



WORK SESSION **DRAFT Minutes**
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Work Session @ 6:00PM

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

City Council

City Staff

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| Billy Yeomans, Mayor | Richard Newbern, City Manager |
| Keith Anderson, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 1)</i> | Candace Summerall, City Clerk |
| Gary Ates, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 2)</i> | Jim Elliott, City Attorney |
| Carla Coley, Council Member <i>(District 2 Post 1)</i> | |
| Lonnie Tedders, Council Member <i>(District 2, Post 2)</i> | |
| Andrew Lemmon, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 1)</i> | |
| Shane Savant, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 2)</i> | |

I. Call to Order 6:00 PM

Mayor Billy Yeomans called the work session to order. He noted that Councilman Coley would not be present and Councilman Lemmon had medical issues preventing his attendance. Councilman Ates was expected to arrive later for the regular session (arrival at 6:21PM)

II. Agenda Items

1. Downtown Christmas Plans

- DDA President Ken Land presented:
- Introduced a Christmas initiative for December
- Goal: Increase downtown foot traffic and boost economic development
- Concept: Create a Hallmark movie-like atmosphere
- Plan involves partnering with local businesses and the DDA
- Extensive lighting and decorations proposed
- Requested city partnership for the project

2. Strategic Plan Update

- City Manager Richard Newbern presented:
- Updated strategic plan for August 2024 through August 2026
- Includes five main goals: personnel, technology, infrastructure, quality of life, and city services
- Department heads to develop work plans based on this strategy
- Work plans to be presented at the September 10th meeting
- Quarterly reports from department heads planned

3. Property Tax Report

- City Manager Richard Newbern reported:
- Provided update on outstanding property taxes
- Deadline for clearing delinquent taxes: August 23rd
- Unpaid taxes to be published in newspaper on September 5th
- Estimated tax sale date: October 1st
- Fewer than five residents claimed to have paid with cash but couldn't find receipts

4. Waste Management Residential Services

- Public Works Director Willie Farrow reported:
- New Thursday pickup service implemented
- Some mechanical issues occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday pickups, quickly resolved
- Communication between dispatch and city hall needs improvement

5. Department Head Reports

A. Police Department - Chief Jeff Trawick:

- Presented monthly report
- Noted discrepancies due to new software system implementation
- Discussed increased patrols around McVay Heights Apartments

B. Fire Department - Chief Brock Wilcher:

- Announced city's upgrade to ISO Class 4 effective November 1st
- May result in lower insurance rates for property owners

C. Public Works - Director Willie Farrow:

- Discussed ongoing CDBG housing projects
- Introduced new code enforcement officer Samantha Burns
- Reported on asbestos removal and floor damage in municipal annex building

D. Finance Department - Director Bonie Raffield:

- Reported auditors working on trial balances for city accounts
- Audit completion goal: December 31st

Ash Street Park Project

Engineers Adam Price and James Jones from Falcon Design presented:

- Detailed plans for playground equipment, pavilion, restroom facilities
- 860-foot walking trail proposed
- Extensive landscaping plans discussed
- Estimated timeline: potentially open by spring
- Discussion of possible irrigation system as bid alternate
- Consideration of lighting plan as potential addition

GEFA Projects Update

Adam Price provided summary of ongoing proposed projects:

- Sewer rehabilitations
- Water system improvements
- Water meter replacements
- Elevated water tank repainting

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned 7:00 PM