



**Cochran City Council
Thursday, December 9, 2014
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

Present: Mayor Stoy, Councilmembers Willie Basby, Gary Ates, Eric Bisher, Charles Cranford, Tommy Guyton and Andrew Lemmon.

Call to order by the Mayor. The invocation was given by Councilmember Willie Basby followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Eric Bisher.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to approve the November 13, 2014 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes, November 13, 2014 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the November 24, 2014 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously with all in favor.

Item # 1 – Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Ordinance 15-14; Amend a certain section of the Charter of the City. Section 2.22 of the Cochran City Charter is amended so Ordinances can be considered and adopted or rejected by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish. Will read again in January 2015.

Item # 2 – Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

GDOT contracts. The City is the grant recipient therefore, the City will execute the agreement. Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion for the City to receive the grant funds. Motion carried with all in favor.

Item # 3 – Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson

Recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission to grant the rezoning request of Angela Ates with special conditions. Ms. Ates is requesting to rezone from R1 to R2. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimous for granting the rezoning request provided the Mayor and City Council approve one of two options that was provided by the Commission. Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept the variance/wavier option. Motion carried with all in favor.

Item # 4 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

Annual review of Strategic Plan. The Mayor will present to the new City Manager Richard Newbern upon his arrival on December 15, 2014.

Mayor Updates

Discussion of abandoned houses. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon requested to add 127 Fifth Street to the list of abandoned houses.

City Signs. Rethink how we wish to market our city. Make sure we comply with our new sign ordinance.

Mayor Stoy thanked Captain Jeff Trawick for his work with the Veterans Parade.

City Manager Updates

Handouts with department updates were presented to Council.

Fleet Maintenance Policy – Council wants City Manager Newbern to review before approving.

Street Light Policy – Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to approve the Street Light Policy. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussed long period of utility bills, new rates and gas usage for the month of November.

Chief Coley reported that he and Detective Jared Daniels are participating with Communities in School. Chief Coley will begin working on a certification process for the Police Department. A Community Forum will begin in January 2015. Police Department has partnered with NIXEL, a public communications service. Citizens are encouraged to subscribe to this free service. A needy family has been identified for the Shop With A Cop program. Police will take them to Wal-Mart to purchase needed items.

Skip Layton gave an update on the mapping for the water and sewer system. He is working with PWD Grady Shirey in setting up and collecting the information. This is a six month process. He also met with the surveyor for the easement at MGSC.

Public Comments

Fred Wilson discussed the increase of the water and sewer rates. Carol Denmark discussed the garbage bins at her local business. Billy Yeomans discussed the high consumption on his utility bill. Eve Wilson discussed her property. Interim City Manager Murkerson and PWD Grady Shirey have looked at the property. They will have the City's engineer look to see what the City can or cannot do to alleviate the flooding problems.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to enter Executive Session. Motion carried with all in favor.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Bisher seconded the motion to exit Executive Session. Motion carried with all in favor.

Council unanimously agreed to move forward with purchasing the 7.62 acres of undeveloped land on Peter Street adjoining Cedar Hill Cemetery. The City will issue a one-time payment to include closing costs.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Bisher seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 8:35 pm.

Lisa Chastain
City Clerk