



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, October 10, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Keith Anderson, Charles Cranford, Jon Thrower, & Fleming Gilman

Absent: Mayor Gary Ates

Call to order by Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower. made a motion and seconded the motion to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2017 meeting. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to approve September 26, 2017 minutes and mayor Councilmember Charles Cranford seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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- 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**

Proclamation/ Plaque for Fire Lieutenant Jacob (JJ) Speer's years of service to the City of Cochran. Proclamation. Richard read the proclamation in honor of Lieutenant JJ Speer and Fire Chief Kevin Noles presented Mr. Speer with a plaque for his years of service with The City of Cochran. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to adopt the proclamation to honor JJ Speer with Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

### **ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving Allied Corrosion Industries Inc. in the amount of \$18,820 to perform a replacement ground bed on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The issue was discussed about having several bidders for the project. Jacob Daniels and Skip Layton explained this company has always completed this work and were specialist in this kind of work. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to proceed with the replacement of the grounded and Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

### **ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider maintenance options for the City's right-of-way's and ditches. Mr. Newbern explained about the memo with the different options in the pre meeting packets. The cost of the options presented were discussed. Councilmember Gilman made the motion to table this item with Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

### **ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider traffic safety options on Oak Street near Peach and Peter Street intersections. Mr. Newbern asked Police Chief Chris Coley to present this item. He stated a 4-way stop would be placed at the Palm and Oak. Councilmember Cranford was concerned about the traffic speeding through this area. Mr. Coley stated if the stop sign didn't seem to work, then other options such as speed bumps would be placed in the road to deter speeders. Councilmember Cranford made the motion to place the 4 way stop at Palm and Oak with Councilmember Gilman seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

### **ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving a purchase from PACE Analytical Services (\$3,518) for a series of four (4) wet tests at the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Newbern explained the benefits of conducting the wet test and it is mandatory by the EPD. Councilmember Gilman asked how many bids were received. Jacob Daniels elaborated this was another specialty project and it was always completed by PACE. Councilmember Gilman was concerned about not having 3 bids as Charter states. Jacob stated in order to keep our permit, this test had to be

done by a specialist. Councilmember Gilman made the motion to have the wet test done with Councilmember Thrower seconding. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

**ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving a payment of \$9,056 to Bleckley County for the City's portion of the Cochran – Bleckley Joint Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Newbern asked Council to approve the payment to Bleckley Co. Bleckley Co has already paid for this and needs to be reimbursed. Council Adopted the plan and Councilmember Gilman made the motion to make the payment. Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

**ITEM # 7 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving purchase and style of Custom Cochran Logo Street Pole Banner. Pictures of banner choices were given to each Councilmember. They were asked to choose from one. They chose the Green banner. Councilmember Gilman made the motion to approved the green banner and to make the purchase of banners.

**ITEM # 8 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider contracting with JEC Electrical Contractors in the amount of \$5,000. Police Chief Chris Coley gave a background on the generator and explained the benefits of having the generator connected to the Police Department. He also told Council he tried to get bids several times before for this project and no one would place a bid. He then talked with Eric Jerrell who will do the job for \$5,000.00. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to approve contracting with JEC Electrical to complete project with Councilmember Cranford seconded. Motion was passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

**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.)

- Catherin Guyton- Mrs. Guyton stood before the Council and expressed how upset she was about the stealing at the Recreation Department. Mrs. Guyton went on to explained about how much the grass was out of control on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Peacock. Councilmember Thrower stated the owner has recently been sick and he would go over and cut the grass at the location in discussion. Speeders were another issue Mrs. Guyton brought to the attention of the Council. Police Chief Coley stated he would have officers monitoring the area.
- Diane Lester – Mrs. Lester asked if Earnest Lawson- Walker road was in the city or county? Public Works Director Jacob Daniels stated it was in the county. She also is concerned about the roads not being paved and wanted to know if there was a list or way to keep up with the roads being paved. Councilmember Thrower responded that a list was provided to Council tonight.
- Sam Barrs – Mr. Barrs presented to the Council a project that he feels would be a great asset to Cochran. He presented a flag pole with the American flag and a triangle name plate made of wood attached to the front. This would be for anyone in Cochran who would like the plague to be in honor of an individual in the military or in memory. There will be a charge for this project and the city would have to store the flag poles. He suggested the flags could be placed on Dykes Street. His goal is to have them displayed twice a year- July 4<sup>th</sup> and, 7 days before and 7 days after, and

November 11, 7 days before and 7 days after. Mr. Barrs and Mr. Newbern will work together to make this project a success. Mr. Barrs asked for the Councilmembers to approve this project rolling. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to approve this project with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

## **VIII. Mayor Updates**

## **IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates –**

- Zoning Committee Proposed rezoning will be considered at a later time
- According to the City Ordinance, City Hall will be closed Friday November 10, 2017 to observe Veterans Day.
- Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2017
- Council need to give consideration to Christmas Bonuses. Will have a proposal for your consideration for November 14 meeting.
- GICH- City is a recipient for that designation this year. We are likely to have a housing committee meeting late October early November. No specific date has been set. Eligible to apply for housing rehabilitation funds for individual homeowners who qualify from an income standpoint. Meeting with Linda Carole October 16, 2017 @ 2pm at City Hall.
- Financial report- Tracey Hudson presented the quarterly financial report to the Councilmembers
- Mr. Newbern provided ordinance to Council (most recent on file). Councilmembers all agreed for a new purchasing ordinance to be updated. Mr. Newbern stated he will have an updated at the next Council meeting in November.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Fire Chief, Kevin Noles gave an update on Hurricane Irma and the process of filing with GEMA

**POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Gave update on National Night Out, (expecting 350 or more) Country Feast on N\October 21 and Trick r treating October 31 from 5pm to 8 pm.

## **PUBLIC WORKS:**

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

### **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**

- Councilmember Jon Thrower expressed some concerns from his constituents to City Manager. Mr. Newbern stated he was working on these concerns. Councilmember Thrower discussed a few items with budgets, the new software that the City purchased and the audit. Mr. Newbern assured Mr. Thrower that things would continue to improve.

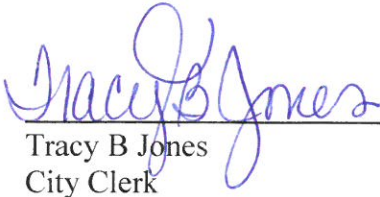
No other Councilmember had any concerns or comments.

**XI. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – June 13, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Gilman made the motion to adjourn and Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**Adjourn @ 9:41.**

  
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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk

