

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2022

The organizational and regular meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on January 4th, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7th Street, Cordele, Georgia with the following present:

Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair
Vesta Beal-Shepard, Commissioner
Isaac Owens – Commissioner
Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Royce Reeves, Commission Vice Chair
Wesley Rainey, Commissioner
Roland McCarthy, City Manager
Tommy Coleman, Attorney

Staff present: Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, David Wade, Irene Cantrell, Debra Perry, Police Chief Mike Hathaway, Beverly Vance, Nancy Butler.

Staff absent: Jack Wood, Sr. Steve Fulford, Debbie Wright.

Others present: See Sign in Sheet.

Media present: Ricky Smarr – South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Call To Order: Debra Perry, City Clerk called the organizational meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Oath Of Office: Oath of Office was administered by Chief Judge Willie E. Lockette, Superior Court Of Dougherty County.

Mr. Joshua A. Deriso – Commission Chair
Mr. Isaac Owens – Commissioner Ward #3
Mr. Royce Reeves – Commissioner Ward #2

Adjourn: Organizational Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order: Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation: Prayer was rendered by Minister Julius Deriso.

Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Elect Vice Chair:

Nominations: Commissioner Owens moved to nominate Commissioner Reeves for Vice Chair; seconded by Commissioner Rainey. There were no more nominations for Vice Chair, the nomination was closed for Vice Chair.

Election: The City of Cordele Commission voted unanimously for Commissioner Royce F. Reeves, Sr. to be Vice-Chair.

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Executive Session: Commissioner Shephard moved to go into Executive Session for litigation and personnel issues excluding the City Manager, Roland McCarthy and including the Executive Assistant, Janice Mumphery; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission. The Commission, City Attorney and the Executive Assistant went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. to go into Executive Session.

Regular Meeting reconvened: Meeting reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

Call To Order: Meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Joshua Deriso.

Approval of Agenda – January 4, 2022: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the Agenda for January 4, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2021: Commissioner Reeves moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 21, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Rainey; Commissioner Shephard stated that there is a correction to the December 21, 2021 minutes, to include; “Contract for the City Manager was not presented to all the City Commissioners in proper time to evaluate it; therefore, there was no previous discussion, the minutes should reflect that there was an opposition with the contract.” The Commission unanimously approved the minutes of December 21, 2021 with correction.

Appoint/Set Retainer for City Attorney: Commissioner Reeves moved to reappoint City Attorney Tommy Coleman and to set retainer as the same as last year; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Appoint/Set Retainer for Municipal Court Judge: Commissioner Reeves moved to reappoint Municipal Court Judge Russell Wright and to set retainer as the same as last year; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Appoint/Set Retainer for City Solicitor: Commissioner Reeves moved to reappoint City Solicitor Blake Brantley and to set retainer as the same as last year; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Appoint City Manager for the City of Cordele 2022: Commissioner Shephard moved to appoint Angela H. Redding for City Manager of City of Cordele; seconded by Commissioner Reeves; Commissioners Shephard, Reeves and Owens voted aye; Commissioner Rainey voted nay. The motion was approved with a 3/1 vote to appoint Angela H. Redding for the City of Cordele City Manager. Present City Manager, Roland McCarthy asked if the Commission needed to fire him first? After a short discussion, the City Attorney stated the motion that was made by Commissioner Shephard suffice for both, the termination of the present City Manager, Roland McCarthy and the hiring of the new City Manager, Angela H. Redding.

Correction: Commissioner Owens moved to make sure the minutes of January 4, 2022 reflect that the City of Cordele Commission hired Mrs. Angela Redding as the City Manager; the City of Cordele Commission did not fire anyone.
J. Mumphery, Recording Secretary

Mr. Crandall O. Postell – Picketing Ordinance and Municipal Court: Mr. Postell has two concerns; (1) To repeal the present Peace Picketing Ordinance or to dispose of it, he stated that the present Ordinance is in violation of the Constitution; (2) Mr. Postell also had a complaint about the Cordele Municipal Court, a person waiving their rights to plead guilty, not guilty or nolo; Mr. Postell stated this is a violation within itself. Mr. Postell states, there should be an appeal process, not to waive your rights. A person waiving his/her rights is a discriminatory process and is a constitutional violation and the City should not continue such practice.

Commissioner Shephard stated, in order to address Mr. Postell issue, she suggests that the City Attorney and the Commission review the Ordinance for 2005 and then get back with Mr. Postell. The City Attorney stated that he will review the Picketing Ordinance and bring information back to the Commission.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT:

a. Finance Department: Please see report that was submitted for information.

b. Fire Chief: Fire Chief Telfair reported: 2 smoke investigations, 4 EMS assistance calls, Stove fires, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 4 rubbish fires, 1 odor investigation, 1 vehicle fire, 1 electrical shortage, 1 grease fire, 2 structure fires, 4 miscellaneous calls, 7 fire alarms. Fire Truck Ladder 3 is out of service.

c. Housing and Urban Development: Irene Cantrell Reported.

CDBG APPLICATION 2022 - The River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) has notified the cities/counties within their regional area concerning the planning time to prepare for submitting a 2022 CDBG Application to be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). (See the attached letter from RVRC, Representative Grant Richardson, for a list of potential categories to choose a CDBG Project).

- 1) 2022 CDBG Application?
- 2) Potential Project?
- 3) Target Area/Project Location?
- 4) Grant Amount?

d. Chief Codes Official: David Wade reported

Total Job Valuations \$17,637,022.00

Permit Fees \$41,761.00

Five major pending jobs, primarily apartment complexes and promotional enterprises.

e. Personnel Director: David Wade reported

- Completed and submitted the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts 2020/2021 annual Immigration and Reform Act report.
- Signed and executed the 2022 health benefit renewal agreement with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
- Completed and submitted the semi-annual application and census for the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Fund program.
- Completed and submitted the biennial EEO-1 report.
- As of January 4, 2022, 59% of current employees have submitted complete COVID-19 vaccination cards.

- Municipal Court is cancelled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

f. Police Chief: Chief Hathaway reported

Part I Crimes	45
Homicide/Murder	0
Rape	0
Robberies (Armed By Force/Strong Arm)	2
Motor Vehicle Thefts	(2) 2 recovered
Aggravated Assault	(6) 5 juvenile arrests
Larceny	(33) 6 shoplifting w/4arrests & 2 juvenile arrest, 10 enter autos, 17 other thefts
Part II Crimes	159
Incidents Reported	198
Community Contacts	75
Citations Issued	129
Warnings Issued	65
Total Calls for Service from Dispatch	1,440

- Cadet Laura Bertelson will begin ABAC Police Academy on January 3, 2022.
- A conditional officer was given to a certified police officer applicant.
- Shop with a Cop 2021 was held on December 17th, with 30 students shopping.
- Cadets Joshua Stubbs and Austin Wells graduated from the Police Academy on December 17th and is currently in FTO.

- g. **Public Works:** Please see report that was submitted for information.
- h. **UC&T Director:** Please see report that was submitted for information.

ORDINANCE – COMMISSION APPROVAL:

- a. **Second Reading of an Ordinance:** Amending the Zoning Code of the City of Cordele to provide for location of Manufactured or Mobile Homes on Property where they previously existed; Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for other purposes. Commissioner Shephard moved to table this item until the next meeting, January 18, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE:

Commission Approval: Commission approval is requested for the approval of new and reappointed board members. Commissioner Reeves moved to table this item until the next meeting, January 18, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the motion was carried unanimously by the Commission.


OLD BUSINESS:

City Attorney Tommy Coleman gave the Commission the Preliminary Concept Plan of Williams Park.

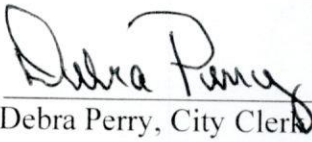
NEW BUSINESS: N/A

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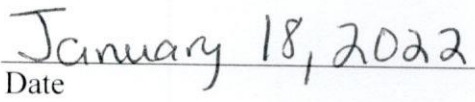
Adjourn: Commissioner Reeves moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Owens.



Joshua Deriso, Commission Chair



Debra Perry, City Clerk



Date