



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
May 14, 2019
Regular Meeting @ 7 PM

Community House located at 192 South Third Street, Cochran, GA 31014

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans Mayor Pro Tem Jon Thrower

Councilmembers: Carla D Coley, Regina Gooch, Andrew Lemmon, Jimmy Jones

Absent: Councilmember Keith Anderson

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:05PM

The invocation was given by State representative Danny Mathis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower.

Mayor Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the May 14, 2019 Agenda. Mayor requested a motion to approve the May 14, 2019 Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to accept the May 14, 2019 Agenda as stated with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Yeomans stated Council was provided a copy of April 9, 2019 Minutes. He asked for any addition or correction to April 9, 2019 minutes. If none, Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 9, 2019 Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to approve the April 9, 2019 minutes with Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0. Council was provided a copy of the March 26, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Mayor asked for any corrections or questions concerning the minutes. If none, Mayor asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the minutes with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.5-0. Council was provided a copy of the Special Called Meeting, March 21, 2019. Mayor asked of any corrections or questions concerning the minutes. If none, Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Gooch made the motion to approve the minutes with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion was passed with al voting in favor 5-0. Council was provided a copy of the January 24-26, 2019 (Retreat Minutes) Mayor asked of any corrections or questions concerning the minutes. If none, Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to adopt the minutes with Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion.

Motion was passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

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

ITEM# 1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation for National Hospitals Week Mayor Yeomans read proclamation for the National Hospital Week and declared the week of May 12-18, 2019 to be National Hospital Week for the Bleckley Memorial Hospital. Mayor presented the Proclamation to Mr. John Green. Mr. Green addressed Council and the audience with background of the Hospital in Cochran and how proud he was to be a part of this community.

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation for Nation Public Works Week. Mayor Yeomans read proclamation and declared the week of May 19-25, 2019 as National Public Works week then presented the proclamation to Public Works Director Willie Farrow.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Proclamation for Peace Officers Memorial Day. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation honoring the Peace officers and designate May 15,2019 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Cochran. He then presented the proclamation to Chief Chris Coley.

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Introduction of Lieutenant Ethan Cobb. Fire Chief Brock Wilcher introduced Lieutenant Cobb to the Council. Chief Wilcher explained Ethan is a lifelong resident of Cochran and was previously working with Warner Robins Fire Department for 7 years and also as a Part time Fire Fighter and Volunteer with the City of Cochran.

ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Introduction of Police Officer Brittany Slaw. Police Chief Chris Coley introduced Officer Slaw to the City Council. Chief Coley stated she graduated from mandate school/Police Academy March 22,2019 and she is out on the road and he welcomed her aboard.

ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Address Council - Danny Mathis State Representative R-144. Danny Mathis addressed the Council and the audience with an update from the legislative. He is a lifelong resident of Bleckley County/Cochran, and he explained how he wanted to see Cochran and Bleckley County thrive and grow.

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing and consideration of amendment to City Charter –

Public Hearing began @ 7:30PM Mayor explained what the Public Hearing was about and what was required by law to take place during the Public Hearing. Mayor Yeomans asked if there was any input from the Public. A few citizens stated they were not aware of the changes to the Charter. Mayor Yeomans discussed the procedure of the posting requirements of the changes running in the newspaper and the city website. Mayor stated if there were no further questions, could he have a motion., Councilmember Jones made the motion to accept the changes to the Charter with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Public Hearing closed at 7:42PM.

ITEM # 8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of City of Cochran Urban Redevelopment Plan. James Pope from the Regional Development Commission made a presentation to the Council concerning the Urban Redevelopment Plan and how this plan would benefit the City. Mayor called for a motion to approve the City of Cochran Urban Redevelopment Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to approve the City of Cochran Urban Redevelopment Plan with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider appointment to fill Zoning Committee vacancy – City Manager asked if the Council has a nominee for the vacancy for the Zoning Committee. Council stated they do not have a nominee at this time.

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting Resolution for \$300,000 approving grant contract with Georgia DCA for the CHIP Housing Program. City Attorney provided the Resolution to approve the grant contract with DCA. City has received \$300,000 that would go towards rehabilitation of low-income homeowners that live in sub-standard housing. Mayor called for a motion to adopt the Resolution approving grant contract with DCA for the CHIP Housing program with the correction of the wording in one section. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to adopt the resolution with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM # 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider pothole patching methods – hiring a contractor to install cement patching or purchasing a pothole patching machine from Adams Equipment from Dahlonga, Ga. Public Works Director Willie Farrow distributed a packet to Council to demonstrate what the difference between purchasing a machine or to have someone contract to come in and fill the pot holes. Mayor called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made a motion to authorize Public Works to utilize Velocity for up to three days of patching all of the city's potholes with concrete with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 12- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider awarding bid to L. L. Construction from Dublin to install water and sewer improvements as part of the Railroad Avenue Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Skip Layton (City Engineer) explained to Council this was part of the Railroad Avenue CDBG project that will include water and sewer, drainage and road improvements. Mayor called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem

Thrower made a motion to accept the bid pending the acceptant from DCA for the work at the Railroad Ave area with Councilmembers Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM # 13- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Resolution authorizing the study of local sales tax collection with Georgia Department of Revenue. City Manager stated this would authorize the City to obtain sales tax information from vendors within the City from the GDR. Mayor called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made a motion to adopt the resolution to authorize the study of local sales collection with GDR with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates:

- Norfolk Southern Railroad – Closing of Mendel and Coal Chute roads May 23, 2019
- Affordable Equity Credit – 60 Unit apartment complex
- GHIC Housing Meeting May 16, 2019 @ 4PM
- May 27,2019– City Hall Closed
- Budget Hearing – June 4, 2019
- Final Draft of Municode – Reviewing Code Sections
- Care Connect – Across the street from First Baptist Church – Development of Dr. Office

Department Head Reports

- Financial Administrator- Bonnie Raffield
- Police – Chris Coley -Went over monthly report and gave update on the Parvo out break in shelter.
- Code Enforcement – Chris Coley went over the first report from the new software program for Code.
- Fire – Brock Wilcher -Gave update on monthly report. June 22, 2019 the Fire Department is teaming up with Red Cross to have a Smoke Alarm Blitz. He instructed everyone who needs a fire alarm, call the fire Department and give a name and they would put it on a list. Sleeping quarters are completed along with the new offices.
- Public Works – Willie Farrow- Gave update on monthly report. Gave an update on the hydrant that was struck by a citizen.
- City Clerk – Tracy Jones – Extended the invitation from the BCHS to the Council Members to attend 2019 High School Graduation. Saturday, May 22,2019 @ 9AM.
- City Engineer – Skip Layton- Crest drive is operable. Storm sewer improvements on Porter- It is not Porter Road; this will be West Side School Road at the intersection with Porter. The contractor will not start until after school is out. The GEFA Water Project, final project, notice to proceed. Contractor is under contract and moving forward. CDBG updates.

Mayor – Discussed a date for Budget Public Hearing.
June 4, 2019 @ 6PM Community House

Council Discussion Items-

Thrower- None

Coley- Gave a DDA update on training and meetings. Dumpster for cardboard recycle bin behind City Hall.

Gooch – Asked about lights – Ash Street Lane – They are in the works.

Jones- None

Lemmon- Thanked the Manager for the garbage cans that were installed. They are helping out.

Mayor – Expressed to the Citizens about the Census that is coming up in 2020

Announcement of Upcoming Meeting and Events

- ✓ **Work Session Prior to Council Meeting June 11, 2019 @ 5:30PM**
- ✓ **Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – June 11, 2019 @ 7PM**

Public Comments

- ❖ Lillian Turner 188 6th Street – She expressed her concern about the sound in the building, she stated the ones in the back of the room cannot hear what the Council is saying. Grocery store was another one of her concerns. Asked Officers to check on kids due to school getting out.
- ❖ Ethel King – Recreation Board audit. She asked if the City and County still funded the Recreation? She stated someone needs to audit the Recreation Department. She is afraid no one is being accountable for the money coming in. Mayor explained that the Recreation Department was an entity alone.

Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to go into Executive Session with Councilmember Lemmon seconding.

Adjourn @ 9:00 PM

Went into Executive Session at 9:10 PM

Came out of Executive Session at 9:42 PM (Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower 2nd by Councilmember Lemmon.)

Went back into Regular Session at 9:43 PM

Adjourned meeting @ 9:43 PM

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk