



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 6PM

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

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

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the June 14, 2022, agenda.
Councilmember Ates made the motion to add Item #7 to the agenda - Consider approval Vernon Road well upgrades in the amount of \$50,721.50 to come from SPLOST funds with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 6/0.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to accept the agenda with the addition of Item# 7 with a second from Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or additions to the 5/10/22 minutes. Councilmember Veal stated he was present at the May 10, 2022, meeting and it was noted he was absent. City Clerk stated the mentioned issue would be noted and corrected if need be. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections, if necessary, with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 6/0.

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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. Police Chief, Jeff Trawick presented Employee of the Month to Casey Carden.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Present plaque to Charles Keen for serving on Housing Authority Board. Mayor Yeomans presented a plaque to Mr. Keen for his years of dedication to the Housing Authority Board.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on the FY 2022/23 draft budget -public comment.

Public Hearing Called to order at 7:12PM.

Public Input: Mike Stoy (154 Whippoorwill Landing) was the only public comment. Expressed his concerns on the revenue on the Hotel Motel tax that should go to the Chamber of Commerce.

Public Hearing closed @ 7:20PM.

Mayor made two recommendations to the Council.

1. Consider Hotel Motel tax collected up to 6% be given to the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of 25,500. If the amount does not equal the amount of \$25,500, the city will make up the difference. If Hotel- Motel tax is over \$25,500, the money will then go to the city.

2. Recommend the City employee of DDA be removed from the City payroll and placed under the total control of the DDA Authority. The \$54, 670 will not change for the 2022-2023 Budget.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of an Ordinance to raise the Hotel/Motel Tax Rate. Motion made by Councilmember Jones to adopt an ordinance to increase Hotel – Motel tax from 5% to 6% with the entire proceeds to be spent on tourism, conventions and trade shows by the Cochran Bleckley Chamber of Commerce with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6-0.

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider amendment to the FY 2021/22 City Budget to accommodate the payment of an invoice for steel gas line pipe replacement. Motion made by Councilmember Ates to amend the budget to accommodate the payment of the invoice in the amount of \$29,800 for the steel line replacement and a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 6-0.

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Designate a Voting Member and Alternate to the GMA Annual Convention. Councilmember Jones nominated Gary Ates and Councilmember Veal nominated Carla Coley. Motion passed 6-0.

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Vernon well upgrades in the amount of \$50, 721.50 to come from SPLOST funds. Motion was made by Councilmember Ates to accept the recommendation from the Public Works director in the amount of \$50, 721.50 to upgrade Vernon well with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Yeomans announced the 2022-2023 Budget meeting will be June 28, 2022, at 6:30PM.

Also, the FY 2020-2021 Audit update will be on the agenda.

Regular Scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Work Session starting at 6 and Regular Session starts at 7.

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson - None

Ates – Good time at the Dre Day program and was proud to see all the ones in attendance from Dre Day foundation. He prays the violence and gun violence will end. Thanked the Police Department

District 2

Veal – None

Coley – Dixie World Series will come to Cochran. July 30- August 3. Different States will be in town. July 1-4, 40 high school going to Nashville to compete from BETA.

District 3

Jones – None

Lemmon – None

Mayor called on Andy Lucas, IDA to speak on the Equity Grant. Received grant to continue to develop the IDA park. The grant is for \$500,000.

Mayor appointed a committee to conduct City Manager’s Semi-Annual Review, Anderson, Veal and Jones. Mayor requested completion by August meeting. Mayor Yeomans nominated Anderson as chair of the committee.

Asked for dates for Council to start talking and meeting about the ARPA funds. Mayor suggested after the World Series and July 4.

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.)

Taurus Pitts- President of Dre Day Foundation – Thanked everyone who came out to support the first annual Dre Day Foundation Festival. Mr. Pitts also mentioned the Back-to-School event they would have before school starts. He will get back with Council on details.

Diane Lester – 117 S 4th Street - Three items: 1. Overgrown ditch on Third St. Lane. 2. Abandoned houses on Burke Circle. 3. Pave Burke Circle and other roads.

Mayor stated Council will go into Executive Session after a 5-minute break. Recessed for 5 minutes @ 7:58PM

Returned to regular session at 8:56PM.

Adjourned from regular session 8:58PM

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk