



DRAFT MINUTES

January 5, 2026

Cochran City Council

Special Called Meeting 7:00 PM

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 Lampp, 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.

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.

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Rescinded Motion:

Councilwoman Coley rescinded her motion, and Councilman Tedders rescinded his second.

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.

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)**.

Adjournment

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