



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Jon Thrower, Keith Anderson, Robert Anderson, & Andrew Lemmon

Call to order by Councilmember Andrew Lemmon @7:00PM

The invocation was given by Councilmember Andrew Lemmon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower.

Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion to approve the Agenda for January 9, 2018 meeting and to approve the December 12, 2017 minutes. Motion passed unanimously 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

Swearing-in of Mayor Billy Yeomans by City Clerk. Mr. Yeomans was sworn in by City Clerk, Tracy Jones.

ITEM # 2 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Swearing-in of Council Members Andrew Lemmon, Keith Anderson and Robert Anderson by the City Clerk. Mr. Lemmon, Mr. Keith Anderson and Robert Anderson was sworn in by City Clerk, Tracy Jones

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Mayor's comments- Mayor Yeomans gave a biography of himself and what his vision is of Cochran. He would like to bring jobs back to Cochran by working with the IDA. He would like to see the City and the County have a better working relationship.

ITEM # 4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Election of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2018. Mayor Yeomans asked for a nomination for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Lemmon nominated Councilmember Gilman to occupy the position as the Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Robert Anderson nominated Keith Anderson. Motion was made to nominate Councilmember Fleming Gilman to take the position as Mayor Pro Tem for one year term. Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting raising their right hand. Motion passed 4 Yes (Thrower, Gooch, K. Anderson, Lemmon) with 1 No (R. Anderson)

ITEM # 5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

School Superintendent Steve Smith asked the Council to adopt a Resolution concerning technical college designation. Mr. Steve Smith, Bleckley County School Superintendent, addressed Mayor and Council. He explained Bleckley County sits on the Western edge of the service area. Oconee Fall Line was housed in Dublin. It was merged in with Sandersville campus. Central GA Technical College which was based in Macon and Warner Robins were merged. The main office is located in Macon. Mr. Smith expressed due to the recent changes it would be more logical for Bleckley to move service areas. The Technical College System of Georgia is wanting to move from OFTC service area to CGTC service area for a few reasons. Number 1 is Jobs, CGTC has programs to place each student with a job and they work really well with WRAFB. Number 2 is location to attend school. Dublin is 28 miles from the BC High School. Also, CGTC has a campus in Hawkinsville which is only 16 miles from the BC High School. The outpouring of support is undeliverable. From the office of Bubber Elps, County Commissioner, The TCSG is seeking support from the City Council and from Senator Larry Walker before we submit an application. Asking to sign the resolution to approve moving into the CGTC service area. Motion was made by Councilmember Jon Thrower to approve the Resolution with the motion seconded by Councilmember Andrew Lemmon. Mayor asked all voting in favor of the motion to raise their right hand. All voting raised right hand. Motion carried.

ITEM # 6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Resolution approving two-year contract with City Manager. Moved to Executive Session

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving City Managers designation of City Clerk who would temporarily stand-in during a disability of the City Manager. Mr. Newbern presented a letter per the City Charter, to the City Clerk, Tracy Jones to be appointed as the alternate City manager. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion for Tracy Jones to be appointed to be the alternate City Manager. Councilmember Robert Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor asked for everyone in favor of the motion to raise their right hand. All voting raised right hand. Motion passed 6-0.

ITEM # 8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Crest Drive/10th St. sewer line project options. Mr. Newbern stated this would be funded through the GEFA loan. Council voted in the past to move ahead with this project with regards to laying the sewer lines. This purpose of the project would be to allow the city to replace the lift station on 10th street with a sewer line to transport to the existing sewer main on 6th street. This line with service 16 new customers in the Crest Drive area. City has been negotiation with property owners about easements. Due to the details, this item will qualify for executive session. Mr. Newbern asked Council to approve to move this item to executive session. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made a motion to move this agenda item to executive session with Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconding the motion. No discussion. Motion passed with all voting in favor raising right hand 6-0.

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider restating the approval of a road straightening and sewer service on property near wastewater treatment plant. Project was brought before the Council several years ago in regard to laying water lines across property that serves the waste water treatment plant. This would involve sewer services. We have cost information and legal information that would need to be discussed in executive session. Mr. Newbern recommended the Council to spend more time on this as it would be moved to executive session. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to move this item number 9 to executive session for further discussion with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor raising right hand 6-0.

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Review Annual Retreat Items ó Mr. Newbern reviewed the items that would be on the agenda and he gave the dates and venue of the retreat. He told the Council if they would like to add anything to the agenda, they could do so.

ITEM # 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Grant Application with Fire Administration for capital equipment. Mr. Newbern introduced Chief Kevin Noles to discuss the grant application process to the Council. Chief Noles asked council to approve him to apply for this grant for much needed ladder truck. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Anderson to allow Chief Kevin Noles to go forward with the grant application. Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor raising right hand 6-0.

ITEM # 12- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider the purchase of wet well aeration equipment for waste water treatment plant. Mr. Newbern stated the main lift station near the waste water treatment plant is in need of upgraded aeration equipment to provided additional oxygen for the sludge. This would insure all EPD requirements are met. Three bids were presented to Council. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion with Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor raising right hand 6-0.

ITEM # 13- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving work authorization with Falcon Design for City Development Standards. Document reviewed by Zoning Committee at later date. Discussion was with Council concerning the work authorization with Falcon Design for City Development Standards. Motion was made by Councilmember Jon Thrower to approve work authorization with Flacon Design with Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor raising right hand 6-0.

Public Comments (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of five minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

- Catherine Guyton ó Mrs. Guyton addressed council with a question if the City has a policy concerning background checks for Councilmembers who were elected. She was concerned people were being singled out and it was not fair. Councilmember Gilman stated it was done if a situation arises. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon stated there are some placed that do have a back-ground check policy but the city of Cochran does not. Mrs., Guyton expressed her concern pertaining to the City having a background check for elected officials and she is behind it 100 %. Councilmember Lemmon agreed. Councilmember Jon Thrower stated when someone runs for an office, an affidavit stating you are not a convicted felon. City Clerk Tracy Jones confirmed that. Mrs. Guyton stressed all Councilmembers need a back-ground check.
- Eve Wilson ó She stated she was concerned about a globe that was missing from a street light. She also stated she will talk to her district Councilmember on further concerns.

VIII. Mayor Updates

- ❖ Mayor Ates commended the city for doing a great job as whole. Keep up the good work, Police/Public Works/Firefighters.

IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates –

- Upcoming retreat items
- MLK Parade Monday January 15, 2018
- City Hall will be closed Monday January 15, 2018 in observance of MLK Day
- Budget Calendar ó He is working with Department Heads to develop a 2018-2019 Budget. Will provide a calendar to Council.
- Anticipate collaborating with the County for SPLOST referendum
- Budget hearing budget review coming up soon.
- Monthly Financial Report
- Tracey Hudson gave monthly Report

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Police Chief, Chris Coley welcomed Newly Elected Mayor Billy Yeomans and Newly Elected Robert Anderson. Gave a few highlights on activities within the Police Department. Calendar year 2017; total number of calls were 8,750 calls. Calls in the month of December -646. A total of 193 accidents were worked, 396 arrests for the year. 118 narcotics arrests, 2007 traffic stops and 1,676 citations in result of those stops along with 1,472 warnings issued. Chief Coley also stated as a community relation during the Christmas season, The Police Department distributed into the community randomly, 35 free hams to the public. Chief Coley introduced the two new officers that joined the department recently. Officer Allen Hammock and Brandon Bryant. Officer Hammock comes to the department with 5 years of service and Officer Bryant graduated from her Police Academy December 15, 2017. Joshua Jordan will graduate March 23, 2018 and he will join the CPD family. He will be replacing Calvin Banks who is anticipated to retire March 1, 2018.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

No updates from Chief Noles other than if any questions about the monthly report. Councilmember Regina Gooch asked about the fire aid fundraiser. Chief went into to detail about the product and it was \$20.00 to purchase one. It is just like a fire extinguisher and this product can be wiped off unlike the powder that comes out of a normal extinguisher. Anyone who would like to purchase one, can come to the fire department.

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE:

Willie Farrow gave a brief update on what is coming up in district one and two. Two demo projects coming. Asbestos was found in both houses and a company is coming to remove it and looking to start in the next few weeks.

CITY CLERK UPDATE:

Mrs. Jones stated she was working hard on the retreat and urged Council if they wanted anything on the retreat agenda, they needed to contact her.

Skip Layton:

Skip Layton, City Engineer, provided Council with a monthly report on projects going on at this time. GEFA CWSRF 15-002, GEFA DWSRF 15-019, DWSRF 15-009, CDBG 2015, CDBG 2016, Cochran/Bleckley Recreation Complex, & Cochran Storm Drainage Improvements.

There were no other department updates.

X. Council Discussion Items

- Councilmember Jon Thrower welcomed the Mayor and New Councilmember. Councilmember wanted to put two personal items on the agenda. One concerning Code Enforcement Willie Farrow and the other is Tracey Hudson both will need to be discussed in executive session. Other item was concerning insurance for the Recreation Director. Mr. Newbern stated we provided information to the Recreation Department about insurance premium. This item needs to be discussed in executive session.

XI. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting ó March 13, 2018 @ 7PM (Community House)

Councilmember Thrower made the motion to adjourn and Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Adjourn @ 8:11.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk