



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Keith Anderson, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal & Carla Coley

Absent: City Attorney- Jim Elliott

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Anderson and the Pledge led by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the June 13, 2023, agenda. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the June 13, 2023, agenda with a second by Councilmember Lemmon.

Motion passed 6/0.

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the May 9, 2023, minutes. Councilmember Jones made the motion to accept the 5/9/23 minutes with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 6/0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the May 16, 2023 SCM minutes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the 5/16/23 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

Gun Violence Awareness Month. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation accompanied by Police Chief Jeff Trawick.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation for Woman's Club Centennial Celebration. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation accompanied by Daphne Jones, Jessica Anderson and Melissa Anderson.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on the proposed FY2023/24 City Budget

Mayor called Public Hearing to order @ 7:10pm.

The Public Hearing was called to order to allow citizens to express their concerns on the FY23/24 Budget. Mayor called for anyone who wished to speak.

Alan Chastain – 106 Horse Whisperer Lane – Thanked the Council for their hard work on balancing the budget. He also appreciated Richard for presenting a balanced budget to the council to approve. He stated with the economic situation, he suggested the Council needed to keep the budget the same as last year.

Public Hearing closed @ 7:15pm.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Ordinance adopting the FY2023/24 Budget. Mayor stated the council will have the opportunity to discuss by line item. Mayor started with the outside agencies first.

1. Airport – Vote 6/0 - \$25,100 plus \$3,596 for liability on T -Hanger = \$28,696
2. Chamber of Commerce – 6/0 \$ 25, 500
3. DDA – \$54,670 (Coley, Anderson, Veal Yes) – (\$32,000 -Jones, Lemmon, Ates).
(Mayor voted because of a tie Yes for \$32,000) Vote 4-3
4. IDA –\$51,700 6/0
5. Library – \$42,650 6/0
6. Recreation Department – \$80,000 6/0

The Council had a brief discussion on the Budget regarding increases or decreases in pay.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the FY 2023/2024 budget.

Councilmember Ates made a motion to approve the FY 23/24 Budget with an amendment to revisit Public Works, Fire Department, & Administration at the July 11, 2023 Council Meeting with a second by Councilmember Jones.

4 – Yes – Ates, Jones, Lemmon Anderson

1 – No – Coley

1 -No vote – Veal

Motion passed 4, 1 ,1

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing and consideration of Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone 248 N. Second Street from B-1 Neighborhood Commercial to B-2 Business Commercial for the purpose of operating a dog grooming and boarding business on the parcel.

Mayor called the Public Hearing to order @ 7:52PM.

The Public Hearing was called to order to allow citizens to express their concern on the rezoning of the property at 248 N Second Street. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval for the rezoning.

Terry Ware – Code Enforcement stated he stopped by the establishment and was given a tour by the owner. He recommended the facility to be rezoned.

Public Hearing closed @ 7:56pm

Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the recommendation by the Planning Commission to rezone 248 N Second Street with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider amending Zoning Ordinance Article 8, Section 8.1 (A) regarding Planning Commission terms. Article 8 Section 8.1 in regards to setting stagger terms for members. This requires an ordinance change. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to amend Zoning ordinance with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider appointing, or re-appointing three (3) members of the City Planning Commission. The three members to reappoint are Ray Knighton, Edna Allen, Debra Turner. All members have agreed to continue to serve. Councilmember Ates made the motion to reappoint Ray Knighton, Edna Allen, Debra Turner with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting the Planning Commission’s recommended amendments to the City’s Sign Ordinance. This is do to with maintenance and appearance of signs. This also adds the Code enforcer officer as an officer who could order the removal of the substandard sign in addition to the City Manager. The Planning Commission recommend a fee increase as well to the sign ordinance. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the Planning Commission recommendation of amending the City Sign Ordinance with the date in the last sentence of section 14 removed with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider award of bid on the Georgia DOT-financed road resurfacing project for 2023. Council was asked to consider the Scruggs Company in the amount of \$99,000 to resurface there road segments with at least 1.5 “ of asphalt with GA LMIG funds. Councilmember Jones made the motion to award bid to Scruggs company for the LMIG road segment resurfacing with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 6/0

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

City Manager – None

City Attorney – None

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson Apologize to District 1, had to cancel the normal D1 meeting.

Ates: Thanked everyone for coming.

District 2

Coley – Countered a comment that was made by the Mayor regarding post on Facebook.

Veal – None

District 3

Jones – None

Lemmon – None

Mayor Comments

Thanked everyone for coming. Take care of your neighbor. Thanked everyone who worked on the FY23/24 Budget. Thanked everyone who helped get funding on the park.

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.)

Tara Proffit – 171 S Third Street – Spoke on her issues with the recent sewer problems.

Executive Session – Potential litigation and evaluation

Councilmember Ates made the motion to go into executive session with a second by Council member Anderson. @ 8:27PM.

Motion to go back into Regular session by Councilmember Ates second by Councilmember Anderson. @ 9:08pm

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Ates a second by Councilmember Anderson. 9:09PM.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk