



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**March 9, 2021**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates  
Councilmembers: Carla Coley, Keith Anderson, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon  
Absent: Rufus Veal

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:02PM

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Anderson.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 agenda as presented.  
Councilmember Coley requested to add Item # 8 – Consider approval of contract with Heart of Georgia Regional Commission to preform pay classification plan for the City of Cochran.

Councilmember Coley made the motion to accept the change to the agenda with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.  
Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda as changed with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Yeomans made the motion to add Item # 9 to reappoint Jim Washburn to Airport Authority with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2021. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept 2/9/21 minutes with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion.  
Motion 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**

Employee of the Month – Employee of the month was presented by Fire Chief, Brock Wilcher. This turned in to employees of the month. The awards went to Student Fire Fighters, Firefighter Poole, Firefighter Kinkade, Firefighter Perri and Firefighter Woods. Also, Chief Trawick introduced the new Police Officer, Katherine Helms, Christopher Bonner and Tyler Rewis and Chaplain Passmore.

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

Consider tap fee adjustment. City Manager stated the increase of tap fees were discussed at the Retreat in January. City tap fees have remained the same for many years and the City’s costs have risen each year. City Council could raise the fees suggested by Falcon Design or not at all. A proposal from Falcon Design was given to the Council for consideration. Councilmember Coley made the motion to adopt the fees proposed by Falcon Design with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with 4 in favor (Lemmon, Jones, Anderson, Coley) 1 opposed (Ates). Motion passed 4-1.

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

Consider proceeding discussion with Cochran Fire Department and Bleckley County Fire Department in regard to an Automatic Aid Agreement. Council was asked through a vote, to authorize staff to proceed discussion with the County regarding Automatic Aid Agreement and then bring the agreement that is decided to the Council for adoption. Councilmember Ates made the motion to authorize staff to continue discussions with the County for Automatic Aid with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider assisting with repair of Airport Hanger Roof. Jim Washburn gave a brief presentation to Council concerning the proposal for the City to assist with fixing the roof at the Airport Hanger. Some questions arose about funding from the County as well. Councilmember Jones made the motion to file the grant application also giving the Mayor authorization to sign all grant documents with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider appointment to Planning Commission to serve a two (2) year term. Mayor called for nominations for 5 members to serve 2-year terms on the planning commission. Councilmember Coley gave two names, Russell Odom and Lane Purser. Mayor stated the Council needed to make a decision on an appointment very soon. Mayor stated by next meeting at least, there will need to be an appointment. This will be deferred to April 13, 2021 Council Meeting.

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

Consider amending City County Service Delivery Strategy to include housing. City Manager stated this would add housing to the City/County service plan specifically to emphasize housing as a City service. This will include housing rehabilitation and demolition, blight clearance, and possibly grant-funded reconstruction. The County Commissioner must also approve this amendment in order for housing to be added to the Service Delivery Strategy. Councilmember Ates made the motion to amend the City/County Services Delivery Strategy to include housing with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider amendment to fire protection and prevention ordinance. Richard Newbern notified the Council this amendment is to the current fire protection ordinance. Approving this, it will complete supplement one of the Municode; this will allow the City to have a full Municode adopted. Fire Chief Wilcher wanted to clear up some of the places that contradicted itself. Inspections once a year was also added to all businesses and buildings in the City. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the amendment to the fire protection and prevention ordinance with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider approving a contract for a Pay Classification Plan update project with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission. Council was asked to consider contracting with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission to perform a pay plan update. HGARC will evaluate City positions, job content, update job descriptions and develop a pay plan that will match the values of those duties. Pay plan will offer updated pay ranges for the City. The cost will be \$8,000. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the contract with Heart of Altamaha Regional Commission to perform pay classification update for the city of Cochran. with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

**ITEM #9 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider reappointment of Jim Washburn for another term to the Airport Authority. Councilmember Ates made the motion to reappoint Jim Washburn to the Airport Authority with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

**Council Discussion Items:**

District 1 (Anderson/Ates) – Anderson-(Nothing) Ates – (Input on full time employment for cemetery.)

District 2 (Veal/Coley)- Coley- (Nothing)

District 3 (Jones/Lemmon)- Jones- (Nothing) Lemmon- (Nothing)

Mayor took a poll on opening the meetings to the public. All in attendance said yes. He stated this was just a poll and nothing written in stone.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0 8:00pm

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk