

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2022**

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

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair	Vesta Beal-Shephard, Commissioner
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary
Tommy Coleman, City Attorney	

**Staff present:** Capt. Jalon Heard - Interim Police Chief, Irene Cantrell – HUD Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Debra Perry – City Clerk, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade, - Personnel Director, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Cathy Mygrant – Asst. Finance Director, Elaine Kent – Financial Consultant, Teddy Hubbard – Waste Water Superintendent, Kimberly Jackson – Detective Administrative Assistant, Jimmy Jackson – Water Superintendent, Koby Worley – Street Superintendent, Jesse Mercer – Cemetery & Parks, Marcia Pridgen – Public Works Administrative Assistant,

**Others present:** Michael Waters, Rentavius Redding, Crandall Postell, Joy Fowler, George Whitehead, Jennifer Doster, Anna Granville, Johnny Fowler, Jim Maxey, Marcus Gee, Trae Sims, Chris Lewis, Valerie Bundrick, Angie Craig, Ronald Michael, Ed & Barbara Eschmann, Carol Johnson, Charlie Butts, Carolyn Thomas, John Thompson, Larry Holloman, Charlie Butts, Kathy Wood, Reginald Hardeman, Leonard Patrick.

**Media present:** Rick Smarr - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee and Chris Lewis.

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

**Invocation:** There was a moment of silent prayer.

**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		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

**Approval of Agenda – April 5, 2022:** Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Agenda for April 5, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2022:** Commissioner Owens moved to approve minutes for March 15, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the minutes were approved by the Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** All Speakers will have 5 minutes

- a) Mr. Frankie Dixon – Mr. Dixon expressed his concerns, in reference to, the Confederate Statue. Mr. Dixon stated, even though, the City of Cordele Commission approved for the Confederate Statue to be moved off of City property, he feels that the Commission should not move the statue because the City has more important things to worry about, than the Confederate Statue.
- b) Mr. Rentavius Redding – Mr. Redding stated, he is here this evening on behalf of an organization in which he is the President, the organization is BEAM. Mr. Redding stated that he has three concerns; (1) The status of the Confederate Statue, when will it be removed; (2) The lawsuit to remove the City Commission Chairman; what precedence will it set to allow a fairly elected official to be remove without adequate cause; (3) Consolidation of the City and County Government. Mr. Redding stated that he and BEAM, along with others are opposed to the Consolidation.
- c) Mr. Trae Sims – Mr. Sims expressed his concerns about Section 5.16 in the City Charter, wanting the Commission Chair to be removed from his seat.

**SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:** No one appeared before the Commission.

**RECOGNITION OF THE OWNERS OF FIREHOUSE SUBS:** Mr. & Mrs. William & Alexis Stilley did not appear.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Finance Director – City Manager Angela Redding Reported.**

- Received January, 2022 SPLOST Distribution in the amount of \$108,038.58 in March.
- Received TSPLOST Distribution in the amount of \$26,257.60 in March.
- Received LOST Distribution in the amount of \$208,057.49.

**Fire Chief Report – Augusta Telfair Reported.**

- 2 odor investigation
- 7 smoke investigations
- 4 smoke alarms
- 1 barrel fire
- 1 dumpster fire
- 1 rubbish fire
- 1 oven fire
- 2 stove fires
- 1 lawn mow fire
- 2 grass fires
- 2 structure fires
- 1 natural gas leak
- 1 fuel spill
- 1 elevator entrapment

Total Calls 29 Service Calls from February 25 – March 30, 2022

- Jamal Hoskins and Kamron Moate has successfully completed the Basic Firefighter Academy

**Housing & Urban Development – Irene Cantrell reported.**

- **CDBG 2020 SEWER PROJECT** – We have received the approval letter from the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) advising their review and approval for the Sewer Improvement Plans and Specifications as submitted by Lanier Engineering, the project engineering firm for the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements project. Therefore, we can move forward to the next phase of the project and that is advertising the project for bids in the local newspaper, on the City of Cordele’s website, and on the Georgia Procurement Registry. The bid opening has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., within the Cordele Public Works building.
- **CHIP 2018 PROJECT** – Our CHIP Representative, Ms. Brenda Wade, has forwarded an email copy each from the DCA Office advising that she can move forward with obtaining bid proposals and to submit a completed project set-up form each to DCA for approval for two homeowners / CHIP Funds Applicants (107 Ross Street and 509 West 18th Avenue).
- **CHPC** – On Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., the CHPC considered the “Application for Certificate for Preservation” received from Vecino Group Housing Development, LP, proposing to construct 53 Units of affordable housing development located on a 2.888-acre site between West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and on both sides of South 12<sup>th</sup> Street. This housing development will be known as the “Gillespie Gardens Apartments”. The construction will consist of the renovation of 4 existing buildings (consisting of 17 units) and a new 3-story building (consisting of 36 units) This area is located within the Gillespie Selden Historic District. Also, the CHPC reviewed and considered an “Application for Certificate for Preservation” for property owned by Ricky Redding to install new siding, fencing materials and a storage unit at 815 West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, Georgia. This property is located within the Gillespie-Selden Historic District.
- **BZA**- The BZA board is scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., to review and consider a zoning variance request from property owner (Milton Holly, Jr.), to locate two new single wide manufactured homes on Lots 1-3, Block 85, 415 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, Georgia. The combined lot size is 150’ in depth by 125’ in width. The zoning classification of this property is Multi-Family Residential District (R-4).

**Personnel Director – David Wade Reported.**

- Participated in an on-line demonstration by Paychex of their HRIS and payroll system. Their system includes fillable employment application, onboarding, benefits administration, complete payroll function and mandatory reporting modules. A decision will be made soon about the HRIS and Payroll System.
- The City’s key positions, applications are still being taken, the Finance Director, a decision will be made soon. The Police Chief position applications have been closed.

**Police Chief – Jalon Heard Reported.**

- **Part I Crimes** **67**

Homicide/Murder	0
Rape	0
Robberies	2
Motor Vehicle Thefts	4 (3 recovered)

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Aggravated Assault               | 10 (2 juveniles arrests, 2 adult arrests)                       |
| Larceny (Thefts)                 | 41 (21 enter autos; 8 shoplifting w/6 arrests; 12 other thefts) |
| Burglary                         | 10 (5 residential; 1 church; 4 businesses)                      |
| • <b>Part II Crimes</b>          | <b>281</b>  |
| Incidents Reported               | 201   |
| Community Contacts               | 46  |
| Citations Issued                 | 94  |
| Warnings Issued                  | 32  |
| • <b>Total Calls for Service</b> | <b>1,493</b>  |
- Officer Laura Bertelson graduated the Police Academy on March 25<sup>th</sup>. She is currently working on her field training program.
  - The Police Department is working with Cordele Mainstreet on planning an “Autism Stroll” held in April for Autism Awareness Month.

**Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported.**

Public Works Superintendents were introduced to the Commission:

- Jimmy Jackson – Superintendent of Water and Sewer Department
- Marcia Pridgen – Administrative Assistant/Administrative Superintendent
- Jesse Mercer – Superintendent of Cemetery/Parks
- Tina Bearden – Gas Superintendent
- Angie Craig – Stormwater
- Koby Worley – Street Department Superintendent
- Ronald Fowler – Supervisor of the City Shop

**U C & T – Teddy Hubbard Reported**

- Southeast Pipe Co. has the CIPP of the 48” line completed to MH #2. At this location the pipe makes a 90 degree turn and must have a “dog house” type manhole installed to accommodate the CIPP to complete the last section of pipe to the pump house. This should take approximately 4 weeks to finish.
- Layne Atlantic will be starting work on Penia Well on March 27th. They must pull the pump and inspect it and the piping to determine the cause of the failure. It will then be repaired and put back in service.
- Debbie Wright completed the update of the Penia Water Lab QA/QC Manuals and SOP’s. This is required to keep our Water Lab Certified.
- The numbers for Water Pumped and Wastewater Treated for March 2022 were not available when this report was written. We will have those for the meeting on Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Well levels remain steady at this time.

**Chief Codes Official – Jack Wood, Sr. Reported.**

- Total of Job Valuations: \$20,402,247.00
- Permit Fees: 47,761.00

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Swearing of New City Board Members for Year 2022. Commission Chair Joshua Deriso gave the Oath of Office to the new board members.
  - a) Animal Control Board - 5-year term  
Carol Johnson
  - b) Community Clubhouse Coordination Board – Indefinite  
Johnny Dennis
  - c) Cordele Fire Code Board  
Michael Telfair
  - d) Cordele Gas Code Board  
Reginald Hardeman
  - e) Cordele Mechanical Board – 3-year term  
Leonard Patrick
  - f) Historic Preservation Committee – 3-year term  
George Whitehead, Jr.  
Carolyn Thomas  
Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery
  - g) Cordele Office Building Authority – Indefinite term  
Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery
  - h) Cordele Planning Commission – 5-year term  
Susan Barge
  - i) Cordele Plumbing Code Board  
Michael Waters  
Jeff Davis
2. Consider an Application for Demonstration or Parade Permit, on April 16, 2022 at 4:00 PM. Organizer is Frankie Dixon, proposed demonstration at the Cordele Community Clubhouse. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Demonstration Permit for Frankie L. Dixon; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
3. Consider an Event Permit for an Easter Extravaganza on April 16, 2022 at 315 and 317 West 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Organizer is Brenda Carter Fenn, Love and Care Outreach, Inc. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Event Permit for Brenda Cater Fenn; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Consider a Family Event Food Truck Friday, on April 8, 2022, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at Cordele Mainstreet, 105 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Organizer is Monica Rentfrow, Mainstreet Director. Requesting to close 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Family Event for Food Truck Friday; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Consider a Cross Walk on April 15, 2022, 10:00 AM until. Organizer Scott Bryant of Hand of Hope, 1205 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Cordele, GA. Requesting police escort. Commissioner Owens moved

to approve the Cross Walk for the Hand of Hope; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

6. Consider an Event Permit for a Family Easter Event on April 16, 2022, from 2-4 PM. Organizer is Miriam Edwards, Crisp Area Arts Alliance. Request to close 9th Avenue From 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street at 1:30 – 4:30 PM. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit for a Family Easter Event for the Crisp Area Arts Alliance; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.
7. Consider an Event Permit for the Black Duster's Motorcycle Club Anniversary, June 14, 2022 starting at 12:00 Noon, at 606 A. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Organizer is Dedra Davis. Requesting to block off 10<sup>th</sup> Street between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit for Black Duster's Motorcycle Club; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
8. Consider an Event Permit for the Black Duster's Motorcycle Club, July 17, 2022 starting At 12 Noon, 606 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Organizer is Dedra Davis. Requesting to block off 10<sup>th</sup> Street between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit for Black Duster's Motorcycle Club; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
9. Consider putting a Manufactured Home in the Gillespie Selden Historic District. Milton Holly is requesting to place a new Manufactured Home at 606 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. There was a brief discussion by the Commission about this matter. The Commission agreed to review the Manufactured/Mobile Home Ordinance.
10. Consider a First Reading of an Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Cordele, Georgia Repealing An Ordinance That Conflicts With Georgia General Law; Repealing All Additional Ordinances in Conflict herewith; and For Other Purposes. The Commission agreed to the First Reading of an Ordinance, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading will be at the next meeting, which is April 19, 2022.
11. Consider a request for repairs on the Old Boys and Girls Club, from Mr. Michael Waters of EJB Family & Youth Outreach Services, Inc. Commissioner Owens move to table this item until there is an estimate on the items listed; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission. Requirements that have to be taken before EJB Family & Youth Outreach Services, Inc. can take over the building: to receive approval from CDA, use of service and then hold a Public Hearing
12. Consider recommendation from the Cordele Cemetery Study Committee to implement a \$150.00 Interment Fee. The purpose of the Interment Fee is to off-set the maintenance of the cemetery. The fee is passed on to the person(s) who has purchased a grave space and to the person(s) who will purchase a grave space, this is for urn burials also. The customer will have to pay \$500 for the grave space and \$150 for the Interment Fee, will be paid later, when a person(s) is being buried. The Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Interment Fee of

\$150.00; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; this motion was approved by the Commission; the Interment Fee will be effective immediately (April 5, 2022).

13. Consider proposal from TTL, Inc. for Watershed Protection Plan/Assessment.

**Background and Summary**

The scope of work includes chemical and bacteriological sampling, and reporting services. This project is required by EPD under our NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Wastewater Permit. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the proposal from TTL, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

14. Discussion of Master Plan for Cordele.

**Background and Summary**

Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFQ) for Providing Program Management Services to include: Architectural, Engineering, Cost Estimating, Scheduling and General Consulting Services to the City of Cordele. Commissioner Rainey suggested having a Work Session to discuss this matter; the Commission agreed.

15. Consider a Contract for Probation Supervision Services with CSRA Probation Services, this will be a year-to-year contract.

**Background and Summary**

The Contractor provides probation services and programs for the Municipal Court of Cordele, Georgia. Commissioner Shephard move to approve the Contract with CSRA Probation Services; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** City Manager Angela Redding reported.

- Mrs. Redding introduced the IT Manager of the City of Cordele, Bobby Stennett.
- The Bridge Dedication for Mr. Clemmie C. Gaston, Sr. was held yesterday, April 4, 2022 at 5:30 PM, the event was well attended. Many thanks go out to the Commissioners and City Employees who attended the event. Mrs. Redding extended a special thank you to the following Public Works Employees for setting up and breaking down the venue; Jesse Mercer, James Bleach, Eric Barrett and Mike Lavant.
- Quay Walker Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 4 PM. The event will be held at the front entrance to City Hall.
- On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the City was a sponsor for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Farmers Appreciation Dinner at the Cordele Lions Club, the event was well attended and the Farmers received nice door prizes from local businesses.
- Low Income Household Water Assistance Program – The City of Cordele has been approved through West Central Georgia Community Action Council and the Department of Human Services to serve as a vendor for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program. This is water assistance for the customers of City of Cordele. The program will pay the water (only) part of the bill.

- Received notification letters, regarding a formal close out and formal audit for the 2015 CDBG Project and 2017 CDBG Project.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Rainey moved to go into to Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss litigation matters; seconded by Commissioner Owens, the motion was approved by the Commission.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** Commissioner Owens moved to reconvene the Meeting at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS:**

1. **C. E. Shepherd revised agreement with accrual interest:** Commissioner Owens moved to move forward with the revised agreement with C. E. Shephard with the accrual interest; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. **WWIS for completion of the project mentioned in the Settlement Agreement, the amount is \$130, 200.00:** Commissioner Shephard moved to move forward with the WWIS Waste Water Agreement in the amount of \$130,200.00; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Shephard moved to approve Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2022; second by Commissioner Rainey; Minutes were approved by the Commission.