



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Carla Coley
Councilmembers: Keith Anderson, Gary Ates, Andrew Lemmon, Shane Savant, Lonnie Tedders
City Attorney: Jim Elliott

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Mayor Yeomans
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Ates.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the February 6, 2024, agenda.
Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda with a second by Councilmember
Lemmon. Motion passed 6/0

Mayor stated the minutes would be approved at next month's council meeting due to additions and
corrections needing to be made. City Clerk was in training and unable to correct the minutes prior to
the meeting. She will correct and distribute at the next meeting.

- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Adopt Agenda**
- VI. Agenda Items**

VI. Agenda Items

ITEM #1- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation- Black History Month-Mayor Yeomans read the Black History Month Proclamation aloud accompanied by Councilmember Lemmon, Ates, and Anderson.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Presentation by Jon Shaw of NFP and consideration of Health Benefits approval for 2024. Jonathan Shaw with NFP presented a recommended renewal for health insurance. He explained the increase of \$14,386 in the annual premium to be absorbed by the city. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the health benefits for 2024 with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Request from Fire Department to file a federal FEMA-AFG grant application for a mini-pumper to replace our 2008 Engine 12. Council was asked to submit a grant application to FEMA to finance 95% of the cost of a new mini pumper. The City match could come from the fire department SPLOST funds. Chief Wilcher presented information of the grant to the Council.

Councilmember Savant made the motion to file a FEMA – AFG grant application for a mini pumper with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed. 6/0

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving the contract with Government Tax Solutions, LLC, from Carrolton to assist the City with the collection of delinquent property taxes. The council was asked to approve a contract for a year with GTS to collect back taxes. City Manager, Richard Newbern, went over the terms of the contract and a timeline of the collection services. Councilmember Savant made the motion to approve a contract with GTS, LLC to collect delinquent City taxes with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed. 6/0

ITEM #5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving language and budgets for May 2024 SPLOST Referendum. The council was asked to approve the 35%/65% that was negotiated by the County and City. This will be on the May referendum. Councilmember Coley suggested lowering the percentage of Recreation Department, Increase Fire, and lowering Downtown Development. Councilmember Coley made a motion to approve the 35%/65% City/County SPLOST distribution with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed. 6/0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting a Resolution for filing a 2024 CDBG Housing application by the Friday, April 5, 2024, grant application deadline. Application would require matching funds. The application will need to be filed by March 12. Councilmember Anderson made a motion to adopt the resolution for filling a 2024 CDBG housing application with a second by Councilmember Ates.

Motion passed 4/2. 4- YES – Anderson, Ates, Lemmon, Tedders. 2-NO- Coley, Savant.

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider setting a date for Cochran Clean-up Day and approval of filing a Ga. DNR Scrap Tire state grant application. Councilmember Coley made the motion to set the Cochran clean-up day for Saturday, April 20, 2024 and approving the filing of a GA DNR Scrap Tire state grant application with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving recommendations from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to fill upcoming vacancies on the DDA Board. DDA Board recommended Carla Thrower (Citizen representative spot) to take the place of Dinae Lester which term will expire March 4, 2024. Lorelei Roberts to take place of James Hagler as a Citizen representative spot and Gwendoline Hutchinson will replace Vinson Howell as a Business representative. The terms become effective March 4, 2024. Councilmember Savant made the motion to approve the DDA recommendation to appoint three new members with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed 6/0.

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider rescinding the motion made January 9, 2024, on Black History month activities behind Police Department. Councilmember Ates made the motion to rescind the motion made at the January 9 council meeting concerning the Black History Month activities behind the Police Department with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed. 6/0

City Manager –

- **Clean Up Day – April 20**
- **Meeting with VC3 on cyber security with City Clerk and Richard**
- **Planning Commission – Zoning Admin Conference GAZA workshop.**
- **Received Red Card – Local Issuing Authority**
- **Update on Budget Calendar progression.**

City Attorney – Closed session is needed on a few items.

City Clerk – Absent

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson – NA

Ates – NA

District 2

Coley –Consider contracting with a landscaping service. Sidewalks need a lot of work. Need a plan to address repairs on our sidewalks.

Tedders – NA

District 3

Savant – NA

Lemmon – NA

Mayor Comments

- ✓ **Encouraged everyone to stay safe**
- ✓ **Possible Aviation Training**
- ✓ **Stay safe look out for each other**

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.)

- ✓ **Mellisa Barker - Chamber**
- ✓ **Caffienated Connections Royal Print @ the High School**
- ✓ **Dueling Piano's All profits will be used to start scholarships for students**
- ✓ **Caffeinated Connection at Alderman Hall**
- ✓ **Annual Banquet in March**

Councilmember Ates made a motion to go into executive session with a second by Councilmember Anderson for potential litigation. Motion passed 6/0. @ 8:52pm.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to go back into back to regular session with a second by Councilmember Lemmon @ 9:31pm.

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Ates, with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed. 6/0. Meeting adjourned at 9:34PM

Julie D. Peche

Julie D. Peche, Interim City Clerk

