

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
May 2, 2023**

The City of Cordele Commission held a Regular Meeting on May 2, 2023 at 9:00 AM, Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair	Royce Reeves, Sr., Commission Vice Chair
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner	Vesta Beal Shephard, Commissioner
Isaac Owens, Commissioner	Angela Redding – City Manager
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney	Janice Mumphery – Recording Secretary

**Staff present:** Rusty Bridgers – Finance Director, Fire Chief Alligood, Irene Cantrell – HUA Director, Lin Mercer – Codes Department, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Nancy Crook – Deputy Municipal Court Clerk, Police Chief Jalon Heard, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Debbie Wright – UC&T Director, Tina Bearden – Gas Superintendent.

**Staff absent:** Jack Wood Sr, - Chief Codes Official, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk.

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

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

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

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Owens.

**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 AGENDA** – May 2, 2023: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for May 2, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – April 18, 2023: Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Minutes for April 18, 2023; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**SPEAKERS APPEARANCES:** Speakers will have five (5) minutes: No Request.

**SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:** Speaker will have three (3) minutes: No Requests.

**PRESENTATION:** Cassandra Rainey - Crisp Regional Hospital MedPort Program.

Ms. Rainey gave a presentation from Crisp Regional Hospital Transportation Service, which is Crisp Regional MedPort. MedPort is a non-emergency transportation service. This service comes from a Grant from Senator John Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock. This transportation service is being offered at no charge at this time. The service is for Cordele, Crisp County, it started February 13, 2023. The contact person is Antionette Pool, her contact number is (229) 276-3568. Transportation service should be made three days in advance. The service only transport within Cordele, Crisp County and it is free for a year. The Grant period extends until February of 2024, we are sing a Federal Grant Funds, expected date to be out of those funds by February 2024; after that time the Hospital will get Contracts with Medicaid and Medicare, this will allow the patients to continue to use the transportation.

**PRESENTATION:** Monica Robinson, Executive Director of Crisp County Community Council - Crisp County Community Council Annual Plan:

Mrs. Robinson gave an Annual Plan for Crisp County Community Council. Crisp County Community Council is a non-profit organization. They serve as Crisp Family Connection Collaborative. Crisp County Community Council purpose is to promote the well-being of children and families. Their efforts are centered on children that are healthy, children that are ready to start school, children to succeed in school, help create families that are stable and self-sufficient and to produce a thriving community.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**1. FINANCE DEPARTMENT: Rusty Bridgers Reported.**

**LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (LOST)**

Received	Amount	Collected
9/30/2022	218,847.17	August
10/31/2022	230,872.11	September
11/30/2022	228,292.88	October
12/29/2022	228,919.79	November
1/30/2023	237,469.63	December
2/27/2023	213,693.35	January
3/30/2023	204,834.30	February
4/28/2023	<b>247,792.98</b>	March

**SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTIONS SALES TAX (SPLOST)**

Received	Amount	Collected
9/25/2022	235,043.57	July
10/25/2022	212,136.34	August
11/23/2022	223,016.01	September
12/19/2022	221,910.45	October
1/30/2023	222,089.70	November
2/24/2023	228,904.97	December
3/28/2023	207,086.70	January
4/24/2023	<b>198,730.99</b>	February

**TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (TSPLOST)**

Received	Amount	Collected
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9/30/2022	29,444.86	August
10/31/2022	30,007.53	September
11/30/2022	28,683.20	October
12/30/2022	29,474.82	November
1/31/2023	33,427.28	December
2/28/2023	26,894.52	January
3/31/2023	28,042.50	February
04/28/2023	<b>31,510.17</b>	March

**Total Collected in April 2023 \$ 478,034.14**

**2. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Fire Chief Todd Allgood  
Calls for Service: Total 30**

Structure Fire	1 (storage shed/assisted Crisp Co.)
Grass Fire	2
Vehicle Fire	1
Rubbish Fire	4
Fire Alarm	10
Smoke Scare	5
Miscellaneous	5 (gas leak, elec. short, power line down)
Medical Assist	2

Chief Allgood stated that the Statewide Burn Ban started yesterday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, so May 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of September, the Fire Department will not be issuing burn permits.

**Department News**

- Posted vacant Sergeant position
- Will attend Job Fair 5/12 at Crisp County High School for graduating Seniors
- Attended Autism Stroll @ Perry Busbee Walking Track
- Met with David Edwards with Crisp County EMS about Cordele Fire responding 1st alarm on EMS calls. They welcomed the idea and Crisp County EMS donated 2 medical bags stocked with EMS equipment and 2 oxygen bottles with regulators for Engine 5 and Engine 9. Very special thanks to David Edwards and Crisp County EMS
- May see firefighters out in the community. Will be doing P.T., hose testing, and building pre-plans. Please take time to speak...we love to hear from the community

Commission Vice Chair Reeves inquired about the Auto Mutual Aid. He stated he would like to see the Auto Mutual Aid extended to all areas in Crisp County, not just the North side.

**3. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – Irene Cantrell Reported.**

**Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund:**

- We have received several inquiries regarding the Revolving Fund Loan Program and many are requesting a Loan Application.

**CDBG 2020 Sewer Improvements Project:**

- The Project Engineer with the Lanier Engineering Firm is making an effort to finalize the number of homes to be included in the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Improvements (connecting to the City's Sewer System) Project.

**Cordele Historic Preservation Commission:**

- The Cordele Historic Preservation Commission has two CHPC Applications pending for the next upcoming meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission Meeting tentatively on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, for 804 West 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, located within the Gillespie Selden Historic District and 505 East 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue located within the O’Neal Historic District.
- Dale and Sonja Finch of 806 East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue submitted an Historic Preservation Application late Friday afternoon on April 28, 2023, requesting consideration before the Cordele Historic Commission to place a 2 ft. x 4 ft. lighted, wood, metal sign in their front yard. This property is located within the O’Neal Historic Preservation District.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:**

- The BZA has two requests pending for the next Public Hearings/Meetings tentatively on Thursday, May 18, 2023, for review and consideration to locate a Double-Wide Mobile Home at 812 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and a Single-Wide Mobile Home at 702 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

**4. CODES REPORT: Lin Mercer Reported.**

**Pending Jobs:**

**Papa John’s:** 1203 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Plans approved.  
Waiting on Contractor and Permit.

**Murphy Gas Station:** 1305 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Waiting on plans.

**5. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT: David Wade Reported.**

**March 31, 2023:** Conducted random drug and alcohol screens in the Gas Department. Results were received on April 4<sup>th</sup> and all were negative.

**April 05, 2023:** Updated the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) and Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Q2 roster for Drug and alcohol testing.

**April 17, 2023:** Promoted a Corporal to Detective (Sgt) in the Police Department.

**April 18, 2023:** Participated in an insurance compliance review hosted by Paychex/Webex. A follow-up review is scheduled for May 2, 2023.

**April 19, 2023:** Began accepting in-house applications for a vacant Sergeant position in The Fire Department.

**April 20, 2023:** Attended a leadership retreat at South Georgia Technical College facilitated by Eric Robinson of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

**April 25, 2023:** The free Employee Health Fair was cancelled due to lack of participation.

**6. MUNICIPAL COURT: Nancy Crook Reported.**

Total Traffic Cases:	274	
Total Criminal Cases:	<u>11</u>	
<b>Total Court Cases:</b>	<b>285</b>	
Bench Warrants Ordered	11	
License Suspensions Ordered	36	
Total Cash Bonds Paid		\$ 6,157.00
Total Fines Collected		13,055.00
Total Deposits from CSRA		20,027.50

Total Deposits from CSRA Pretrial Sentences	7,015.93
Total Deposits from Restitution	300.00
Total Deposits from Web Payments Collected	<u>12,882.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 59,437.43</b>
Total Defendants Incarcerated	1
Total Days Jail Sentenced	7

**7. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.**

Part I Crimes	40
Rape	1
Robberies	1 armed
Motor Vehicle Thefts	1 (1 recovered)
Aggravated Assault	9 (1 arrest made & 4 warrants)
Larceny (Thefts)	25 (7 entering autos, 9 shoplifting with 8 arrests, 1 juvenile arrest & 3 warrant, 9 other thefts)
Part II Crimes	104
Incidents Reported	157
Community Contacts	69
Citations Issued	136
Warnings Issued	85
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1,285</b>

**8. PUBLIC WORKS – Steve Fulford Reported.**

**Holding Pond:** Public Works will soon start to clean the Holding Pond on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) recently conducted a Comprehensive Inspection of the City of Cordele Gas Department and found one minor violation. City Manager Angela Redding, Steve Fulford, and Tina Bearden attended an exit conference with PSC and it was stated the City of Cordele System is in better shape than most cities its size.

**Gas Department – Tina Bearden Reported.**

Mrs. Bearden gave a report on the Comprehensive Inspection by the Public Service Commission. She also stated this inspection covers all of the City’s procedures, all records, and all field workers. The infraction that was found was a records infraction on the casing on the railroads, but this has been corrected. Overall, the City had a good review. Commissioner Shephard inquired about the smell at the Gas Plant. Mrs. Bearden stated what the community is smelling is Mercapton, which gives gas the rotten egg smell. Mrs. Bearden stated if a person thinks they smell gas, please call immediately to report it.

**9. UT&C – Debbie Wright Reported.**

- The 2022 Water Quality Report will be released in the next few weeks and will be on the City of Cordele’s website. [www.cityofcordele.com/water](http://www.cityofcordele.com/water).
- The 200 HP Well Pump Motor at HWY 90 Well burnt up on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We had it pulled for repairs and our spare motor was put in place.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

CORDELE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
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1. Swearing In: Downtown Development Authority Board  
Lauren Barnett, 4 Year Term  
Lauren Barnett was sworn in by Commission Chair Deriso,
2. Proclamations:  
Keishon Franklin – Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation to Keishon Franklin.  
54<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, April 30 – May 6, 2023 – Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation to Janice Mumphery, Executive Assistant/City Clerk and Alisha Williams, Assistant City Clerk.  
National & International Firefighters Day – May 4, 2023 – Commissioner Owens presented the Proclamation to Fire Chief Alligood.  
Drinking Water Week, May 7 – 13, 2023 – Commissioner Shephard presented the Proclamation to Debbie Wright – UC&T Director  
National Hospital Week, May 7 – 13, 2023 – Commissioner Shephard presented the proclamation to Brooke Marshall – Crisp Regional Hospital.  
National Police Week, May 15 – 21, 2023 – Commissioner Shephard presented the Proclamation to Police Chief Heard.
3. Approval of an Alcohol License Renewal. No Exception Noted.  
S & S Food Mart      1702 S 7th Street      Beer & Wine Consumed Off Premises  
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Alcohol License Renewal; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Approval of an Event Permit. Family Event at Cordele Historic Museum. Name of Sponsoring Organization, Downtown Cordele, 105 East 9th Avenue. Date of Event – May 18, 2023, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Consider and Approve Delegation of Authority for Regions Bank

**Background and Summary:**

The City of Cordele have Revenue Bonds dating back to 2005 and 2012. Regions Bank is the authorized Third Party for bond payments and payments are made from the Sinking Fund account with Regions Bank. The individuals who signed the bond documents are no longer associated with the City of Cordele. To obtain a copy of the bond documents, Regions Bank is requesting a Delegation of Authority form be completed naming authorized representatives from the City who can request copies of the documents. Additionally, the authorized representatives could make changes to the standing payment instructions if required by the bond documents. This agenda item is requesting the City Commission consider and approve the Delegation of Authority form naming the City Manager and Finance Director as the authorized representatives for the City of Cordele Sinking Fund with Regions Bank. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve Delegation of Authority for Regions Bank; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.

6. Consider and Approve the Agreement with Lanier Engineering for Engineering and Related Professional Services for the City of Cordele ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Improvements Project. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the

Agreement with Lanier Engineering; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

7. Consider appointment of Voting Delegate and Flag Bearer for the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention. Commission Vice Chair moved to appoint a Voting Delegate and a Flag Bearer; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.  
Commission Vice Chair Reeves volunteered to be the Voting Delegate and Flag Bearer.
8. Consider Dates for a Work Session. Commissioner Owens moved to consider a Work Session Date; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.  
Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Work Session to be held on May 16, 2023 after the May 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves; the motion was approved by the Commission.
9. Consider a Resolution by the Cordele City Commission Approving the 2024 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement and Authorizing the Chairman to Execute the Agreement on Behalf of the City Commission. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to consider a Resolution approving the 2024 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

10. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Food Truck Violation Penalty**

City Manager Angela Redding stated she spoke with Judge Wright and he would not order any person to serve 180 days in jail for violating the Food Truck Ordinance.

**Wage and Compensation Study**

Request for Proposals are due 2:00 PM on May 10, 2023.

**Cordele Gateway Project – I-75 Interchanges, Exit 99 & 101 – Landscaping and Maintenance**

RFP advertised in April 26th, May 3rd, and May 10th Cordele Dispatch. Bids are due 10:00 AM, on Friday, May 12, 2023.

**New City Flag**

The old city flag at City Hall has been replaced with the new city flag.

**Georgia Municipal Association District 8 Officers**

The city has received notification of officers for District 8. The nominating committee comprised of District 8 officers nominated the following city officials as GMA's District 8 Officers for 2023-2024:

President	Jesse Simmons, Councilmember, Fort Gaines
First Vice President	James Carter, Mayor, Woodland
Second Vice President	Vesta Shephard, City Commissioner, Cordele
Third Vice President	Keith Pendergrass, Mayor, Pine Mountain

City Manager Angela Redding requested the City Commission's approval to provide the ballot to GMA for the 2023-2024 Officers. Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approved the nominated officers; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**Ribbon Cutting – New Dumpster Location**

The Ribbon Cutting for the New Dumpster Location is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 10:00 AM. The address is 814 E 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The New Dumpster Location will be opened Thursday through Saturday.

**Discuss Meeting Date for First Meeting in July**

The first meeting in July falls on Fourth of July Holiday.  
This item will be discussed in the Work Session.

**Memorial Day Holiday**

City Offices will be closed Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in Observance of Memorial Day

**Leadership Retreat:** A one day leadership retreat was held with the Leadership Team on April 20, 2023. They participated in team-building, communication styles and management styles.

**SPLOST:** City Manager Angela Redding thank the Commission for approving the SPLOST – IGA. City Manager Redding stated her and Steve Fulford had a meeting with GDOT, the time frame for GDOT to implement the project is years down the road. So, it was mentioned to GDOT, concerns about the time frame and, if the City decided to forgo this funding, will this leave a mark against the City; GDOT responded and said absolutely not because GDOT understands a lot of communities are looking for their projects to move along much faster than the process for GDOT, preliminary engineering will not begin until 2030 and then construction. The concern was stated regarding this issue, so with those concerns and looking at our SPLOST Budget, some funding was programmed for Joe Wright Drive in SPLOST, we have TSPLOST and we receive LMIG funds every year. City Manager Angela Redding and Steve Fulford discussed, maybe combining two years of LMIG funds with the other funding to move this project along faster than GDOT.

**Pop-up Health Fair**

This was mentioned by Monica Robinson, which is good for the community. The Pop-up Health Fair will be held at the Cordele Supermarket on West 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is an area where citizens can participate in a free event from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

**FY 2024 Budget**

City Manager Angela Redding stated, that the City is in the time frame for FY 2024 Budget, this budget year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Redding stated that she requested the Tax Digest information from the Tax Commissioner, she will send over that information. City Manager Angela Redding and the Finance Director Rusty Bridgers, will meet this afternoon, regarding the budget, they will start getting the information to the Commission.



11. **CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT:** Mr. Coleman gave an update on the GA Peanut Mill. He stated a two-week notice has been sent to the owners. They have two-weeks to repair the tin, if not repaired in two-weeks, a suit will be filed.
12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): No Executive Session.
13. **COMMENTS BY THE GOVERNING BODY:**
  - Commissioner Vesta Beal Shephard:** Commissioner Shephard thanked City Manager Angela Redding for getting the Commissioners a padfolio. Commissioner Shephard also recognized Commission Chair Joshua Deriso for attending Greater Morris Tabernacle Baptist Church.
  - Commission Vice Chair Royce Reeves:** Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated, he met with a group of people, Commissioner Shephard, Commissioner Rainey, Byrd Tripp and Ricky Redding, and they have all committed to repairing one house per month, they will take care all expenses. Commission Vice Chair Reeves stated that there is a need for this community. People have already started to donate materials, such as, paint, plywood, vinyl siding, etc. Hopefully, in the future this project will get started. First Methodist, has decided to do some home improvements to one house per month. Commission Vice Reeves thanked the group for assisting in the Community.
  - Commissioner Shephard** asked for those in the Community that would like to donate or help, please contact Commission Vice Chair Reeves, Ricky Redding, Byrd Trip or herself, they are trying to do small things as a resource to the Community. We are reaching out to the Community.
  - Commission Chair Joshua Deriso:** Commission Chair Deriso wished “A Happy Mother’s Day” to all mothers.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to adjourn the Meeting at 11:05 AM; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.