

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
July 19, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on July 19th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th 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	Debra Perry, Recording Secretary
Tommy Coleman – City Attorney	

Staff Absent: Janice Mumphery, Executive Assistant.

Staff present: Police Chief Jalon Heard, Irene Cantrell – HUD Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Jack Wood., Sr. Chief Codes Official, David Wade – Human Resources Director, Teddy Hubbard, Water and Sewer Superintendent, Cathy Mygrant – Asst. Finance Director, Bobby Stennett – Information Technology, Jackie Walker – Municipal Court Clerk, Steve Fulford – Public Works Director/Asst. City Manager, Elaine Kent – Finance Consultant.

Media present: Ricky Smarr - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Chris Lewis and Kerri Klatt.

Adjournment of July 5, 2022 Meeting: Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn July 5, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was carried by the Commission.

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order for July 19th at 5:31 p.m.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Teddy Hubbard.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rainey.

Approval of Agenda – July 19, 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Agenda for July 19 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – July 5, 2022: Commissioner Rainey moved to table Minutes of July 5, 2022 until the verbiage of the meeting can reflect the last part of the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was carried by the Commission.

SPEAKERS APPEARANCES: Speakers will have five (5) minutes

- a) Mr. Davontae Hunt, 1502 S. Pecan Street, Apt. L, Cordele, GA, 31015: The Westside Alliance and the importance of allocating services to the Westside of town. Mr. Hunt stated: “my mandate for being here is to relay a simple message from your constituents, that message is, don’t act like you don’t see us, don’t act like you don’t see that currently, the Westside does not have a representative to speak on their needs, and have not had representation that ushers in positive resources in support that is conducive to a forward moving vision for the Westside. We issue and urge our commission to speak on tonight and make a motion to address by adding verbiage to our Charter that speaks on suspension of

Commissioners, or the fact that gang violence is on the steady rise with minimal efforts to conceptualize a plan to create an alternative to the streets and gang activities. We now urge you all to collectively support the people of the Westside by intergrading solution driven resources to our people or at minimal telling us why we are not deserving of the same as the O'Neal District and let's have a conversation on that."

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

DEPARTMENT HEADS GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Finance Department: Elaine Kent, Finance Consultant and Angela Redding, City Manager Reported.

Ms. Kent stated, there were some issues with the Contract that comes from the County for Communication System Maintenance. Research was done and it was found out that the City is billed on the number of radios and the County had a number of radios. Steve Fulford, Debbie Wright, Police Chief Heard and Fire Chief Telfair was asked to verify their inventory (radios) and upon verifying this information, the City saved \$7,758.95.

City Manager Angela Redding Reported:

In June, utility billing collections were \$606,812.22, 46 new utility customers were added and 77 customers transferred service

June 2022, Business License collected were \$4,475.86.

June 2022, Property Tax Collections were \$18,335.80

June 2022, Total disbursements of checks were \$789,286.61.

Payments received to date from our special revenues:

SPLOST - \$124,645.55 received on June 22nd and this was April distribution.

LOST - \$237,822.18 received on June 29th.

TSPLOST - \$29,090.80 received on June 30th and this was the May 22nd distribution.

SPLOST - \$124,787.14 received for May 22nd distribution.

2. Fire Chief – Chief Augusta Telfair Reported.

Goal:

Upgrading our breathing air storage tanks from 4500 to 6000 psi storage tanks.

Accomplishment:

Received the letter back from Firefighter Standards and Training that our site review done June 14, 2022 was in compliance.

3. Housing and Urban Development – Irene Cantrell Reported.

Goal:

CDBG 2020 – Mcleod Subdivision Project: Prior to the end of the year 2022 we would like to start and complete the ground installation of the sewer pumps and sewer line improvements/activities within the Mcleod Subdivision for the forty-eight (48) households.

Accomplishments:

Progress is being made.... bidding process completed; contract documents in review; we are steadily moving forward.

Goal:

EDRLF Committee: To work with the EDRLF Committee to develop a plan to better serve the loan recipients and to make some type of arrangements for a timelier monthly loan payment.

Accomplishment:

A meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 28, 2022.

4. Codes Report – Jack Wood, Sr. Reported

Goals:

To continue to provide prompt and professional service to all businesses and citizens of Cordele.

State ISO Rating – scored the highest that can be scored on inspections.

5. Personnel Director – David Wade Reported

Goal 1. Recruitment

Postings for all vacancies on GLGA, GLGPA, and Indeed.com were updated on June 30, 2022.

Goal 2. Improve the Employee Experience

Distributed evaluation forms for a mass performance evaluation on all employees due September 09, 2022. Evaluations will proceed on an annual anniversary basis thereafter.

Goal 3. Succession Planning

Promoted an Equipment Operator to Foreman in the Water and Sewer Department on June 27, 2022.

Hired a Sergeant in the Police Department on July 01, 2022.

Goal 4. Leveraging H. R. Technology

Participated in a phone conference with representatives of Paychex on July 1, 2022.

Documents needed to proceed with the project implementations were also submitted.

6. Municipal Court, July, 2022 – Jackie Walker Reported

Total Court Cases	328
Total Traffic Cases	298
Total Criminal Cases	30
Bench Warrants Ordered	11
License Suspensions Ordered	42
Total fines and fees collected	\$40,840.83
Defendants Incarcerated	0
Total Days Jail Sentenced	0

Goals

Complete mandatory training required by the Court, Clerk and Deputy Clerk have get recertified every year.

Have court dockets completed before each court date through September.

Accomplishments

Completed all court related items on time.

7. Police Chief – Chief Heard Reported

Goals:

- a. To maintain the day-to-day operations of the department and address morale, staffing, and salary issues.
- b. We have started evaluations on every employee in the department. I have set a deadline of August 12 for them to be completed.
- c. Faith and Blue event: October 7-10 (currently in the planning stages) It is a community event which involves any faith-based organization. (Example: drug awareness walk, neighborhood clean-up, officer meet and greet...)

Accomplishments:

- a. “Cordele Summer Fest,” sponsored by the Cordele Police and Fire Departments, will be held on August 1st from 5-8 at the Community Clubhouse. There will be games, music, prizes, activities, and food. Come join us.
- b. We have hired a retired officer, Eddie Thomas, who will assist the patrol division with walk-ins and calls that can be taken over the phone. He will also maintain officer training records and assist with training. We also have one person in our hiring process to be a sergeant and one to be a patrol officer.

8. Public Works – Steve Fulford Reported

Accomplishment

Culvert Pipe Replacement on 6th Avenue at Norfolk Southern RR – Work is almost complete. The pipes are in place, secure and functioning properly. Remaining work consists of squaring up utility cut and re-asphalting. This will take place around the first week of August, when we will be installing the new road through Bethel Cemetery annex.

Holding Ponds

Public Works does not have equipment to clean out the holding ponds, but there is a quote from one company and will be getting a quote from another company. As soon as the quotes are in City Manager Angela Redding and Assistant Manager Steve Fulford will get the quotes to the Commission for approval.

9. UC&T – Teddy Hubbard Reported.

- a. The 48” Main Trunk Line into the WWTP is FINISHED. This has been a major undertaking! I have a picture that gives a true perspective of the enormity of this CIPP Project.
- b. Penia Well has been pulled and the problem assessed. Their recommendation is to replace the failed pump with a Goulds 5 stage pump. This set-up should give us approximately 1100 gpm at 400 ft of head. We have given them the go ahead with this proposal. It should take about 4 weeks to complete.
- c. Water restrictions are still in place since 2011. 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.

- d. The work on Digester #1 should begin the week of July 18th. Most of the fabrication of the metal pipes is finished. They will be bringing it onsite, and a crane will set it in place.
- e. We completed the annual WET Test. This is an annual toxicity test of the WWTP effluent that is required by EPD. We passed both species. Ceriodaphnia dubia (commonly known as the water flea) and the Pimephales promelas (commonly known as the fathead minnow). This annual test costs \$1.800.

10. Information Technology Update – Bobby Stennett Reported
No Report.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider and approve the Contract with RPI Underground, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Improvements in McLeod Subdivision. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the contract with RPI Underground, Inc.; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Consider and approve the Contract with Griffin Grading and Concrete, LLC for the 2022 LMIG Paving Project. Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the contract with Griffin Grading and Concrete, LLC for the LMIG Paving Project; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
3. Consider request to award contract for engineering services for the 2022 American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds Grant Award to Lanier Engineering. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the award contract for engineering services to Lanier Engineering; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Lanier Engineering was chosen because of their knowledge of the project, familiarity with the community, staff qualifications, and local government experience.

4. Consider Application for Alcoholic Beverage License for Lynette Strouther, Strouther 902 LLC dba Lynne Food Mart, 902 West 16th Avenue, Cordele, GA. Beer Only Consumed Off Premises. Approved by Police Chief Heard on July 6, 2022. Commissioner Shephard moved to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License – Beer Only for Lynne Food Mart; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Discussion – Film Permit: Commissioner Owens moved to adopt the Film Permit; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
6. Discussion - Temporary Vice Chair: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso stated that the Charter makes no provision for this item.
7. Consider Appointments to the Ethics Committee:

Commission Chair Deriso stated that we need to make two appointments to the Ethics Committee; two of the Ethics Members does not qualify because of their residence, they live outside the City. Commission Chair Deriso stated that the Chair appoints one member, without being approved by the Commission, the Chair nominates a second person, which has to be approved by the Commission, and the third member is voted in by majority of the Commission. Commission Chair Deriso is appointing Crandall Postell to the Ethics Committee. Commissioner Rainey moved to table this item until the Commission resolve the current members status. Commission Chair Deriso stated, "he gets to make an appointment, it is in the Charter. If you all would have read the Charter and applied by it, you all would know that people that live in the County verses the City. We are not tabling this, I get to make an appointment, I am not making an appointment to hear my Ethics complaint, because that would be a conflict of interest. But this is a permanent appointment per the Charter. My job, per the Charter, is to appoint someone on the Ethics Committee and that person is Crandall Postell and that person will be on the Ethics Committee. The second person I would like to appoint on the Ethics Committee is Mr. Devontae Hunt and this comes up for the Commissioners to vote." So, if all is in favor of Mr. Hunt being appointed to the Ethics Committee let it be known by a voice vote, aye, that is none. Commission Chair Deriso stated, "that's exactly why we end of in the situation we normally end up in, because this Commission keep failing to do their job." Commission Chair Deriso stated, "I want to let the public know, the reason we are in this situation is because the prior Commission had two people that did not live in the City, but the first line in section 2.75, says they must be residence of the City, that's why I keep stressing that the Charter be read, other than that I would have go before the Ethics Committee based on how they are against, which is a conflict of interest, because most of the members on there had already made up their mind, one was relational, I'll leave it at that, you can do your on research, and other wrote an article on me showing bias. But if the Charter was read, the prior Commission should have known that those members should not have been on there. So, I am going to keep stressing reading the Charter. There is a way of doing things, that's the thing that got us off."

Commissioner Owens asked the Commission Chair Deriso, if he would make an appointment in place of Mr. Hunt's name? Commission Chair stated, no he would not, not tonight.

8. Consider First Reading of an Ordinance Repealing Article XII of Chapter 2 of the City Code of the City of Cordele in its Entirety and Adopting a New Article XII of Chapter Entitled "Ethics"; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. Commission Chair Deriso stated that we already have a process in place for that, we do not need it.
9. Hire a Grant Writer for the City: Commissioner Owens moved to table this item to get more detailed information; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion to table was approved by the Commission.
10. Create a Healthy Aging Wellness Center (with Community Partners and Stakeholders) with upcoming funds. After a lengthy discussion on this matter. Commission Chair Joshua Deriso stated he would love for Commissioner Shephard to be the point person. Commissioner Shephard replied, "I will not take that responsibility at this time, sir." Commissioner Owens stated he would gladly meet with the agencies that offer these services for the seniors and he is in favor of the idea and he will move forward with it.

11. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: Angela Redding, City Manager Reported.

The Boys and Girls Club Gymnasium Update: The building is in very poor structural condition and is not safe to be occupied at this time, this is the report from the structural engineer. Mrs. Redding stated that based on the structural engineer’s report and to reduce liability to the city, she instructed the building maintenance employee to place padlocks on entry doors until it can be decided by the Commission which direction to go with the gymnasium.

Community Newsletter: Mrs. Redding stated, we are asking for email addresses. We will start with an e-format of the Community Newsletter. If you would like to receive a copy of the Community Newsletter, please contact Janice Mumphery and provide your email address, so when it is up and running, you can start receiving a copy of the Newsletter.

Board Appointments: Board members are needed for the following boards: Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Clubhouse Coordination Board and DDA Board.

Watermelon Parade: The annual Watermelon Parade was held on June 25th with activities at Georgia Veterans State Park. Transportation to and from the park was provided from Southgate Shopping Plaza.

Quit Claim Deed – Standard and Williams Field: The County Board of Commissioners voted at their June 16, 2022 Meeting to terminate the lease for Standard and Williams Field. This property is no longer needed to carry out their recreation program. A Quit Claim Deed is included in the packet, to evidence removal of Standard and Williams Field. On March, 2000, the County Board of Commissioners entered into a fifty (50) year lease agreement with the City of Cordele for recreational purposes. All the Parks, except for the Parks Downtown and now Standard and Williams Field, are maintained by the County.

Insurance Renewal Proposals – Effective July 19, 2022:

City of Cordele – Gas Utility	2021-2022	2022-2023
General Liability	\$8,061.00	\$15,613.00
\$5 Mil Umbrella	\$7,500.00	\$ 9,395.00
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Total for Gas Utility	\$15,561.00	\$25,008.00

This increase of \$9447.00 is due to Griffin Asphalt Gas Main Extension Project for \$323,634.06 and rate increase (\$6693.00 of the \$9447.00 increase is the extension).

One major change is to the Cyber Extortion/Ransomware Coverage.

Previously, the coverage limit was \$1,000,000; renewal coverage limit is \$50,000.

Hiscox Cyber premium is \$12,274.00 and has a limit of \$1,000,000 Ransomware Event.

Total for renewals are \$291,084.00, but the City will need to select the Cyber Protection for coverage of \$1,000,000.

Recommendation for the Ransomware to go with the higher coverage of \$1,000,000, which will increase the proposal by \$3,930.00 for a total of \$295,014.00.

Commissioner Owens moved that the City go forward with the Insurance Renewal Proposals with the updates that was given by the City Manager, Angela Redding, involving Hiscox Cyber

protection added to it; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

Land Bank Meeting: The Land Bank Meeting has been scheduled for August 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM.

Small Business Development Committee: The Chamber of Commerce is available to make a presentation at the Commissioners Meeting on August 2, 2022.

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Kick-off Meeting: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso and City Manager Angela Redding attended the LOST Kick-Off Meeting between the City of Cordele, County and the City of Arabi. The County and Arabi are okay with keeping the current allocations for LOST, The LOST Certificate is attached with the current allocations. After a brief discussion amongst the Commission, a motion was made. Commissioner Rainey moved to keep the LOST Percentages at the current distribution rate, Cordele – 49%; Arabi – 2%; Crisp County – 49%; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

12. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT: N/A

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Legal Matters): Commission Owens moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation; the motion failed for a lack of a second.

14. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved by the Commission.