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**MINUTES**

**Cochran City Council**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022**

**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00PM**

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

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| Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Anderson  Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon Carla Coley Rufus Veal  City Attorney: Jim Elliott  Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM  The invocation was given by Pro Tem Anderson and the Pledge led by Councilmember Ates.  Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the October 11, 2022 agenda. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the agenda with a second by Councilmember Jones.  Motion passed 5/0  Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the September 13, 2022 minutes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the 9/13/22 minutes with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion passed 5/0 |  |  |  |
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1. **Call to Order by the Mayor**
2. **Invocation**

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

1. **Attendance**
2. **Adopt Agenda**

**VI. Agenda Items**

**ITEM #1- Presented by City Manager, Richard** **Newbern**

Employee of the Month-City Clerk, Tracy B Jones, presented Julie Peche, Administrative Assistant, with Employee of the Month for October.

**ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Proclamation on National Fire Safety Month – Mayor, Billy Yeomans read a Fire Safety Proclamation to the Chief and fire fighters in attendance.

**ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Approval of DDA resignations and other information Mayor Yeomans stated City received resignation letters from four DDA board members, Carla Coley, Diana Itson, Jeff Reagan, & Dani Dykes. HE asked for a motion to approve the four resignations. Councilmember Jones made the motion to accept the resignation effective September 26, 2022 with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passes 6/0.

Mayor Yeomans also stated since the DDA board authorizes seven members and now they only have three which is not a quorum, they cannot conduct official meetings until they have at least 4. The city attorney stated he has been researching that and will let the mayor know. Mayor added, the city council has the authority to appoint the board members to the DDA board. Mayor asked the Council to request a resolution in accordance with section 2.15 inquiries and investigations of the city charter. He would like for the city council to make an adoption of an authorized resolution for city council to make inquiries and investigations into the affairs and conduct of the DDA. Also, the city will have the use and the full power of section 2.15 for this utilization. Councilmember Ates made the motion to authorize a resolution from the city council to make inquiries and an investigation into DDA with a second by Councilmember Lemon. Councilmember Coley stated she would recuse herself at this time and regrets she did not submit a letter in advance. She was unaware of the vote prior to the meeting. Motion passed 5/0. 1 No vote (Coley)

**ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Public Hearing on the proposal to set the City’s millage rate at 11.767 mills. Last of the three meetings to approve or not approve milage rate of 11.767.

Public Hearing was called to order at 7:18PM.PH was called to provide any interested parties an opportunity to express their views or concerns regarding the proposed millage rate increase to 11.767. Mayor asked for anyone who wanted to speak.

1. Brian Bergeaux – 113 West Dykes Street – He spoke on the behalf of not supporting the prosed millage rate increase.
2. Mike Stoy – 154 Whippoorwill Lane – He spoke on behalf of not supporting the proposed millage rate increase.

Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:30PM.

**ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider adopting an Ordinance to set the City’s millage rate for FY2022/23.Easc Councilmember had an opportunity to give their views or concerns regarding the proposed millage rate increase to 11.767.

Councilmember Veal spoke against the increase. Suggested to cut back on some things instead of punishing the taxpayer.

Councilmember Lemmon -Nothing

Councilmember Jones – On the recommendation of three financial experts to increase millage to cover the expenditure for next year, he supports the increase to 11.767.

Councilmember Coley – She explained if we raise it this year, it will put the city almost back to where we were six years prior. She did suggest looking at spending in different areas and try to decrease that. She does support the proposed millage increase to 11.767.

Councilmember Ates – He felt like a situation like this increase would happen when approving the budget. Suggested to look into some cuts within the city.

Councilmember Anderson – Difficult situation to be in. Everything is going up. Suggested to go back and looking at the budget to see where we can save. If we don’t go up, we will fall behind. Need a better plan when approving the budget.

Mayor – Expressed he never thought the state of GA would ever rollback to 9.19. It is unheard of. Mayor called for a motion. Councilman Jones made the motion to set the millage to 11.767 with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 5 votes yes (Coley, Anderson, Ates, Jones, Lemmon) 1 vote no (Veal). 5/1 voice vote.

**ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Presentation of Pay Plan & Pay Scale Update- Heart of Georgia Regional Commission. The Regional Commission has developed a pay plan and pay scale update for the city. The data was gathered by comparisons of cities similar in size. Anna Weaver, Regional Commission Planner worked closely with City Manager and City Clerk to complete a daft pay scale and pay plan. She explained after all the data analysis, the job position payments do fall in range. At this time the RC does not recommend any changes to current payment to employees.

**ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving a request from Dale Fordham to make John Conner Memorial Lane one-way, with traffic flowing from north to south.

**ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving a sewer easement with Earl Arnold Family, LLC for the 4,000 linear foot sewer line that runs through Earl Arnold’s property.

**ITEM #9- Presented by Mayor, Billy Yeomans**

Consider approving an Agreement between Georgia DOT and the City of Cochran for $68,467 to finance the engineering design of the South Apron and Stub Taxiway Rehabilitation project

**ITEM #10- Presented by Councilmember, Rufus Veal**

Discussion of Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department Concerns

**ITEM#11- Presented by Mayor, Billy Yeomans**

IDA concerns

**City Manager** – Housing Team Meeting Update on District 9 Meeting, please let City Manager or City Clerk know if you would like to attend.

**City Attorney – NONE**

**Council Discussion Items:**

**District 1**

**Anderson** – NONE

**Ates** – Glad to see all in attendance

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**District 2**

**Coley** – NONE

**Veal** – Stated he will get with Richard on administrative issues and asked if Ethics committee was still active. Mayor responded, it was not due to one member who moved, Council will replace the member. Have to have three and there is only two.

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**District 3**

**Jones** – NONE

**Lemmon** – NONE

**Mayor Comments**

U-turns downtown are getting better. Do not blow leaves or grass in the roads.

Mayor called Captain Casey Carden to the front to introduce him as the newest Captain of the Police Department

**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.)

* Allan Nowell- Briarwood Road – Expressed his concerns with the Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department.

* Diane Lester – 117 S 4th Street – Asked for an update on Burke Circle.
* Trisha Ward – 921 Hwy 257 – Expressed her concerns with the Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department.
* Alicia Spearman- 108 Laurel Drive - Expressed her concerns with the Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department.
* Robert Timmons – 118 MLK Jr Drive -Expressed his concerns about his two pieces of property he had rezoned. He stated he cannot put a house of certain size as he was told once before and he is not sure why he cant.
* Paul Williams – 171 Village Circle – Expressed his concerns and his disappointment with the Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department.
* Josette Scott- Warner Robins – Had questions concerning the Peyton Williams Center for the NAACP to utilize the facility for functions. Councilmember Anderson stated this item was discussed in the Work session and this item will come up in the November meeting. She also touched on the city hiring people out of town and not local.

Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor asked if the executive session was necessary. Yes, personal contract.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to go into executive session with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 6/0. 9:14PM

Councilmember Jones made the motion to go into regular session with a second by Councilmember Lemmon @ 9:25pm.

Councilmember Jones voted to approve City Manager contract with changes and a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Councilmember Coley stated she could not vote on something she didn’t have time to review first. Mayor Yeomans asked if Jones and Lemmon would withdraw the first and second. Both agreed.

Councilmember Jones made the motion to adjourn with a second by Councilmember Ates.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36PM

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones

City Clerk