



**MINUTES  
Cochran City Council  
March 12, 2019  
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 Jon Thrower

Councilmembers: Carla D Coley, Regina Gooch, Keith Anderson, Andrew Lemmon,

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 Mayor Pro Tem Jon Thrower.

Mayor Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the March 12, 2019 Agenda. Mayor Yeomans requested a motion to approve the March 12, 2019 Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to approve Agenda with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Councilmember Coley asked for Item #4 be moved until after executive Session. Item #4 was moved to after executive Session. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Billy Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to February 7, 2018 minutes. Councilmember Gooch made the motion to accept the minutes for February 7, 2019 and Councilmember Anderson 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 Mayor, Billy Yeomans**

Proclamation recognizing the week of April 7 through April 13 as National Library Week in the City of Cochran. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation recognizing National Library Week as April 7 through April 13. He presented the signed proclamation to Sandy Jarret with the Tessie Norris Regional Library.

### **ITEM #2 – Presented by Mayor, Billy Yeomans**

Consider appointment of Council District 3, Post 2 representative. Mayor Yeomans explained the process of choosing a candidate for the District 3 vacant seat. Mayor Yeomans asked the appointed committee for the recommendation to fill the vacant Councilmember Seat. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower stated the committee would like to nominate Mr. Jimmy Jones as the next Councilmember. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to accept Jimmy Jones to fill the position of the vacant Council seat of District 3 Post 2 with Councilmember Gooch seconding the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

### **ITEM # 3- Presented by Mayor, Billy Yeomans**

Consider extension of Advanced Disposal's Solid Waste Contract for an additional five years, or through 2026. Mayor Yeomans explained the situation of Advance Disposal underbilling the City of Cochran. He also explained the extension of the contract with Advance for the next five years. Mayor Yeomans called for a motion to approve the contract extension with Advance Disposal for an additional five years beyond the 2021 expiration or through 2/28/26 and AD will not seek the past due monies that were not collected. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Thrower and seconded by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider purchase of two (2) F-150 pick-up trucks for the Public Works Department

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

Consider setting Saturday, April 27, 2019 as Clean-up Day in the City of Cochran, Richard Newbern stated the Council was asked to approve the National Clean Up day as Saturday, April 27, 2019. Mr. Newbern explained the City was awarded the reimbursable grant by EPD for scrap tires. This event will take place the week prior to Clean Up day April 22- April 27. Mayor Yeomans called for a motion to approve National Clean Up Day as April 27, 2019. Councilmember Gooch made the motion to accept April 27, 2019 as the National Clean Up Day in Cochran with Mayor Pro Tem Thrower seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

### **ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Mayor Billy Yeomans**

Consider installing public trash receptacle along Peter Street right of way. Councilmember Lemmon explained the reason why he is so interested in placing trash receptacles on Peter Street right of way. The receptacles will be mounted on cement slabs and emptied by Public Works on a regular basis. Mayor Yeomans called for a motion to approve trash receptacles on Peter Street. Motion was made by Councilmember Lemmon to install public trash receptacles along Peter Street with Mayor Pro Tem Thrower seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider appointment to DDA (Downtown Development Authority) The DDA was adopted by City Council by resolution in 1986 and has existed since then. Unexpired terms are still in effect. 3 of the 7 member terms. 3 terms are for 6 years, 2 terms for 4 years and 2 terms for 2 years. The Council is in position to appoint citizens to the DDA. The Council has discussed possible nominees for the possible slots. Mr. Newbern read aloud the nominees. Business owners: Dani Dykes. Michael Bryant, Jackie Bowen and Tonya Harris. The Council nominee is Carla Coley Citizen nominees are Glen Sawyer and Diane Lester. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to accept the nominees that were selected for the DDA with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

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

Consider entering into the Direct Leasing Program with GMA for the purchase of 2 Police cars to be funded through General Funds. Mr. Newbern stated this lease program allows the City to arrange the purchase of two fully equipped Dodge Chargers for the Police Department. This program keeps the City on the Two Car per Year arrangement. Mayor Yeomans called for a motion – Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to enter into the Direct Leasing Program with GMA to purchase 2 Police cars with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

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

Consider authorizing Fire Chief, Brock Wilcher, to file a grant application with GA Fire Fighter Standards and Training Council for Fireworks Tax. Fire Chief Wilcher presented the council with information on this grant in the Work Session prior to the Regular Meeting. This will be approx. \$12,500.00 grant application to be submitted to the GA Standards and Training Council for funds to purchase 20 portable radios. No matching funds are required by the City. Mayor called for a motion to allow Fire Chief Brock Wilcher to file a grant application to GA Firefighter Standards and training for \$125,500. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

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

- March 15- Friday-150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Meeting @ 10AM – Chamber Conference Room
- Mr. Newbern gave the activities throughout the week celebrating the 150 Anniversary
- March 13- GICH Meeting at Community House
- Norfolk Southern Update on closures
- Audit Update
- Municode Update
- Budget Updates

## **Council Discussion Items-**

### **Councilmember Carla Coley**

- Mrs. Coley – encouraged everyone to attend the 150 Birthday Celebration

### **Mayor Pro Tem Jon Thrower**

- Discussed the residence along Crest Drive with Skip Layton

### **Councilmember Regina Gooch**

- NONE

### **Councilmember Keith Anderson**

- Asked for updates on Service Station – Interested Person in the building; waiting on a response.

### **Councilmember Andrew Lemmon**

- NONE

## **Department Updates**

### **POLICE**

- **Chief Coley** – Biking Bleckley went well. Police will be present at the Birthday celebration. March 23 will be a busy day with the Birthday Celebration and the opening day of Recreation Department. A new Officer has graduated from mandate and will be present at a Council meeting soon.

### **FIRE**

- **Chief Wilcher** – Not present

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- **Willie Farrow** – Updated the Council on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He also gave an update on the Lake Linda Lift Station. (No spill into the lake nor stream.)

### **FINACIAL ADMINITRATOR**

- **Bonnie Raffield** – Updated the Council on the finances from the past month. Also gave some feedback on the storm water and fire fee status.
- **SKIP LAYTON** – Updated Council that the latest GEFA contracts are with the City Attorney. Construction will begin within 30 days of the signing of the contracts.
- **CITY CLERK** - Updated the Council on the upcoming GMA Conference in June.

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

- Work Session Prior to Council Meeting –April 9, 2019 @ 6:00 pm
  - Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting –April 9, 2019 @ 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.)

- Mary Pitts: Expressed her concerns about the Recreation Department and sewage to the bypass.
- Ethyl King: Questioned why the City Attorney was not present at the meeting.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion to go into executive session with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. @ 8:31PM.

**Adjourn to go into executive session @ 8:31pm**

**Adjourned executive session @ 9:30PM Motion made by Councilmember Gooch Seconded by Councilmember Lemmon to go back into regular session.**

**Back into regular session @ 9:32PM**

Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to move Code Enforcement to Police Department to be supervised by the Chief of Police effective March 13, 2019 with the budget staying under Administration until the new budget year. Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to offer the City Manager a two-year contract starting January 1, 2020 with a 5% pay increase effective March 13, 2019 with Councilmembers Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider purchase of two (2) F-150 pick-up trucks for the Public Works Department. Willie Farrow, Public Works Director stated the City received an insurance payment for the damaged F-150 pick up that was in an accident last year., The Council was asked to use the funds to purchase two used pick-up trucks. Mayor Pro Tem Thrower made the motion to purchase 2 new Ford F-150 trucks, one purchased with Insurance reimbursement funds and the other with SPLOST funds as recommended by the City Manager. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

Mayor stated to be adjourned to please stand. Everyone in favor stood.

**Adjourn @ 9:57 PM**

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk