



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**January 5, 2026**

**Cochran City Council**

**Special Called Meeting 7:00 PM**

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

### **City Council**

### **City Staff**

Billy Yeomans, Mayor	Richard Newbern, City Manager
Trecia Gardner (District 1, Post 1)	Tiffany Lapp, Interim City Clerk
Gary Ates, Council Member (District 1, Post 2)	Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Carla Coley, Council Member (District 2 Post 1)	
Lonnie Tedders, Council Member (District 2, Post 2)	
Dianne Lester (District 3, Post 1)	
Shane Savant, Council Member (District 3, Post 2)	

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **7:01 p.m.** by **Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates**, due to the absence of Mayor Billy Yeomans.

### **II. Invocation**

The invocation was delivered by **Councilman Shane Savant**.

### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Councilman Lonnie Tedders**.

### **IV. Attendance / Quorum**

Mayor Billy Yeomans was absent. Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates presided. Five (5) council members were present, establishing a quorum.

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## **Agenda Items**

### **1. Personnel**

### **Motion to Enter Executive Session**

A motion to enter Executive Session was made by **Councilwoman Carla Coley**, seconded by **Councilman Lonnie Tedders**.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Time Entered Executive Session:** 7:04 p.m.

### **Motion to Exit Executive Session**

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by **Councilman Shane Savant**, seconded by **Councilwoman Trecia Gardner**.

**Time Exited Executive Session:** 8:36 p.m.

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### **Action Following Executive Session**

#### **Initial Motion:**

Councilwoman Carla Coley made a motion to terminate administrative leave and restore **City Clerk Candace Summerall** to administrative duties effective **January 20, 2026**, with stipulations established during the January 5, 2026, Executive Session.

Seconded by **Councilman Lonnie Tedders**.

#### **Vote:**

- In Favor: Tedders, Coley
- Against: Savant, Gardner, Lester

#### **Result:** Motion failed.

During subsequent discussion, council members expressed that there was a misunderstanding and that the vote did not reflect the direction discussed in Executive Session.

#### **Rescinded Motion:**

Councilwoman Coley rescinded her motion, and Councilman Tedders rescinded his second.

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### **Revised Motion**

Councilwoman Coley made a second motion to terminate administrative leave and restore **City Clerk Candace Summerall** to administrative duties effective **January 20, 2026**, with stipulations established during the January 5, 2026, Executive Session.

Seconded by **Councilman Lonnie Tedders**.

#### **Vote:**

- In Favor: Tedders, Coley, Savant

- Against: Gardner, Lester

**Result:** Motion passed.

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## **Executive Session Statement**

The Council entered Executive Session to discuss hiring, compensation, evaluation, or disciplinary action for a specific public officer or employee as authorized under **O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)**.

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## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **8:44 p.m.**