

MINUTES
CITY OF CORDELE COMMISSION BUDGET MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2025

The City of Cordele Commission held a Budget Meeting on October 28, 2025, at 9:00 AM, Cordele Police Department Training Room, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chairman
Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner
Angela Redding, City Manager

Wesley Rainey, Vice Chairman
Isaac Owens, Commissioner
Janice Mumphery, City Clerk/Recording Secretary

Staff present: Sonya Alexander – Finance Director, Fire Chief Alligood, David Wade – Human Resources, Marcia Pridgen – Interim Public Works Director, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director, Rick Smarr – Social Media/Marketing Manager.

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

INVOCATION: There was a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Rainey.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman		✓
J. Wesley Rainey.	Commission Vice Chairman		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Vacant	Ward 2		

***Note: Commissioner Owens arrived at 9:09 AM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – October 28, 2025: Vice Chairman Rainey moved to approve the Agenda for October 28, 2025; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. The Agenda was approved by the Commission.

Opening Remarks: Chairman Deriso also stated that this is a Regular Meeting, and comments will not be taken from the audience. This is a Budget Meeting and Department Heads and City Officials are the only ones allowed to speak during this Meeting. If there is a subject that needs an expert opinion, then the expert on that subject matter will be allowed to speak.

Chairman Joshua Deriso asked all attendees of the Meeting to put their phones on silent or vibrate, preferably silent. If anyone needs to take a call, please step outside the door, away from the doors, so your conversation will not be heard.

AGENDA ITEMS

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

1. DISCUSSION FY 2026 BUDGET:

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Vice Chairman Rainey moved to discuss the FY 2026 Budget: seconded by Commissioner Shephard. The Commission approved to discuss the FY 2026 Budget.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chairman Rainey stated he has reviewed the FY 2025-2026 Budget and he would like to see the following decrease and increase:

- Education and Travel decreased to \$5,000.
- City's fees and services increased 10%.

Commissioner Shephard stated that she does not agree with Vice Chairman Rainey regarding decreasing Education and Travel. Commissioner Shephard stated that she is GMA District 8 President and she must travel to different cities for meetings and training. She also sits on the GMA Board of Directors and that requires traveling to attend different meetings and training.

There was a brief discussion regarding the maintenance of the Holding Pond.

Suggestions made for maintenance:

1. Public Works can maintain them with the proper equipment.
2. They can be contracted out.
3. They can be maintained with a remote system.

Chairman Deriso stated that the Commission need to review the following:

- The Agreement with IDC, which is \$96,000 a year, this will save the City some money.
- Public Works – Lawn Care Services and Holding Ponds. Compare maintenance of the Holding Ponds – options are:
 1. Contract to a qualified Contractor.
 2. City maintain with purchase of an Excavator.
 3. Remote System cleaning the Holding Ponds.

The Commission requested for the following items to be on the next City Commission Meeting Agenda for them to review:

- Fines and Service Fees
- All Contracts

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): No Request.
3. **ADJOURNMENT:** Vice Chairman Rainey moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:49 AM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard. The Meeting was adjourned by the Commission.