

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
October 17, 2023**

The City of Cordele Commission held a Regular Meeting on October 17, 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	Genivieve Mumphery, Recording Secretary

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

**Staff absent:** Debbie Wright – UC&T Director.

**Media Present:** WALB TV, Albany, Georgia; Sarah Brown – 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 silence.

**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		✓
Royce Reeves, Sr.	Commission Vice Chairman, Ward 2		✓
Vesta Beal Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. Discussion of the appointment of Ethics Officer  
 A vote was taken to place on the Agenda for October 17, 2023.  
 Commissioner Shephard voted nay; Commissioner Owens voted nay; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted nay; Commissioner Rainey voted nay.  
 The Commission voted not to place the item on the Agenda dated October 17, 2023.
  
2. Discussion of the City's Form of Government  
 A vote was taken to place this item on the Agenda for October 17, 2023.  
 Commissioner Rainey voted nay; Commissioner Shephard voted nay; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted nay; Commissioner Owens voted nay.  
 The Commission voted not to place the item on the Agenda dated October 17, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – October 17, 2023: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to the Agenda for October 17, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – October 3, 2023: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Minutes of October 3, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES** – October 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM: Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF CALLED MEETING MINUTES** – October 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM: Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Called Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. **ARTICLE II. DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATIONS; ARTICLE VI. USE PROVISIONS BY DISTRICT:** Section 660.3 Area regulations: Maximum Height: 45 ft.

#### **JONES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

This request is for a variance to accommodate a 135-foot Bucket Elevator height structure. The City Codes' regulations maximum building height is forty-five (45) feet. Jones Construction Company is proposing to construct a processing tower as follows:

(70' height of Bin Structure; 92' height of Silos; and the maximum height of a 135-foot Bucket Elevator (vertical conveyors). The construction of a process Tower structure will be used for Cement Manufacturing.

The site consists of Ninety-Six plus (96.92) acres and is zoned (HI), Heavy Industrial District. The Peach State Packaging LLC is the property owner and Jones Construction Company is the applicant.

**Presentation:** Mr. Jonathan Jones, Representative for Jones Construction Company in Tifton, Georgia.

Mr. Jones is requesting a variance to accommodate a 135-foot Bucket Elevator height structure, which is above the height variance that is above the City of Cordele Industrial Zoning. The company that Jones Construction is working with is CTS Cement Manufacturing. CTS Cement Manufacturing Company will provide approximately sixty (60) full time jobs.

**Comments** Grant Buckley, IDC/IDA Executive Director

**SPEAKERS APPERANCES:** No Request.

**SPEAKERS ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM:** Speaker will have three (3) minutes:

1. Mr. Michael Waters requested to address his concerns regarding Agenda Item #9, Old Boys and Girls Club when the Agenda Item comes up for discussion.
2. Mr. Darrell Graham requested to address his concerns regarding Agenda Item #9, Old Boys and Girls Club when the Agenda Item comes up for discussion.

**DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

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

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- November 15th, 2022 - Hired Christy Temples for payroll and utility billing
- February 27th, 2023 - Hired Sonya Alexander for bank reconciliation and general ledger accounting
- Completed FY 2022 Annual Financial Audit
- Completed Review and Update of Sanitation Residential Gas Billing Rates
- Three Year Review of Residential Gas Billing - updated Residential Gas Billing Rates
- Completed Implementation of Paychex
- Implementation of Electronic Time Keeping
- Monthly & Year to Date Departmental Expense Reporting
- Electronic Records
- Cross Training
- Housekeeping - Office Space
- Our Department Is Working as A Team!
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> attended the Georgia Government Finance Officers Association Annual Conference
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> attended the SEGAS Annual Conference

**GOALS**

- Establish Department's Goals for next year
- Complete Review of Interruptible Gas Rates and Interruptible Gas Customers
- Complete FY 2023 Financial Audit
- Paperless records scan all documents and identify hardcopies that can be avoided
- Student Employee – develop relationship and program with schools for a part time employee to help develop filing system
- Get monthly close to a “CURRENT” status – we are still working on FY 2023 (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

**2. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Fire Chief Alligood Reported.**

**Goals:**

1. Provide best possible service to our citizens and visitors to Cordele.
2. Continue to encourage and expand training for firefighters. Since April of this year, we have 13 firefighters that have earned certificates from 25 classes totaling 430 training hours through GPSTC. These hours are over and above GFSTC and ISO required training hours.
3. Cordele Fire looks forward to sponsoring the Red Cross Blood Drive November 7th at the Community Clubhouse. It will be from 1:00 PM till 6:00 PM.

**Accomplishments:**

1. Began washing down and painting the outside of Station 1.
2. October is Fire Prevention month. Theme: Cooking Safety Starts with You!  
We will present fire safety programs to the Crisp County Primary School October 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. Smoke detector blitz on October 7<sup>th</sup> went well. We partnered with our local Red Cross and installed 42 smoke detectors in the area between 17<sup>th</sup> Ave W to 21<sup>st</sup> Ave W and 14<sup>th</sup> St S to 8<sup>th</sup> St S.
4. We look forward to participating in the Workforce study that will begin Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sgt. Brett Walls and Corporal Chris Poter will attend.
5. We will be participating in the festival at Williams Park on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have Engine 1 and Ladder 1 there for a touch-a-truck show and tell for the kids.
6. October 31<sup>st</sup>, we have 20 special needs students that will be touring Station 1. We have fire safety puzzles and Cordele Fire items to give them.
7. Presented 2 Fire Commendations to Lt. Justin Cook and Firefighter Joshua Hulett for their quick actions and lifesaving tactics on an EMS call October 4<sup>th</sup>.
8. We have two firefighters attending Basic Firefighter Certification Class at GPSTC 9/1/23 – 11/10/23. We wish them luck earning their certification.

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

1. **CDBG 2019 / 2020 Existing Goal:** - We would like to complete the ground installation of the Sewer Pumps and Sewer Line Improvements within the McLeod Subdivision for the forty-eight (48) household

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Lanier Engineering Firm has advised that the McLeod Subdivision Sewer Line Improvements Project is complete.

2. **GOAL- CHIP 2018 – HOME REHABILITATION:**

To start and complete the home improvements work for at least three (3) of the four (4) homes with the CHIP 2018 Grant Funds and be prepared to start the application process for additional CHIP Funds in the next funding year.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Our accomplishment is that we have completed the rehabilitation home repairs on two of the three homes and are preparing to start on the third home as soon as DCA gives the okay (No changes as of this date).

3. **GOAL: EDRLF COMMITTEE:**

To discuss ways to better serve loan recipients that may need some assistance in properly managing their income, debts and assets prior to obtaining an EDRLF loan.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

The EDRLF Committee discussed one particular solution to offer loan applicants prior to applying for a loan such as contacting the University of Georgia's Small Business Center regarding their "Business Consulting Services" at no cost to Georgia Business

Owners and Entrepreneurs. (see the attached pamphlet) this goal of the EDRLF Committee has been accomplished.

**4. GOAL: OFFICIAL CITY MAPS UPDATES:**

To be prepared for the upcoming U.S Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey updates.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Progress is being made in placing current Annexations on the City's Official Map and in placing Zoning Amendments on the City's Zoning Map.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

All of the latest Annexations and Boundary Map changes were reported by the City and River Valley Regional Commission to the U.S. Census Bureau as requested in May 2023. This Goal has been accomplished.

**5. GOAL - CDBG 2023 AND 2024 APPLICATIONS:**

To be prepared for the CDBG 2023 or 2024 applications for Housing Rehabilitation on the North West Section and the Gillespie Seldon Historic District of the City as the two main target areas or possibly as a City- Wide target area.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

We have advised River Valley Regional Commission; Grant Administrator the City of Cordele is very interested in applying for CDBG Grant Funds for Housing Rehabilitation Assistance.

**4. HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT: David Wade Reported.**

**Recruitment**

1. Met with Department Heads to determine a suitable date to hold the Jobs with Purpose Workforce Needs Assessment and Recruitment Strategy Initiative. The kick-off meeting will be October 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**Improve the Employee Experience**

1. Randomly selected employees participated in phone interviews on September 18, 19, and 20<sup>th</sup> with Condrey and Associates for the Classification and Compensation Study.
2. Jurisdictions to include in the Classification and Compensation Study were submitted to Condrey and Associates on October 10, 2023.

**5. MUNICIPAL COURT: Jackie Walker Reported.**

**MUNICIPAL COURT SUMMARY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER**

Total Traffic Cases	126
Total Criminal Cases	30
Total Court Cases	156

Bench Warrants Ordered	5
License Suspension Ordered	12

Total Deposits \$32,240.39

Total Defendants Incarcerated 0

Total Days Jail Sentenced 0

### **GOALS FOR CORDELE MUNICIPAL COURT**

Report accurate and complete information for the court and public.  
Complete court docket for the judge in a timely manner.  
Complete mandatory training for court personnel in November.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CORDELE MUNICIPAL COURT**

Training was completed for GCIC and Court Clerk recertification by both Chief and Deputy Clerk for the past year.  
All dockets and court dispositions were turned into the state on time.

## **6. CODES/POLICE DEPARTMENT– Police Chief Jalon Heard Reported.**

### **CODES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Goals & Accomplishments:**

Our overall goal is to strive to make our city more attractive and presentable to current citizens, workers and travelers. The aim is to attract new businesses and potential residents to the city.

We are planning on scheduling each official for updated training opportunities by allowing them to attend seminars and classes which are code enforcement related. This will provide them with the latest updates on laws and regulations. **(We have had meetings and are working on a list of classes for each officer to attend.)**

We want to educate the public on code violations and assist them with correcting the issue as opposed to being heavy-handed. We also strive to have voluntary compliance with code-related issues and not forced compliance. **(We have completed the door hangers and have already used them. If you receive a hanger, I want to stress that this is not a citation. It is there to inform you that you have a code violation and to contact a codes official for further information.)**

The department will be utilizing social media to announce code issues and problems that they will be focusing on. Our plans are to educate our citizens on local city ordinances and state laws thru social media. **(This is still in progress.)**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Goals & Accomplishments:**

Our department has plans to increase the morale and manpower in the department. This is an ongoing goal.

**(Corey Watson is in week 4 of the police academy in Forsyth. Cadet Ryan Chang will be starting on Oct 16th)**

We will continue community policing through events and public contacts.

**(The National Faith and Blue Weekend was a tremendous success. We had well over 200 coats and other clothing items that were donated for the Coat Drive. We left with only 20 items. Thank you to Northern Heights Church for partnering with us and to everyone who donated items. The second event, was a Worship Service with Cross Culture Church.**

**The service was very well attended and we heard a very power word from Pastor Robbie. After the service we had lunch and fellowshiped. Thank you, Robbie and Cross Culture Church, for partnering with us for the second straight year.)**

We are focusing on increasing the quality of training for our officers, by offering more in-house training class which can be specific to the city's needs.

**(Increased our manpower and have resumed sending officers to training. Several officers have attended speed detection classes, a Sergeant completed first responder class and one of our detectives is attending child victim investigation fundamentals class. A professional, trained police department is a goal of ours and continued training is one way to achieve that goal.)**

Our department will be starting the process of becoming State Certified.

**(The division is coming together. Keith Lodge started on October 10th. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in building and codes. He is a vital addition in growing and in the success of the codes division.)**

**Commissioner Owens:** What type of violations are under the color-coded door hangers?

**Yellow Hangers:** They are not saying that someone is in violation, they are just informational, to alert a citizen what Codes Enforcement is looking for.

**Peach Hangers:** There is a violation, but a citation is not given. This is simply saying that there is a violation. The violation will be checked by Codes and further information will be given by Code Enforcement.

**Chief Heard:** The main violations that we are looking for: construction debris, trash or garbage just sitting out, abandoned vehicles, plighted properties, over grown grass and old tires. The Codes Department is attempting to help the citizens with their violations. The first time the citizen will be given a warning and time to correct the violation, if it happens again (second time) they will be a citation.

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

**Leak Survey:** Leak Survey is 55% complete, Grapple Truck and Street Sweeper is not working, hopefully it will be repaired in a couple of weeks.

**8. UT&C – Angela Redding Reported.**

Debbie Wright was reappointed to the State Board of Examiners for Water and Wastewater Operators and Laboratory Analyst for another 4-year term.

Water restrictions are still in place since 2010. You cannot irrigate/water your property with City water from 10 am till 4 pm. This applies to residential and commercial property. If you have an automatic irrigation system, make sure your timer is set properly.

We had a major Water Lab inspection on October 3rd. We are waiting on her final report. We have a few changes to make and some additional paperwork to complete.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Recognition of Employees – Cancer Survivors**

Presentations were made to City Employees, Beverly Vance and Benny Harpe by City Manager Angela Redding.

- 2. Consider and Approve an Event Permit – Fall Worship Festival: Family Event on October 28, 2023, 4 – 8 PM at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Sponsored by Glenn Jarrett, 313 Dorrough Rd. N. Cordele, GA. Please block off the 700 Block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Hickory Avenue. Approved by Police Chief Heard on October 12, 2023.**

Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

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

The Event Permit was approved by the Commission.

- 3. Consider and Approve an Event Permit – Suicide Awareness by The Legacy Group, Community Clubhouse, 108 East 15th Avenue, Cordele, GA, October 28, 2023, 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Approved by Police Chief Heard on October 12, 2023.**

Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

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

The Event Permit was approved by the Commission.

- 4. Consider and Approve an Event – Cordele Rail Fan Festival: Sponsored by Cordele Main Street, 105 East 9th Avenue, November 11, 2023, 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Approved by Police Chief Heard on October 12, 2023.**

Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

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

The Event Permit was approved by the Commission.

- 5. Consider and Approve an Event Permit – Family Christmas Event: Organizers are Cordele Main Street and Empire Dance. November 25, 2023, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM, 119 W 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They have their own barricades. Approved by Police Chief Heard on October 13, 2023.**

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve the Event Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.



Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye.  
The Event Permit was approved by the Commission,

6. Consider and Approve a request for a variance from Jones Construction Company to construct a Processing Tower that will accommodate 70' height of Bin Structure; 92' height of Silos; and a 135-foot Bucket Elevator.  
Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve a request for a variance from Jones Construction Company; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.  
Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye.
7. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Solid Waste Agreement with Express Disposal.  
Commissioner Rainey moved to discuss and consider approval of the Solid Waste Agreement; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

**Discussion:**

**Commission Vice Chair Reeves:** What was the agreement?

**City Manager Angela Redding:** The Solid Waste Disposal Agreement is similar to what was in place with the other Carrier. In the Contract, pick-up will be at the curb, instead of the alley; the holidays, which will require pick-up to be shifted one day; yard debris and bulk items included in the agreement, continuing the service for the disabled customers, it is basically the same as what the City had with Waste Management.

**Commissioner Rainey:** Moving curbside, will it be the City's responsibility to fix the front yards from yard debris and sprinkler systems or will it be the Solid Waste Disposal Management responsibility?

**City Manager Angela Redding:** Express Disposal will explain how that process will occur.

**Express Disposal – General Manager:** In regards to the curbside service, we ask to place the yard debris as close to the street as acceptable, in the City's Right-of-Way, between the sidewalk and the street. As Express Services take on that responsibility, if we damage a sprinkler head or anything along those lines, we will work with the home owner to make that repair.

Commissioner Rainey voted aye; Commission Vice Chair Reeves voted aye; Commissioner Owens voted aye; Commissioner Shephard voted aye.  
The Agreement was approved by the Commission

8. Discussion of Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals.  
Commissioner Rainey moved to discuss appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals; seconded by Commission Vice Chair Reeves.

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Rainey** stated there was another applicant for the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Commission received this information in an email.

**Commissioner Owens** asked when did the Commission receive the email?

**City Manager Angela Redding** stated, it should have been after the September 5<sup>th</sup> City Commission Meeting.

9. Consider and Approve Bridging the Gap Educational Services, Inc (BGES), as the new tenant of the facility located at 212 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Steet, beginning January, 2024.

**Speakers on Specific Agenda Items #9:**

**Darrell Graham, 273 Ditch Road, Arabi, Georgia:** Mr. Graham stated he believes that this program is a good idea for the youth of the community, it will give the youth something to do.

**Michael Waters, CEO EJB Family and Youth Outreach Service:**

Mr. Waters stated he has a few questions that he would like answered:

1. Will this Commission honor the terms of the Agreement that was made between the Commission and EJB? If not, why?
2. Honestly, do you all think 1 (one) year was enough time to be effective in our community? Majority of our youth are engaged in gang related activities.
3. Commissioner Shephard: What happened to being opened to sitting down and modifying the Contract?
4. Commissioner Reeves: What happened to, I don't have a problem with you going back into the building, as long as we iron out the wrinkles.
5. Commissioner Rainey: I don't understand the reason why you do not want to vote for me no more is because of the Chairman's actions.

**Commissioner Shephard:** "When people started asking me, how do you get the building? I called you and ask you to make sure your paperwork was in order with the City. I encouraged you to get everything together, this was back in July or August. Then, I appealed to the Board to give you two years, but the City Charter says we can only give one year, the Chairman corrected me. I do support and I give you my all and all. Yes, I would like to see everybody happy, but I cannot make a decision by myself, I am just one person. I think the Agreement needs to be amended, whoever gets the building, just as you said, it needs to be specified for everyone can understand.

**Motion:**

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to approve Bridging the Gap Educational Services, Inc., as the new tenants beginning January, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Rainey.

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Owens stated that the Commission should make sure we are very specific in the expectations between the City and whoever the tenant is, so we will not find ourselves in this predicament again and to have a reminder it is getting close to the time for the Contract to be renewed. If October is the deadline for the Contract, to send a notice by August 1<sup>st</sup> that it is time to renew the Contract and to all fairness to the tenants, to make sure they are prepared to come back and make quarterly reports, as to what they are doing and have done within that time limit.

Commissioner Rainey stated he thinks that EJB should be able to occupy the building until November 30, 2023.

Commission Chair Deriso stated he thinks the tenants should give quarterly reports to alert the Commission as to what they are doing.

**Vote for Bridging the Gap Educational Services to occupy the building for year 2024:**

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

The motion was approved by the Commission for Bridging the Gap Educational Services as the new tenants of the facility located at 212 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, beginning January, 2024.

**Motion:**

Commission Vice Chair Reeves moved to amend the Agenda to include in Agenda Item #9 that EJB Family Services can remain in the building until November 30, 2023; seconded by Commissioner Shephard.

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

The motion was approved by the Commission for EJB to remain in the building until November 30, 2023.

**10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Angela Redding Reported.  
City Manager Angela Redding presented a Power Point for her report.**

**Advance Voting**

Advance Voting started Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The General Election will be November 7<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

**Faith and Blue Weekend**

Faith and Blue Weekend was a great success. The Police Department was in partnership with Northern Heights Baptist Church.

**SAMS Shortline**

SAMS Shortline Wine and Cheese Train – October 21, 2023

**Beginners Yoga at the Rail**

Beginners Yoga will be held at Main Street Office, 105 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, Georgia, on October 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

**SAMS Shortline Halloween Express**

Halloween Express, October 28, 2023.

**Cordele Rail Fan Festival**

Cordele Rail Fan Festival will be held on November 11, 2023 at various times.

**Empire Theatre**

Empire Theatre is showing, The Little Mermaid, October 23 – November 3, 2023.

**Truck or Treat Event**

A Truck or Treat Event will be held at Williams Field, October 28, 2023, 12:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

**Downtown Spooktacular**

Downtown Spooktacular with Cordele Police Department and Main Street on October 26, 2023 from 5:30 PM until 7:00 PM.

**Albany State University – Open House – October 25, 2023, 4 - 6:30 PM**

Albany State University is having an Open House, they are trying to make sure the Community aware that there is a University System here in Cordele.

Meet and greet, a tour of the campus, representatives will be available for recruitment, admissions and financial aid, they will highlight the RN, two Bridge Nursing Program, as well as the dual enrollment program that is available for students in the City of Cordele.

**New Businesses**

Care Connect – 711 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Collect IT – 619 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite F

Foam Works – 1305 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Crisp Homes Solutions, LLC, Jackson Wells – General Contractor

Just Right Construction, LLC – Billy Granville – General Contractor

Note: LLCs are required to have a business license, they are required to have a State License and a City License.

Melon Shack Produce, LLC – 814 East 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Request for Public Hearings**

Request from the City Commission to schedule two (2) more Public Hearings for Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase. Commission available on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM; the last Public Hearing will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**City Offices Closed**

City Offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023, for Veterans Day.

- 11. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT:** No Report.
- 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate): No Executive Session.
- 13. ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the Meeting at 10:19 AM; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.