceny (Thefts)	(15) 8 shoplifting-6 arrests: 4 enter autos-pending arrest
Arson	0
Burglary	(3) 3 residence

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Part II Crimes	44
Incidents Reported	71
Family Violence Incident Reported	(7) 4 arrests
Miscellaneous Incidents	19
Motor Vehicle Crashes	(12) 9 roadway, 3 private properties
Arrests Made from Incidents	66
Citations Issued	125
Warnings Issued	38
Total Calls for Service	680

After investigation, nine entering auto cases and one motor vehicle theft case that occurred on January 11th were cleared by arrests. Four juveniles, age ranging from 14 to 16, have been charged with nine counts each of entering auto and one count each of motor vehicle theft.

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

Public Works Director: Steve Fulford reported.

- 8th Avenue Road – this repair had to be rescheduled because of the rain, the ditch has to dry up before it can be worked on.
- Pecan Street Project was supposed to be finished on January 29th, but it has been delayed because of the rain. Mr. Fulford stated that he will find out when the railroad employees will come back and finish this project.

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

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

- Trickling Filter #1 is under repair in January 2021. We have found that the entire Trickling Filter was stopped completely up with sand, dirt and grit. All of the media has to be removed and replaced. They are 75% finished removing the old media and drain tiles. We are looking at different options for replacement.

Other Reports: No other City reports.

Adjourn: Commissioner Bartee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m.


John E. Wiggins, Chairman


Roland McCarthy, City Manager

2/16/21
Date