

**CITY OF COCHRAN
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COCHRAN, GEORGIA**

January 14, 2014

The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was given by Councilmember Willie Basby, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Gary Ates.

PRESENT: Mayor Michael Stoy
Councilmember Charles Cranford, Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember Gary Ates
Councilmember Willie Basby
Councilmember Tommy Guyton
Councilmember Andrew Lemmon
City Manager, Ray Gibson

ABSENT: Councilmember Eric Bisher

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Stoy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ates to approve the December 10, 2013 minutes and seconded by Councilmember Guyton. Councilmembers Basby and Cranford in favor; Councilmember Lemmon abstained.

A motion was made by Councilmember Basby to approve the December 17, 2013 Special Called Meeting minutes and seconded by Councilmember Cranford. Councilmembers Ates and Guyton in favor; Councilmember Lemmon abstained.

Item #1 – Presented by Michael Stoy, Mayor

Resolution 01-14 – Request to approve the appointments by City Council to the following positions: City Manager, Ray Gibson; City Attorney, Leo Phillips; City Clerk, Lisa Chastain; and Municipal Court Judge, Dennis Mullis.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve Resolution 01-14, Councilmember Guyton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item #2 – Presented by Michael Stoy, Mayor

Resolution 02-14 – Request to amend the Mayor's Committee appointments for 2014.

Councilmember Basby made the motion to approve Resolution 02-14; Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item #3 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager

Resolution 03-14 – Request to allow non-profit organization (Angels in Flight) to operate a boarding home at 235 West Peter Street while a rezoning application is under review.

Ms. Penny Foskey addressed the Mayor and Council to request the approval to allow 6 ladies to live in the boarding home until the rezoning application is approved. Mr. Russell Smith, owner of the home, spoke to the Mayor and Council about the misunderstanding of how the home would be used. According to Mr. Smith, the home was originally to be used for Bible study but instead was changed to a boarding home for displaced women. Mr. Don Davis and his wife Tammy, spoke in support of the boarding home as did several others in the audience. Ms. Penny Foskey also had a petition signed by 50 neighbors in support of the boarding home. According to Ms. Pearl Kreindler, proper procedures were not followed. City Manager Gibson informed the audience that the city is working on a process for future reference.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion to approve Resolution 03-14; Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item #4 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager

Ordinance 01-14 - An ordinance to amend the code of ordinances, City of Cochran, Georgia, to appeal Division 1, Sections 2-117 through 2-127, regarding personnel policies; to create a new Division 1, Sections 2-117 through 2-150, Entitled “City of Cochran Personnel Policy Handbook”, to provide for penalties; to provide for codification; to provide for severability; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

City Manager Gibson has tabled Ordinance 01-14.

Item #5 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager

Resolution 04-14 - Request to approve the selection of Lanier Contracting for the installation of the disinfection system for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Councilmember Basby made a motion to approve Resolution 04-14; Councilmember Ates seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item #6 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager

Resolution 05-14 – Request to approve check signing authority for the City of Cochran.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion to approve Resolution 05-14; Councilmember Ates seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

City Manager Updates

City Finances - City Manager Gibson gave an update on the city finances. Copies of the report were distributed to each councilmember.

SPLOST – City Manager Gibson distributed copies of the SPLOST 2006, detail for 2013-2014 and 2012 Series beginning January 1, 2013. The majority of the 2012 SPLOST will be used to pay for the license plate reader at the police department and the disinfectant system.

Wal-Mart Development – Permits were approved by GDOT. Estimated completion date is the first week of June 2014.

Health Insurance – Increase of premiums by 25% which includes 5% due to the Affordable Care Act. March 1, 2014 is the renewal date for city benefits.

Vernon Road Resurfacing Project – Begin resurfacing 30 days from January 17, 2014. Discussion of stop sign replacements with City Manager Gibson confirming that councilmembers can request damaged stop signs to be replaced at any given time.

Community Development block Grant (CDBG) Target Area – A target area has been identified. Surveys will need to be completed by going to each home owner and getting information for the grant to be awarded.

City's Website – Sophicity will be meeting to discuss the roll-out of the city's home page. The site will be up and running in the next few months.

City Code – City Manager Gibson discussed putting a new city code in place due to past resolutions not being filed.

Council Discussion Items

Ethics Board Appointments – Mayor Stoy discussed appointing a 3-member board to make up an Ethics Board. One member would be appointed by the Mayor, one by Council and the third member would be appointed by both the Mayor and Council. The Ethics Board members would serve a three year term and would investigate complaints.

Strategic Plan – City Manager Gibson discussed the goals, objectives for staff and also training for staff. Discussion of the vision statement and creating a capital improvement plan. Councilmembers are to come back with any changes to the vision statement.

City Charter – Councilmembers are to review and come back to discuss the city charter.

Council Meeting Locations/Organization – The Cochran Community House has been reserved, free of charge, for the February 11, 2014 council meeting. Plans are to have a projection screen for citizens to view documents while being discussed.

Mayor Stoy announced that work is being done on the collection of ad valorem taxes on house trailers. Discussion was to have one person collect both city and county taxes. Also discussed using our code enforcement. A proposal will be put together and sent to Leo Phillips, City Attorney.

Public Comments

Ms. Penny Foskey, from Angels in Flight, Mr. Russell Smith, owner of the home for Angels in Flight and two residents from Angel in Flight spoke before the Mayor and Council. Mr. Don

Davis and his wife Tammy also spoke. All were in favor of allowing residents to stay in the home while rezoning efforts are underway.

Ms. Pearl S. Kreindler spoke against the Angels in Flight residing at 235 West Peter Street while rezoning efforts are underway. She does not feel that proper guidelines were followed by allowing residents to move in while the property is undergoing rezoning efforts.

Councilmember Guyton made the motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Ates seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Stoy presented each councilmember with a White Paper of collected data on the possible consolidation of the City of Cochran and Bleckley County law enforcement services. Discussion focused on budget implications, personnel changes and other enhancements.

Councilmember Cranford made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilmember Ates seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Guyton made the motion to place the consolidation discussion of the city and county on hold at this time and to move forward with advertising for a Police Chief. Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to complete a bridge at the residence of Leola Shanett. City Manager Gibson will have City Attorney Phillips write an agreement between the city and Leola Shanett. Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

City Manager Gibson will provide a rate study of city charges to the councilmembers. Councilmember Guyton wants to discuss the residents that reside in the county but have city privileges.

Councilmember Ates made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Lisa Chastain, City Clerk
City of Cochran

(CITY SEAL)