



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
August 14, 2018
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Community House located at 192 South Third Street, Cochran, GA 31014

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Keith Anderson, & Jon Thrower

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Mayor Billy Yeomans followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower.

Mayor Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the August 14, 2018 agenda. Mayor Yeomans requested Item # 11 be added to agenda to Consider changing the monthly council meeting to Thursday, September 13, 2018 instead of Tuesday, September 11, 2018.

Councilmember Keith Anderson made the motion and Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion to approve the Agenda for Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Billy Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made motion to approve the minutes from Tuesday, July 10, 2018 meeting. No corrections or additions were mentioned. Minutes were approved by Mayor Billy Yeomans.

- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Adopt Agenda**

VI. Agenda Items

ITEM# 1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a Call for Election to fill the vacancy in the District Two, Post 1 City Council seat. The unexpired term runs until December 31, 2021. Mayor Yeomans read the Charter section 2.12 which states the City Council has to call a Special Election and an ordinance has to be passed in order to do so. Election will be held November 6, 2018 at the Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department. Motion was made by Councilmember Jon Thrower to pass ordinance to call a special Election with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider contracting with Springsted, Inc. of Newnan, Ga. to conduct a financial analysis and prepare a forecast for the Water and Sewer Fund. The cost is \$5,350 to be paid from Water/Sewer Fund Professional Services. Mr. Newbern introduced Financial Advisor, Tony King. Mr., King gave a brief explanation of the analysis he would like to conduct for the City. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to contract with Springstead Inc. to conduct a financial analysis for the Water and Sewer Fund with Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all in favor 5-0.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider contracting with the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission from Baxley to in the amount of \$5,000 to prepare an Urban Redevelopment Plan (URP) for Cochran's downtown and surrounding area. Funds are budgeted in the City's Administrative Professional Services line item. Mr. Newbern gave a brief update on the Urban Redevelopment Plan with Heart of GA regional Commission. He gave the pros to contracting with the Reginal Commission. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to contract with HGRC to prepare an Urban Redevelopment Plan for Cochran's downtown. Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider purchasing a 12-passenger replacement van from Bleckley County Extension 4-H in the amount of \$3,500 to be used by the City's women prison crew. The vehicle will be paid from the TIA discretionary funds. Mr. Newbern asked Tony Darsey, Interim Public Works Director, to give information on the van to be purchased for the women prison crew. The van will be purchased from the Bleckley County Extension 4-H in the amount of \$3,500.00. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion approving purchase of the van from Bleckley County 4-H in the amount of \$3,500.00 with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a new Mutual Aid Agreement between the Cochran Police Department and the Bleckley County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Newbern asked Chief Coley to explain the MOU with Bleckley County. HE stated it is always a good practice to have help with the county agencies because you never know what will come up. Motion was made by Councilmember Jon Thrower and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of a "one-officer/one-car" patrol car policy in the Police Department. Mr. Newbern asked Chief Coley to address the Council with this item. Chief Coley explained that before the Police Department did not have enough vehicles for each officer to have a car. Now, they can have one car to one

officer. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve one officer one car with Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconding. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 7 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of a contract with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for a \$65,975.77 GEMA reimbursement to the City for expenses incurred by the City during Hurricane IRMA last September 2017. Mr. Newbern turned this item over to Fire Chief Kevin Noles. Chief Noles stated this reimbursement will be from the Hurricane IRMA. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion and Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. 5-0

ITEM #8 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider purchase of a 70 hp tractor and 10' attachment mower for the Public Works Department. Purchase is from the Georgia State Contract and funds will be paid from 2013 Road SPLOST. Mr. Newbern turned meeting over to Tony Darsey to talk about the tractor that needs to be purchased. Tony stated this would replace the 45 to 50 horse that is currently running at the Airport. This will be a SPLOST item to be purchased. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve purchase of the tractor with Councilmembers Keith Anderson seconding the motion. Motion was passed with all voting I favor. 5-0

ITEM #9 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider signing agreement with Giddens, Bennett & Company for the FY 18/19 audit. Mr. Newbern stated Giddens and Bennett has been conducting audit for years and he would like to get the approval from Council to continue to contract services with Giddens and Bennett. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to continue contracting with Giddens and Bennett for audit services with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #10 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider contracting with BG Operational from Stovckbridge, GA to perform Class I operator services at the City wastewater treatment plant. Services with BG Operational is \$3,500 per month. Brad Holstinger is a certified Class I treatment operator who can provide oversight of treatment plant operations and keep the treatment plat compliant with GA EPD. Councilmember Regina Gooch made the motion and seconding the motion was Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman. Motion was passed with all voting in favor.

ITEM #11 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider changing the monthly council meeting to Thursday, September 13, 2018 instead of Tuesday, September 11,2018. Motion was made by Councilmember Jon Thrower and Seconding by Councilmember Andrew Lemmon. Motion was passed with al voting in favor.

VIII. Mayor Updates

- ❖ commended the city for doing a great job as whole. Keep up the good work, Police/Public Works/Firefighters.

IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates –

- Chamber Member Appreciation 11:30 Community House
- GICH Team – Helping Housing Assessments
- Crest Drive Construction

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Announced the live training on Ash Street. Student Fire Fighters will start soon.

POLICE UPDATES: Police Chief explained accident with the Police cruiser. He also thanked Bill and Vickie Cheek for the donation to help purchase training items.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Tony stated of the ride of ways that were being cut.

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATES: Willie gave update on service station and tree canopy.

Skip Layton:

Skip Layton, City Engineer, provided Council with a monthly report on projects going on at this time. GEFA CWSRF 15-002, GEFA DWSRF 15-019, DWSRF 15-009, CDBG 2015, CDBG 2016, Cochran/Bleckley Recreation Complex, & Cochran Storm Drainage Improvements.

There were no other department updates.

X. Council Discussion Items- NONE

XI. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – Oct 9, 2017 @ 7:00 pm
- **Public Comments** (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of five minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)
- Edwin Peacock presented a new product to help keep citizens safe. He passed out a booklet to each Councilmember to review.

Councilmember Thrower made the motion to go in executive session and Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Went into executive session at 8:36PM.

Come out of executive and back to regular session @9:05PM

Adjourn @ 9:06PM

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk