



## **POST AGENDA**

**January 13, 2026**

**Cochran City Council**

**Regular Called Meeting 6:00 PM**

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

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### **City Council**

### **City Staff**

Carla D Coley, Mayor	Richard Newbern, City Manager
Trecia Gardner Council Member ( <i>District 1, Post 1</i> )	Tiffany Lamm, Interim City Clerk
Gary Ates, Council Member ( <i>District 1, Post 2</i> )	Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Rufus Veal, Council Member ( <i>District 2 Post 1</i> )	
Lonnie Tedders, Council Member ( <i>District 2, Post 2</i> )	
Dianne Lester Council Member ( <i>District 3, Post 1</i> )	
Shane Savant, Council Member ( <i>District 3, Post 2</i> )	

- I. Call to Order** by Interim City Clerk @ 6:00 pm
- II. Invocation** by Councilman Gary Ates
- III. Pledge of Allegiance** by Councilman Shane Savant
  
- IV. Attendance-** All in attendance creating a quorum.
  
- V. Swearing in of Mayor and Council by the Interim City Clerk**
  
- VI. Pass of the gavel to New Mayor Carla D. Coley**

- **Attendance & Agenda**

- Full council present
- Approval of prior meeting minutes and agenda

- **Recognitions**

- Swearing-in of the City of Cochran's first female mayor
- Recognition of historic milestones and presentation of the official City of Cochran flag

- **Appointments & Administrative Actions**

- Appointment of the 2026 Mayor Pro Tem
- Approval of the 2026 Budget Calendar
- Authorization to pursue creation of a Public Facilities Authority

- **Financial & Audit Items**

- Acceptance of \$46,135.89 in Hurricane Lee reimbursement funds
- Presentation of the FY 2024–2025 audit with an unmodified (clean) opinion
- Discussion of enterprise fund performance and investment of idle funds

- **Licenses & Fees**

- Approval of two six-month liquor license extensions
- Adoption of updates to the city fee schedule, including:
  - \$25 after-hours utility reconnection fee
  - \$25 zoning verification letter fee
  - \$200 double-wide mobile home fee

- **Building & Development**

- Termination of county building inspection agreement
- Approval of contract with Falcon Design for building inspections (City retains 80% of fees)

- **Grants & Capital Projects**

- Approval to apply for the 2026 CHIP Grant (\$500,000 with \$30,000 match)
- Approval to pursue a CDBG application focused on water and sewer infrastructure
- Updates on:
  - Peacock Street drainage project
  - Willie Basby Park upgrades
  - Comprehensive Plan joint meeting with the County

- **Items Tabled**

- Peyton Williams Learning Center / Cochran Helps proposal (additional review requested)

- **Department Reports**

- Police Department monthly report
- Finance report indicating stable budget trends

- **Council & Mayor Remarks**

- Emphasis on teamwork, accountability, early agenda packet distribution, and serving the citizens of Cochran

- **Executive Session**

- Council voted to enter executive session for:
  - Property acquisition
  - Personnel matters
  - Potential litigation
- Informal discussion occurred while council remained in executive session, followed by a formal vote to return to open session.
- Council clarified that a previous personnel vote from a called meeting had been vetoed by the former mayor, leaving prior conditions in place and requiring the matter to be reconsidered.
- A motion was made and seconded to terminate City Clerk Candace Summerall's administrative leave and return her to work effective January 20.
- The motion passed by majority vote after roll call.
- With no further business, the meeting concluded and adjourned.