



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**November 13, 2018**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Keith Anderson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman

Mayor Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the November 13, 2018 agenda. Mayor Yeomans requested a motion to approve the November 13, 2018 Agenda. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve agenda Councilmember Keith Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Billy Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to October 9, 2018 minutes. Councilmember Coley stated the spelling of rescind was incorrect. City Clerk, Tracy Jones stated she needed to make corrections on the minutes as requested by Mayor Pro Tem Gilman and she would reissue the corrected version at next meeting. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to accept the minutes and Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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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 Newly Elected Councilmember Carla Coley. City Clerk, Tracy Jones had the honor of swearing in newly elected Councilmember, Carla Coley. Councilmember Coley with her daughter Lauren by her side, held the Bible as Mrs. Coley took her oath.

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

Consider approval of Resolution to allow for local administration of Ga. DOT TIA funds for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Railroad Avenue. Mr. Newbern explained this was DOT TIA funds for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Railroad Avenue. This is a Resolution and contract between the City and Ga. DOT to allow the City to use \$35,279.00 in TIA SPLOST funds for the Railroad Avenue reconstruction project. Originally, when the TIA regional referendum was passed by the voters in 2013, a total of \$35,279.00 was set-aside for Railroad Avenue resurfacing. In 2016, the City received a \$500,000 CDBG grant to provide substantial public facility improvements to the Railroad Avenue neighborhood, including reconstructing the roadbed of Railroad Avenue. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to consider a resolution and contract with GDOT for TIA funds for reconstruction and resurfacing of Railroad Ave with Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

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

Consider a Resolution of support and match obligation for the City's 2019 CHIP Housing application -the Council was asked to approve a Resolution of support for the CHIP application due to Georgia DCA on Friday, December 5, 2018. This will be submitted along with the City's application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. This application will seek \$300,000 in federal funds that can rehabilitate approximately six (6) owner-occupied, substandard houses in Cochran. The City can use data gathered during the Housing Assessment project to support the CHIP rehabilitation application. The City will match the \$300,000 application with \$15,000 in local funds. These funds will need to be obligated at the time the City is awarded the CHIP grant. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion to consider the resolution with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider a contract for the provision of Insurance Brokerage Services for period covering November 19, 2018 to November 19, 2019. Contract for the provision of Insurance Brokerage Services- this was deferred from the October 9 Council meeting. Cochran Insurance and GMA made presentations on their premiums and services for five lines of insurance: (1) Property/liability; (2) errors and omission, or public official's liability; (3) automobile/vehicle insurance; (4) worker's compensation; and (5) law enforcement liability. The City advertised for brokerage services and opened proposals on October 28, 2018. Only Cochran Insurance and GMA responded. Cochran Insurance is offering coverage through Traveler's Insurance and GMA offers coverage through their GIRMA insurance pool, as underwritten by Willis Towers Watson Insurers. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to accept the Insurance Brokerage from GMA with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider LMIG road resurfacing priorities for 2019. Mr. Newbern presented this item to the council as he stated the City is expected to receive \$85,000 in grant funds that can resurface approx. .9 miles of roads. The Council is asked to approve the City's submittal of a grant application for 2018 and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the necessary documents. Public Works Director Willie Farrow will work with Council on identifying the most serious road resurfacing needs. Motion was made by Councilmember Regina Gooch with seconded by Councilmember Jon Thrower. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider setting a time for the 2019 Council Retreat and authorizing staff to begin preparing for a Retreat. Tracy Jones will review possible times for the Council Retreat set for early 2019. The Council is asked to approve the Retreat time and place and authorize staff to begin working on Retreat materials. The specific Retreat schedule can be approved at the December or January meeting. Mrs. Jones asked Council to decide on the date and venue let her know.

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

Consider making an appointment to the Recreation Board to replace Rufus Veal. Rufus Veal, a City appointee to the Recreation Board, has resigned. The Council is asked to make an appointment to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Veal. Councilmember Coley talked to Sheeka Elvine to see if she would be interested in filing the position and she agreed. Motion was made to appoint Sheeka to fill the seat on the Recreation Board by Councilmember Coley with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider adopting City capital thresholds as part of capitalization policy. Mr. Newbern explained that the City has defined capital equipment, in many cases, as items or equipment that have a life of one year or is worth more than \$1 ,000. Bennet and Giddens have recommended that the \$1 ,000 threshold to be raised to \$5,000 for may capital items. On Tuesday evening, a revised capital schedule will be presented for the Council 's consideration. Newbern asked for this to be brought at next meeting in December. Mayor stated this would brought up at the next meeting.

### **City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates**

- CIGH Meeting - Thursday November 15 – Community House
- Friday November 16- City 150 Birthday Meeting @ 10 Chamber of Commerce
- Wednesday – PSC Audits
- Regional Commission, December 4 @ 6:30PM- Urban Redevelopment Plan
- Zoning Meeting, December 6 @ Community House 6PM

### **Council Discussion Items-**

**Councilmember Jon Thrower** had concerns about the Election Superintendent being compensated for the work conducted during the election. Mr. Thrower wanted to bring the issue in front of the Council to have that person with the title of Superintendent to be compensated.

He also wanted an update on the FEMA check from last year, what is the status? Interim Fire Chief Brock Wilcher stated he knew our money was approved but he does not know when a reimbursement will be given. He also thanked Richard, Tracy and Public Works along with the Fire and Police Chiefs during the hurricane. He also stated we had meeting with Advance Disposal and things seem to be better and complaints have gone down. He stated he would like to have a calendar of Holidays to be approved for the following year.

**Councilmember Carla Coley** thanked everyone and expressed how excited she is to work with the Community and with the Council.

**Councilmember Andrew Lemmon** asked about trash cans to be placed around in his District. He is seeing a lot litter in this area from the students walking to and from school. He suggested to have container that could not be moved.

## **VIII. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Work Session Prior to Council Meeting –December 11,2018 @ 6:00 pm
  - Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – December 11, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

**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.)

- Mike Stoy – Mr. Stoy stated he would like to commend Council for appointing someone to the Ethics Committee. He quoted items that are under the old Charter and the new Charter that would change. He wanted to make the Council aware of the changes that would also take place.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM

**Adjourn @ 8:08PM**

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk