

CITY OF COCHRAN
City Council Meeting
Cochran, Georgia
Tuesday, August 12, 2014

The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 7:00 P.M. in the Cochran Community House. The invocation was given by Councilmember Willie Basby, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Michael Stoy
Councilmember Willie Basby
Councilmember Tommy Guyton
Councilmember Andrew Lemmon
Councilmember Charles Cranford
Councilmember Eric Bisher
Councilmember Gary Ates
Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Stoy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Basby and seconded by Councilmember Lemmon to adopt the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ates and seconded by Councilmember Basby to approve the July 8, 2014 Work Session Minutes and the Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 1 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

Resolution 33 -14; Approve up to \$5 million of bonds to refund and refinance the City’s 1989 and 2002 bonds and to start work on the water and sewer system improvements.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept Resolution 33-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 2 - Presented by City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Resolution 31-14; Approve the supplemental contract for the Gas Portfolio IV project between the City of Cochran and the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to accept Resolution 31-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 3 - Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Notice to hold a city election to determine whether or not the city shall be authorized to exempt from ad valorem taxation certain types of inventory of goods.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept this notice. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 4 - Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Ordinance 07-14; Establish administrative procedures for the conduct of Municipal Elections in the City of Cochran, Georgia, and for the appointing of election officials and compensation for same, as well as adopting other rules and regulations for qualifying, conducting and electing city officials.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 07-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 5 - Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Resolution 32 -14; Call for a Freeport election to be held Tuesday, November 4, 2014, to determine whether or not the governing authority of the City of Cochran shall be authorized to exempt from ad valorem taxation certain types of inventory of goods.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept Resolution 32-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 6 – Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Implement new Customer Service Policy including updates to cut-off fees.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to table this until the September 9, 2014 meeting. Councilmembers Cranford, Bisher and Lemmon voted yea and Councilmember Guyton voted nay.

Item # 7 - Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Discuss increasing the maximum accumulation of annual leave to match the state's current maximum accumulation of 360 hours for all city employees. The city's current maximum accumulation for annual leave is 200 hours for regular personnel and 400 for personnel who are non-exempt firefighters.

Tabled.

Item # 8 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

City Council are allowed to receive \$10,000 life insurance from OneAmerica.

No discussion.

City Manager Updates

- Testing 2 inch and larger natural gas meters. A loss rate has necessitated a testing of all 2 inch and larger natural gas meters. Interim City Manager Murkerson has checked with several companies that fix or repair meters. Middle Georgia Meter Testing is recommended to test the meters.

- Chamber of Commerce Updates Handouts presented to Council.

- Water Department Updates Handouts presented to Council.

- Fire Department Updates Handouts presented to Council.

- **Police Update by Lt. Heath Williams**
 - * Walmart Update
 - * NAACP Event
 - * GOHS Grant Reimbursement
 - * Q&A on Monthly Reports
 - * New Firearms Law
 - * GTS Proposal from Mr. Bullard
 - Mr. Bullard presented information on tax delinquency and how GTS could assist the city with collections.

City Updates

Mayor Stoy reported that 21 applications had been received for the City Manager position. The committee will conduct telephone interviews on six of the applicants.

Council Discussions

Would like an ordinance to place meters on sewage in order to correctly charge residents that have city water but not city sewage.

A new director has been hired for the Recreation Department; David Harrell.

Councilmember Lemmon would like an update on abandoned houses.

Councilmember Bisher commended the city workers for a job well done on the new sidewalks.

Public Comments

Bobby Pettis wants to know if someone will be watching to make sure the bond is paid since it will be on a 30 year schedule. Mayor Stoy assured Mr. Pettis that parameters were going to be placed on the bond resolution.

Catherine Guyton inquired about the Animal Control Officer and the fact that he has no city cellphone. He should not have to use his personal cellphone.

Lisa Blackshear wants the city to check into the gravel that she has been asking for and the break-ins at her house.

Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:20 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to leave Executive Session at 8:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion approving the reorganization of the Public Works Department.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Lisa Chastain
City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)