

COCHRAN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

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MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

JULY 9, 2026

The Work Session Meeting of the Cochran City Council was held on July 9th, 6:00 PM in the City Auditorium, 102 N Second Street, Cochran, Georgia with the following present:

Carla Coley, Mayor

Shane Savant, Pro Tempore Mayor

Trecia Gardner, Councilmember

Dianne Lester, Councilmember

Jim Elliott, City Attorney

Gary Ates, Councilmember

Lonnie Tedders, Councilmember

Angele Redding, Interim City Manager

Bonnie Raffield, Interim City Clerk

Staff present: Willie Farrow, Public Works Director – Danny Smith, Code Enforcement

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Carla Coley.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Prayer was led by Mayor Carla Coley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Present	Absent
Carla Coley	Mayor	√	
Shane Savant	Mayor Pro Tempore, District Three, Post Two	√	
Trecia Gardner	Councilwoman, District One, Post One	√	
Gary Ates	Councilman, District One, Post Two	√	
Rufus Veal	Councilman, District Two, Post One		√
Lonnie Tedders	Councilman, District Two, Post Two	√	
Dianne Lester	Councilwoman, District Three, Post One	√	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – July 9, 2026: Mayor Coley requested an amendment to the agenda to add discussion of the **Variance Request for 342 North Second Street** as Item No.7, with the remaining agenda items renumbered accordingly.

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Councilman Tedders made a motion to amend the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lester and carried unanimously. Councilman Tedders then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Savant and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion of a request to amend the City's window sign ordinance (Section 40-32(4)) regarding the percentage of permanent window coverage permitted for businesses. Mayor Coley explained that the request stemmed from new businesses with window coverings that exceed the current ordinance, which limits permanent window signage to ten percent (10%) of the total window area. Discussion included:

- Comparison of sign ordinances from surrounding municipalities.
- Public safety concerns regarding visibility into businesses.
- Enforcement consistency.
- The impact on existing and future businesses.
- Input from Code Enforcement regarding current compliance.

Council discussed the possibility of increasing the allowable percentage but reached no consensus. No action was taken.

2. Discussion of City's current Pool Fill policy of providing \$25 credit for residents filling swimming pools. Discussion included:

- Sewer charges assessed on water used solely for pool filling.
- Policies utilized by surrounding municipalities.
- Meter readings before and after pool fills.
- Use of a twelve-month sewer average when prior notification is not provided.
- Limiting sewer adjustments to one occurrence within a designated period.

Council expressed general support for revising the current policy and requested that a formal policy be presented for future consideration.

3. Discussion of resuming the Mayor's Advisory Committees that had previously been placed on hold. Discussion included:

- Resuming committee meetings.
- Appointment of additional citizen members where needed.
- Committee responsibilities and reporting procedures.

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4. Discussion of a request to allow a mobile bartending business to operate within the City.

Discussion included:

- Alcohol licensing requirements.
- Georgia Department of Revenue permits.
- Department of Public Health requirements.
- Business licensing requirements.
- Liability insurance.
- Compliance with the City's alcohol ordinance.

Council referred the matter to the appropriate advisory committee for additional research and recommendations.

5. Discussion of Falcon Design Services Proposal for Grant Writing Services- Interim City Manager Angela Redding presented Falcon Design Services' proposal to provide grant writing services for the City. Stating that there are many grants available that are not being utilized.

Representatives Brett and Ashley from Falcon Design Services discussed their qualifications, experience, grant administration capabilities, and available services.

Council discussed opportunities to pursue infrastructure and public safety grants.

Discussion of Building Inspection Services Update- Representative James Jones from Falcon Design Services provided an update regarding permitting, inspections, code enforcement coordination, zoning reviews, and current development projects within the City.

6. Discussion of Ryland Environmental Roll-Off Service Agreement Amendment- Interim City Manager Angela Redding discussed an amendment to Ryland Environmental agreement to include roll-off container rates that were inadvertently omitted from the original contract.

Council also discussed commercial dumpster requirements and future review of the City's sanitation fee schedule.

7. Discussion of a variance request regarding signage for the convenience store located at 342 North Second Street. Discussion included:

- The applicant initially obtained approval through the county after being advised the property was outside the city limits.
- Subsequent determination that the property is located within the City of Cochran.
- Compliance with the City's sign ordinance.
- Fairness to the applicant and consistency with previous variance decisions.

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Council agreed the variance request would be considered during the regular council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to discuss, Councilman Ates made a motion to adjourn the Work Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tedders and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately **7:58 p.m.**

APPROVED