

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR MEETING
January 2, 2024

The Organizational/Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on January 2nd, 9:00 AM, 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
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Staff present: Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Todd Alligood, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Jackie Walker – Chief Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

Media Present: Cordele Dispatch – Sarah Brown.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the Organizational Meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Oath of Office: Oath of Office administered by City Attorney Tommy Coleman.
Commissioner Vesta Beal Shephard, Ward One.
Commissioner J. Wesley Rainey, Ward Four.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Invocation: There was a moment of silent 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 Ward 2		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – January 2, 2024: Commissioner Royce Reeves moved to approve the Agenda for January 2, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – December 19, 2023: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Minutes for December 19, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the Minutes were approved by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES – December 21, 2023: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the Minutes were 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.

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

- 1. Finance Department: Rusty Bridgers Reported.**
New SPLOST Program started on Monday, January 1, 2024.
- 2. Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Todd Alligood Reported.**
Reporting Period: November 28, 2023 – December 27, 2023

Calls for Service: Total 43

Structure Fire	3
Grass Fire/Rubbish	3
Extrication	1
Canceled in route	4
Fire Alarm	4
Medical Assist	13
Motor Vehicle Accident	6
Other	9

The HAAS Alert System, which is installed on the Fire Trucks, was not included in the report because it is not received until the month is completed. Chief Alligood informed the Commission of the HAAS Alert System. He stated that during the thirty-three (33) calls, the HAAS Alert System alerted 358 drivers that the Fire Trucks were approaching them or that the trucks were already on scene. During the forty-three (43) calls, the Fire Departments response time was 2.7 minutes per call.

Department News

We completed all training requirements, hydrant maintenance, and building pre-plans.

- 3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.**

CORDELE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

The Cordele Planning and Zoning Commission will schedule a public hearing and meeting for a request to split Part of Land Lot 247, 10th Land District into four parcels of land. This property is located on East 8th Avenue and Hickory Street. Additional information will be available as soon as the Land Surveyor submits additional information.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

There are not any public hearings nor meetings scheduled for the Board of Zoning Appeals for the month of January 2024, thus far.

CORDELE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

The Historic Preservation Commission has not received any “Applications for Certificates for Preservation” to date for a meeting to be scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of January 2024.

CHIP 2018 GRANT PROGRAM:

The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Grant Administrator is continuing to work with Ms. Angela Redding the City Manager and staff on the 2024 CHIP Housing and Rehabilitation Grant Application Program.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND

LIST OF LOANS

- a. Hobo Café’ – First Loan
- b. Hobo Café’ – Second Loan
- c. Ray Ray’s Restaurant
- d. The Grant Building
- e. R & D Lawncare

There have not been any new Loan Applications submitted for review.

4. Human Resources: David Wade Reported.

November 30, 2023 Extended a conditional offer to a Marketing and Social Media Manager applicant. This position was filled on December 18, 2023.

December 04, 2023: Received a resignation from a Firefighter, that position was filled on December 19, 2023.

December 13, 2023: Extended a former offer of employment to a Patrol Person Applicant in the Police Department.

December 08, 2023 Participated in an interview for the vacant Community Advancement Manager position.

December 13, 2023 Attended Workshop #1 of the Municipal Workforce Planning Cohort. Workshop #2 is scheduled for January 09, 2024.

December 27, 2023 Completed and submitted the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts Annual Immigration Report.

Reminder, January is the City’s Open Enrollment Month for Health Insurance, if anyone would like to make any changes to their health insurance plan, it can be done at this time.

Representatives will be at the City of Cordele on January 16, 2024, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

6. Municipal Court: Jackie Walker Reported

December Monthly Court Summary Report:	
Total Traffic Cases	155
Total Criminal Cases	25
Total Court Cases	180
Bench Warrants Ordered	6
License Suspension Ordered	29
Total Cash Bonds Paid	\$10,380.00
Total Fines Collected (Late Payments, Citations)	\$ 2,450.00
Total Deposits From CSRA:	\$10,021.00
Total Deposits from CSRA Pretrial Sentences	\$ 4,117.00
Total Deposits from Restitution	.00
Total Deposits from Web Payments Collected	\$ 8,225.00
Total	\$35,193.00
Total Defendants Incarcerated	0
Total Days Jail Sentenced	0

**7. Codes/Police Department – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.
 Codes Compliance – November 28 – December 26, 2023**

Code Compliance Division – Numerical Breakdown

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>
Abandoned Vehicle	7
C & D (Construction & Demolition)	2
Curbstoning: Vehicle sales	0
Dilapidated Property	61
Inspections	29
Business License	1
Alcohol License	0
Trash (Dumping, Limb & Debris	4
Overgrown Grass/Weeds	99
Panhandler/Loitering	0
Parking	0
Utility Complaint	4
Other	23

Departmental News

Code Compliance Division Facebook Page is currently up and running.
 Code Compliance Officers will continue to post awareness to the public and address concerns as they come to the department.

Police Department – November 28 - December 26, 2023

Calls for Service – Numerical Breakdown

Part I Crimes	74
Rape	1 (1 arrest)
Motor Vehicle Thefts	4 (3 recovered)

Aggravated Assault	4
Larceny (Thefts)	61 (33 enter auto, 11 shoplifting w/11 adults/1 juvenile arrest, 17 other thefts)
Burglary	4 (3 residential, 1 storage unit)
Part II Crimes	58
Incidents Reported	132
Community Contacts	33
Citations Issued	66
Warnings Issued	19
Total Calls for Service	977

Department News

Our Department has two (2) cadets scheduled to start the Police Academy in Tifton on January 2nd.

We currently have an applicant in the background process for a Sergeant Position and Patrol Officer.

8. Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported.

Public Works will resume the alley pick-up this weekend.

Discuss with Express Disposal to do an alley clean-up in the near future. Mr. Fulford stated he will report back to the Commission once a plan is in place.

The Safety LMIG Program: The Contactors will have a pre-construction meeting, in the near future.

9. Social Media/Marketing Report: Rick Smarr Reported

Plans on relaunching the Newsletter, very soon, possibly next week.

Encouraging the Commission, Team Members and Citizens to like and follow “THE CITY OF CORDELE” on our Facebook page.

10. UC&T – Debbie Wright Reported.

Wastewater Treated: 73,000,000 gallons – 1.1 billion gallons for the year

Sludge to Landfill: 25.36 tons of sludge this year

Rainfall: Five (5) inches of rain for December for a total of 54.44” for the year

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Elect Vice Chairman

Commissioner Shephard moved to nominate Commissioner Royce Reeves, Sr.; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Reeves voted aye.

Commissioner Royce Reeves, Sr. was nominated and selected for the City of Cordele Vice Chair by the Commission.

2. Appoint/Set Retainer – Municipal Court Judge Russell Wright

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint/set retainer for Judge Russell (Rusty) Wright as Municipal Court Judge; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.

The Appointment/Set Retainer for Municipal Court Judge Russell Wright was approved by the Commission.

3. Appoint/Set Retainer – City Solicitor

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to appoint/set retainer for Blake Brantley as the City Solicitor; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Owens vote aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard vote aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.

The Appointment/Set Retainer for City Solicitor Blake Brantley was approved by the Commission.

4. Appoint/Set Retainer – Public Defender

Commissioner Rainey moved to appoint/set retainer for Dustin Land as the Public Defender; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Chairman Joshua Deriso stated his opposition for Public Defender Dustin Land. Chairman Deriso stated Mr. Land has shown some issues of unfairness in his practice.

Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye.

The Appointment/Set Retainer for Public Defender Dustin Land was approved by the Commission.

5. Appoint/Set Retainer – City Attorney

Commissioner Shephard moved to appoint/set retainer for Tommy Coleman as the City Attorney; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.

The Appointment/Set Retainer for City Attorney Tommy Coleman was approved by the Commission.

Note: Commissioner Owens stated all (Municipal Court Judge, City Solicitor and Public Defender) should have an evaluation, so the Commission will be more aware of the happenings and the Commission can check on the happenings with the Court. We did talk about them coming and sharing some of the points about their position, how they are working within the City and it would be good for the citizens to know faces before coming to Court, for the citizens to meet the Municipal Court Judge, the City Solicitor and the Public Defender.

6. Consider and Approve a Parade Permit for the Crisp County NAACP. Parade is on January 15, 2024, 9:00 AM. The proposed route will begin at the Old CCMS Parking Area, 24th Avenue to the Lions Club Fairground, Hwy 41 South. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Parade Permit for the Crisp County NAACP; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens abstained from voting.

Parade Permit was approved by the Commission.

7. Consider and Approve an Event Permit: Faith Event, January 27, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Sponsor – St. Theresa Catholic Church, 807 S. 3rd St., Cordele, Georgia. Organizer – Tammy Teel. The location: Harvey’s Supermarket and Tesla Charging Station, on sidewalk, not parking lot. People will hold posters, promoting “right to life.”
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.
Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.
The Event Permit was approved by the Commission.
8. First Reading of an Ordinance Establishing the Reduction from Monthly Pay Received by the Chairman and Members of the Commission for any Absence from a Regular City Commission Meeting Without Just Cause; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes.
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
After a discussion on the First Reading of an Ordinance Establishing the Reduction of twenty-five (25) percent from Monthly Pay received by the Chairman and Members of the Commission for any Absence from a Regular City Commission Meeting; Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to rescind the motion to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted nay; Commission Vice Chair voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The motion to rescind the First Reading of an Ordinance with a twenty-five (25) percent reduction was approved with a 3/1 vote.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to amend the Ordinance and adopt the First Reading of an Ordinance Establishing the Reduction of (ten (10) percent from Monthly Pay Received by the Chairman and Members of the Commission for any Absence from a Regular City Commission Meeting Without Just Cause; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.
The Commission approved the First Reading of an Ordinance with the Reduction of Monthly Pay Received by the Commission Without Just Cause will be ten (10) percent.
9. First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele to Provide for Placement of Solid Waste Near a City Right of Way; Repealing All Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes.
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Owens.
Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves vote aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye.
The Commission approved the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code of the

City of Cordele to Provide for Placement of Solid Waste Near a City Right of Way.

- 10.** First Reading of an Ordinance Requiring Security for Establishments Providing on Premise Consumption of Alcohol; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye.
The Commission approved the First Reading of an Ordinance Requiring Security for Establishments Providing on Premises Consumption of Alcohol.

- 11.** First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2023-02 to Provide for a Regulatory Fee for Food Trucks; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance; seconded By Commissioner Shephard.
Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye.
The Commission approved the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2023-02.

- 12.** First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele to Provide for the Regulation of Pool Rooms, Game Rooms, and Billiard Halls; Providing for an Application; Providing for Violation and Grounds for Revocation of a License; Prohibiting Gambling; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes.
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City Code of the City of Cordele to Provide for the Regulation of Pool Rooms, Game Rooms, and Billiard Halls; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

City Attorney Tommy Coleman stated there is hours of operation that need to be discussed, under 6-121; Hours of operation, specifically for Sundays. Proposed hour on Sunday to open is 1:00 PM.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to Amend the First Reading of An Ordinance for Pool Rooms, Game Rooms, and Billiard Halls, under Section 6-121, to open at 10:30 AM on Sundays; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye.

The Commission approve the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the Opening Hours for Sunday to 10:30 AM.

- 13.** Consider and Approve a Resolution requesting the General Assembly to Amend the Charter of the City of Cordele to provide for a Five Member Commission Consisting of Four Members Elected from Districts and One At Large; Providing for the Election of the Chairman by the remaining Members of the Commission; Repealing all Resolutions in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes.
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve this Resolution; seconded by Commissioner

Rainey.

After a discussion regarding the Resolution.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to amend the Resolution, changing the wording from Commission Chair to Mayor and Vice Chair to Mayor Pro-Tem.

Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted nay; Commissioner Shephard vote aye.

The Commission approved the Resolution by changing the wording with a 3/1 vote.

14. Consider and Approve an Agreement for the Drinking Water SRF Lead Service Line Replacement Program Administered by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.

Background Information

The Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLR) provides financing solely for lead service line inventory management and lead service line replacement projects. Funding for lead service line inventory and replacement is included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The City of Cordele applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$60,500 from GEFA to conduct an inventory to identify existing lead service lines in the drinking water system. This agenda item is to consider and approve the grant agreement with GEFA.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Agreement for the Drinking Water SRF Lead Service Line Replacement Program; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.

The Commission approved the Agreement for the Drinking Water SRF Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

15. **Consider and Approve Alcohol License Renewals. With No Exception Noted.**

Beer Only Off Premises

Kenny's Food Mart LLC 902 W. 16th Ave.

Beer and Wine Off Premises

Cordele Supermarket LLC 311 W 24th Ave.

Walgreen's #09849 1024 E 16th Ave.

Beer and Wine On Premises

Hachi 1817 Laporte Dr.

Los Compadres 1116 E 16th Ave

Liquor by the Drink

Hachi 1817 Laporte Dr.

Los Compadres 1116 E 16th Ave.

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Alcohol License Renewals; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.

The Commission approved the Alcohol License Renewals.

16. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: City Manager Angela Redding Reported.

Express Disposal

Effective January 1st, 2024, Express Disposal is the new contracted waste provider for the City of Cordele. Express Disposal looks forward to servicing City of Cordele residents. If you have any questions, please call Express Disposal at (229) 352-4300.

Community Reminders

Bring One for the Chipper: Free Christmas Tree Drop-off, December 26th – December 31st, Williams Field. Trees should be free of decorations.

City Dumpster Location: City Dumpster Location is at 814 E 11th Avenue.

Hours of Operation: Thursday & Friday – 12 Noon to 6:00 PM

Saturday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Comprehensive Plan – Community Input Survey 2023

Crisp County, Arabi and Cordele are updating our joint Comprehensive Plan and need your input. Please answer a few questions to help develop the community's vision for a better future. Online assess: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Crisp_Community_Input. This information will be sent to River Valley Regional Commission.

Occupation & Alcohol Renewals

Occupation License Renewal

Occupation license (business license) expire at the end of the year and become delinquent if not Paid by April 1st. A penalty is imposed for occupation licenses not renewed prior to April 1st. The penalty is ten (10) percent of the regulatory and administrative fee and occupational tax determined to be due. The delinquency will accrue interest at the rate of one (1) percent each month or partial month of such delinquency.

There is no grace period after April 1st. Businesses operating without an occupation license will receive a summons to appear in Municipal Court for nonpayment.

Alcohol License Renewal

Alcohol License Renewals expired December 31st. There is no grace period for Alcohol License Renewals.

Property Taxes

City Property Taxes are due February 12, 2024.

Action Items

Confirm Hearing for the following business with exceptions noted for renewal of an Alcohol License:

Beer Only Consumed On Premises

Odom Pool Room

412 W 16th Avenue

Proposed Date – Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to have the Hearing on Odom Pool Room; seconded
By Commissioner Shephard.

Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commission Vice Chair
Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye.

The Commission approved the Hearing for Odom Pool, January 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 15, 2024, for MLK Holiday. Offices will reopen
On Tuesday, January 16, 2024, for normal business hours at 8:00 a.m.

17. **CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT:** No Report.
18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): No Executive Session.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Rainey moved to adjourn the Meeting at 11:02 AM;
seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

APPROVED