



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
**Special Called Meeting @ 6:30 PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

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

City Attorney: Jim Elliott

Councilmembers Absent: Keith Anderson

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 6:30PM

The invocation was given by Councilmember Veal and the Pledge led by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the May 16, 2023, agenda. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the April 18, 2023, agenda with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 4 - Yes (Ates, Jones, Lemmon, Veal) 1 - No (Coley).

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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**

Interview of former DDA members regarding the ongoing Charter Sec. 2.15. Mayor stated Council was trying to close out the 2.15 inquiry on why 4 members of DDA resigned at the same time. Mrs. Dykes was sworn in by City Clerk. Three questions were asked to Mrs. Dykes. She answered the questions that were asked.

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

Consider the status of the City's CDBG application. Richard Newbern, City Manager stated this year's CDBG application consists of approximately 15 owner occupied housing improvements for the targeted area that includes the Robertson Crescent, Ash Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King Jr Drive. At the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council adopted the Revitalization Area Strategy and amended the Urban Redevelopment Plan map which is a grant requirement. The City Council also adopted and recognized the opportunity zone that has been in existence for approximately 5 years. On March 28, a public hearing took place where the citizens expressed their input. A great deal of leg work has been carried out for this project in this area such as write ups, getting letters from the target area members and from residence in the revalidation area strategy in the surrounding neighborhood. All this was to accomplish the goal of submitting a competitive CDBG application on or before Friday, June 2. Several phases will take place during the rehabilitation. Councilmember Gary Ates brother will be a beneficiary of the CDBG grant. Councilmember Anderson's mother is a resident in the target area. The two council members would have to sustain from any monetary vote regarding contracts which is a CDBG requirement. City manager recognized, Public Works Director, Willie Farrow, Administrative Assistant, Julie Peche, Regional Commission, and many others that have worked on this grant application.

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

Consider action on new housing construction started in the Colonial Village Subdivision. The mayor turned the meeting over to the City Attorney. The City Attorney stated he was made aware there were concerns about the construction in this subdivision. A plat was approved by the city in 2012 in which is recorded with the Clerk of Superior court at the courthouse. Mr. Elliott pointed out a few laws that pertain to the lots at the subdivision.

He then allowed Mr. Cribb to speak. Mr. Cribb spoke on this matter. He went over each step he took while building a house. Councilmember Coley asked Mr. Cribb some questions about his construction. Councilmember Coley asked the Council to place a moratorium on the construction until Council and P2 Construction can have a meeting to discuss the issues, allow construction to proceed with the ones already in progress and then come to a conclusion on how to proceed. Mr. Cribb stated he would be happy to sit down with the Council and discuss the issues at hand. The City Attorney spoke to the fact that a moratorium can only be approved in writing at the time of the approval. He will work on this and get back with Richard.

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

Budget Work Session and budget review- City Manager. Richard Newbern went over a power point he created. He went over the line items and a draft budget that he distributed to Council. The council heard from the Airport, Chamber of Commerce, IDA, DDA and Library.

1. Airport – Same as prior year
2. Chamber of Commerce – Same as prior year and to increase the hotel/motel tax to 8%
3. DDA – Mr. Howell, DDA Chairman – Same as prior year
4. IDA – Requesting - \$55,00
5. Library – Same as prior year
6. Recreation Department – No one in attendance

Mayor adjourned the meeting @ 8:17pm.

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk

**APPROVED**