



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**September 8, 2020**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans Mayor Pro Tem Jones

Councilmembers: Carla Coley, Gary Ates, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Keith Anderson, Rufus Veal

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Mayor Yeomans followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the September 8, 2020 agenda as presented. Mayor Yeomans asked to add Item #9 Approval to add John Rowland to the Board of Health at the Health Department. Councilmember Ates made the motion to add item # 9 to the agenda with Councilmember Anderson seconding. Motion passed 6-0. Mayor called for a motion to accept the agenda as changed. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda as changed with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

August 11, 2020 minutes.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 11, 2020 Regular Scheduled Meeting. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept 8/11/20 minutes as presented with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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- 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**

Employee of the month. City Clerk, Tracy B Jones, presented the employee of the month to Connie Dupree. Connie is the Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk for the city of Cochran.

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

Proclamation- National Assisted Living Week- September 13 - September 19. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation acknowledging the week of 9/13 to 9/19 as National Assisted Living.

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

Speed Bump for Peter Street near the Peter St./Sixth Street intersection- Council Member Andrew Lemmon. Councilmember Ates asked what kind of speed bumps. Councilmember Ates suggested other types of speed bumps. Councilmember Jones suggested rumble strips. Councilmember Lemmon stated he and Councilmember Jones would look into the options of speed bumps. Councilmembers Coley would like to get other agencies opinions before a decision is made on the placement of speed bumps and the effect it would have. Councilmember Jones made the motion to postpone this item until more information is gathered. Councilmember Ates seconded the motion.

Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider Resolution adopting MuniCode update- Council was asked to consider approving an Ordinance to adopt the Municode updates through February 2019. Once adopted, this will be posted on the City website. Councilmember Jones made the motion to adopt the Ordinance for the Municode updates through February 2019 with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider amendment of Personnel Policy Handbook regarding merit pay. Council was asked to adopt an ordinance to amend the Personnel Policy Handbook by adding #27 regarding the Personnel Annual Evaluations and Merit pay. This was explained by City Manager, Richard Newbern. The city attorney suggested to delete the sentence which reads, **The City or department head may choose to forgo merit increases.** Councilmember Anderson made the motion to adopt the ordinance to amend section three of personnel policy with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider hazard pay opportunity for public safety and public works personnel. Mr. Newbern explained this action is to provide emergency supplemental pay to hourly employees, (Police, Fire, Public Works). Council may decide to offer supplemental pay in tandem with Governor Kemp's state of emergency extension. This can be extended until October 24, 2020. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the recommendations of City Manager, Richard Newbern to extend the hazard pay until 10/24/20 with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider endorsing a \$250,000 grant application from Middle Ga. State University to USDA for funds to expand WiFi service in downtown Cochran. Mr. Newbern explained where the access points would be. Access points will be proposed primarily for various points downtown. This will allow the public to visit these areas to log into their laptops or cell phones to access the internet. DDA Director, Rusty Lloyd explained the path of the WiFi which would cover the downtown area. Councilmember Ates made the motion to endorse the grant application from MGSU for funds to expand Wifi downtown. Councilmember Ates made the motion to endorse the grant application with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider appointment of review committee for preparation of the upcoming 2021 CDBG application. Mr. Newbern explained the City is in a position to apply for a new CDBG grant by next April 2021. If the City includes multi projects, the City could be eligible for more than \$500,000. The first thing required to do is to solicit engineer firms and administrative firms that will work on the project. A committee must be formed by the mayor. Mayor selected Councilmember Ates, City Manager, Richard Newbern, and Public Works Director, Willie Farrow. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the three chosen to serve on the committee with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

### **ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider appointing John Rowland to the Health Department Board. Mayor Yeomans asked the Council to concur for Mr. Rowland to serve on the Health Department Board. Councilmember Ates made the motion to appoint Mr. Rowland with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

#### **City Manager Comments:**

- Clean Up Day
- CDBG Update
- Havenwood Gardens- Earl Arnold, Agreed on annexation of his property across the by-pass.
- Peyton Williams – Preparing for the DNR Grant for playground and walking trail.
- EPD Update on the violations and the ways the City is working with EPD.
- Rural Zone Application was filed. Tax benefits for downtown businesses
- Landscaping application for entrances to the City update.
- Zoning Ordinance update
- Dixie Landscaping was the low bidder on the landscaping of City properties

#### **Council Discussion Items:**

- Lemmon –None
- Jones – None
- Coley – None
- Ates – None
- Anderson – Inquiring about City Attorney being at the meetings.
- Veal – None

Councilmember Ates made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Adjourned @ 8:02PM.

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk