

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Cordele City Commission was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Cordele City Hall Courtroom, 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> 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	Janice Mumphery, Recording Secretary
Tommy Coleman, City Attorney	

**Staff present:** Capt. Jalon Heard - Interim Police Chief, Irene Cantrell – HUD Director, Fire Chief Augusta Telfair, Debra Perry – City Clerk, Jack Wood, Sr. – Chief Codes Official, David Wade, - Personnel Director, Steve Fulford – Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Cathy Mygrant – Asst. Finance Director, Elaine Kent – Financial Consultant, Teddy Hubbard – Waste Water Superintendent, Kimberly Jackson – Detective Administrative Assistant.

**Others present:** Michael Waters, Eric Marlin, Malcolm Royal, Julius Deriso, Sr., Carol Johnson, Monica Rentfrow, Mary Henderson, Davontae Hunt, Doris Farrow, Tenisha Smith, Charlie Butts.

**Media present:** Rick Smarr - South GA TV; Cordele Dispatch – Neil McGaHee.

**Call to Order:** Commission Chair Joshua Deriso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Joshua Deriso	Commission Chairman		✓
Vesta Beal-Shephard	Commissioner Ward 1		✓
Isaac Owens	Commissioner Ward 3		✓
Wesley Rainey	Commissioner Ward 4		✓

**Approval of Agenda – March 15, 2022:** Commissioner Rainey moved to approve the Agenda for March 15, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2022:** Commissioner Rainey moved to approve minutes for March 1, 2022; seconded by Commissioner Owens; the minutes were approved by the Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** All Speakers will have 5 minutes

- a) Mr. Ronald Michael: Mr. Michael was not present.
- b) Mr. Benjamin Gatliff, All Safe Driving Clinic, 101-A East 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cordele, GA 31015: Mr. Gatliff main concern was to have more diversity in the community.

**PROCLAMATION – Week of the Young Child, Ft Valley Headstart:** Commission Chair read the Proclamation on Week of the Young Child, Ft. Valley Headstart.

**WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH RECOGNITIONS:** Women of Cordele/Crisp County were recognized by the Cordele City Commission for Women’s History Month. They were given a rose and a certificate. The women were:

- a) Mrs. Vesta Beal-Shephard – City Commissioner Ward 1
- b) Mrs. Angela Redding – City Manager
- c) Mrs. Lucille Harris – Retired Educator
- d) Ms. Deborah Lofton – Tax Commissioner
- e) Judge Amber Roberts – Probate Judge
- f) Mrs. Valerie Roberson – President of Regions Bank/Cordele Crisp Chamber President
- g) Mrs. Monica Simmons – President Cordele/Crisp Chamber of Commerce
- h) Mrs. Monica Rentfrow – Director of Cordele Mainstreet

#### AGENDA ITEMS

1. To Consider appointing Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery to the Historic Preservation Committee. Rita Bass was appointed to the Board on February 15, 2022; Ms. Bass does not desire to serve on the Board. Commissioner Owens moved to approve appointing Genivieve (Janice) Mumphery to serve on this board; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
2. Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Commissioner Owens moved to appoint Mrs. Kathy Hancock Wood to serve on this board; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
3. Consider An Agreement by and between City of Cordele Board of Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as “The City”) and the Quail Run Subdivision Homeowners’ Association (hereinafter referred to as “The Association”) regarding installation of LED lights on streets within the Subdivision. Commissioner Owens moved to enter into this agreement with the Quail Run Subdivision Home Owner Association with the Home Owner Association is responsible for paying for the lights; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
4. Consider Ogletree Deakins Engagement Letter – Personnel Attorney (Table from March 1st Commission Meeting). Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Engagement Letter from the Personnel Attorney; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.
5. Consider an Agreement with EJB Family & Youth Outreach Services, Inc. The City will give current occupants sixty (60) days to vacate the premises. The contract with EJB Family & Youth Outreach Services, Inc. will begin June 1, 2022. The City will commit to the following repairs: air conditioning unit and floors in the gymnasium. See contract for insurance coverage, Section 5. The contract with EJB Family & Youth Outreach Services, Inc. was approved by

the Commission to use the Old Boys and Girls Club, with changing beginning date of contract from October 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>; this is a one-year contract.

6. Consider a Resolution Adopting a Policy Governing the Conduct of the Public at City Commission Meetings for the City of Cordele; Repealing All Resolutions in Conflict Herewith; and For Other Purposes. Commissioner Owens moved to approved the Resolution; seconded by Commissioner Rainey; the Commission will allocate twenty (20) minutes on the Agenda for speakers, with 5 minutes per speaker or less time depending on the number of speakers; the speakers speaking on the Agenda items, will have three (3) minutes. The Resolution Adopting a Policy Governing the Conduct of the Public at City Commission Meetings was approved by the Commission.
7. Consider a First Reading of an Ordinance of the City of Cordele, Georgia Adopted Pursuant to the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4.1 Reapportioning the Election Districts from Which Members of the Governing Authority of the City of Cordele are Elected; Providing an Effective Date; Repealing Prior Ordinance and Charter Provisions in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes. Commissioner Rainey moved for the Commission to go with Draft #1; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; vote taken, Commissioners Shephard and Rainey voted aye; Commissioner Owens and Commission Chair Deriso voted nay. The First Reading was not approved because there was not a majority vote.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** City Manager Angela Redding reported.

1. Received letter from EPD, reviewing the plans and specs for the CDBG Project; the plans have been reviewed and the documents for construction have been approved. The bids documents are been finalized and will have bids for the Commission to approved around late April or early May.
2. Updates on the two critical departments at the City of Cordele, which are the Police Department and Finance Department.  
Police Department
  - a) The search is still on going for a Police Chief, the process for receiving applications will end on March 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - b) There is an overall total of fourteen (14) vacancies in the Police Department.
  - c) The Police Department is working with E911 Center to help monitor GCICS.
  - d) The hours for the Front Desk Clerks have been revisited and the Commission will be kept abreast with how the changes are going.
  - e) The advertisement of applications for the Police Department will be expanded, since Patrol Officers are needed also. The Police Department has redesigned the application to make it easier for those that are applying for positions with the Police Department to navigate.
  - f) The Police Department has finished an inventory of all issued equipment, so that there is a record now and everything is accounted for that has been issued in the Police Department.Finance Department:
  - a) Business license and late penalty collections for 199 renewals and 12 new licenses were \$55,004.72 in February.

- b) Property tax collections including penalties and interest for all years were \$48,619.14
- c) 179 checks were issued for invoice disbursements of \$1,437,605.74 in February.
- d) HR and the Finance Department are working on payroll software, as well as, accounting software.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No Report.**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Owens moved to proclaim April 2, 2022 to be Quay Walker Day. The City of Cordele will give him a key to the City, as well as, present him with a Proclamation. As being a resident of Cordele, the Commission will honor him for his accomplishments and for him being a member of the University of GA Football Team that went all the way this year; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Owens moved to go into to Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss litigation matters; seconded by Commissioner Shephard, the motion was approved by the Commission.

**REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED:** Commissioner Shephard moved to reconvene the Meeting at 6:40 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Owens; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Shephard; the motion was approved by the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Owens moved to approve the Meetings Minutes for March 15, 2022; second by Commissioner Shephard; Minutes were approved by the Commission.