



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

City Auditorium, 102 N Second Street, Cochran, GA 31014

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Anderson
Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal
Absent: None
Attended by Zoom: Carla Coley

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 6:59PM

The invocation was given by City Manager, Richard Newbern followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Veal.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the July 12, 2022, agenda.
Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the minutes with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 6/0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or additions to the 6/14/22 minutes. Mayor Yeomans stated the question of Councilmember Veal being present at the last meeting was reviewed and he was absent at the May 10, 2022. May minutes were approved as presented. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the June 14, 2022 minutes, with a second by Councilmember Jones.
Motion passed 6/0.

- 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

Employee of the Month. Employee of the month was presented by Public Works Director, Willie Farrow to Donald Googe.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on Text Amendment to add “Preparation and Sale of Food Products” as a Conditional Use in an R-1 residential zoning district.

The Text Amendment will amend Article 4, Section 2 on Page 39 of the City Zoning Ordinance.

Public Hearing called to order at 7:08PM.

This hearing was called to provide any interested parties to express their views or concerns regarding the text amendment. Mayor Yeomans verbalized the options the Council was faced with.

Several people spoke in favor of Mrs. Simpson and encouraged the Council to allow the text amendment. No one spoke against.

Public hearing was closed at 7:36PM.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to leave the ordinance as is. Intent of the ordinance is crystal clear. No business license for R1 residential district with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. 4 Yes (Jones, Lemmon, Ates, Anderson) 2 No (Veal, Coley) Motion passed 4/2.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on an application from Joy Simpson of 109 Willow Drive for a Conditional Use Permit in an R-1 residential district to perform

the “Preparation and Sale of Food Products” from her home.

Attorney, Jim Elliot stated no provision for Item #3 due to no text amendment on Item # 2

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of Development Standards. City Engineer addressed the Council on the Development Standards. He stated he had some items to add, and he would bring back the final results at the August meeting. Mayor suggested to have this item on the September agenda instead of August so the document could be placed on the website for the community to see if they so choose. Councilmember Ates made the motion to have the completed Development Standards on the September agenda with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed – 6/0

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider contract with Pulaski State Prison for Women’s prisoner assistance. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve annual contract with Pulaski State Prison women detail crew in the amount of \$49,318 with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 6-0.

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Budget Amendment for CHIP 2019 & 2021 Grants. Recommended by Auditor to adopt a separate CHIP budget to comply with auditing requirements. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the amendment with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 6-0

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Budget Amendment for Hotel/Motel Tax. According to the city auditors, Hotel/Motel tax cannot be placed in the general fund; it must be separated out. Councilmember Ates made the motion to take hotel/motel tax out of general fund and put in a separate fund with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed. 6-0

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider authorizing office repair and upgrades to the Police Department and an addition to the Animal Control Center. A question concerning the municipal building being on the Historic Register and would the value go down due to the improvements, putting flooring in and the renovation of the bathroom. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept Chief Trawicks recommendation to include the flooring to court room and lobby with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed. 6-0

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of the Planning Commission By-Laws. City Attorney has reviewed this document council was asked to approve. There were a few changes made by City Attorney. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the Planning Commission By-laws with 3 changes made by the City Attorney, with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed. 6-0

ITEM #10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider authorizing the extension of natural gas services along East Dykes Street to serve commercial establishments up to the Cochran By-pass intersection. A proposal to lay a 2-inch natural gas line to service establishments along the by-pass was presented for consideration. Councilmember Ates made the motion NOT to extend the gas line to the Cochran By-pass with a second by Councilmember Veal. Voted Not to extend the line Ates, Veal, Lemmon. All opposed to the motion, Coley, Jones, Anderson. 3/3 Mayor voted to break the tie. He voted opposed to motion along with Coley, Jones & Anderson. 4/3. Gas line was approved.

ITEM #11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a reappointment and a new appointment for the Library Board of Trustees Member. Sandy Jarrett’s term of serving on Library Board has expired. She would like to be reappointed. She will serve a 4 year term from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026. Councilmember Veal made the motion to reappoint Sandy Jarrett to the Library Board with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed 5-1. Councilmember Jones did not vote. Mayor stated if anyone wanted to serve on the Library Board, please contact Gina Thomas at the library.

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson - None

Ates – None

District 2

Coley – She believes strongly in the democratic process which is why she chose to sit on Council to try to make a difference. She expressed her disappointment in Council for not supporting citizens passions, families and their dreams.

Veal – His comments piggybacked off of Councilmember Coley’s comments regarding the decision of Council not to allow the text amendment of baked goods in R1 district.

District 3

Jones – None

Lemmon – None

Mayor Comments

Mayor asked for everyone to be patient with the cemetery. The rain makes the grass grow very fast and Public Works is working hard to keep up with it. The area in the coping is not the city's responsibility. This is private property.

Mayor set a date and time for an ARPA work session for Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 6:30PM @ City Auditorium.

Public Comments (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of 3 minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

Edwin Peacock -244 Crest Drive – Wonderful seeing the Veteran Flags along the roadways.

Adjourned 8:27PM

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk