

**CITY OF COCHRAN  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COCHRAN, GEORGIA**

March 11, 2014

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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.

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PRESENT: Mayor Michael Stoy  
Councilmember Charles Cranford, Mayor Pro Tem  
Councilmember Willie Basby  
Councilmember Eric Bisher  
Councilmember Tommy Guyton  
Councilmember Andrew Lemmon  
City Manager Ray Gibson

ABSENT: Councilmember Gary Ates

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Stoy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Basby to approve the February 24, 2014 minutes and seconded by Councilmember Cranford.

**Item # 2 – Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Ordinance 02-14: (Public Hearing) Russell and Elaine Smith of Cochran, GA; RZ-01-14;** Council District 2. The request is for a rezoning from R-1 (Single Family Residential District) to R-2 (Multi-Family Residential District) for property located at 235 West Peter Street. The property is located in Land Lot 174 of the 21st District, consisting of 0.32 +/- acres, and the request is for a boarding house/recovery center. City Manager Gibson opened the floor first to those in favor. Mr. Russell Smith and another citizen spoke. Mr. Smith asked the council to step out of the box and allow the Angels in Flight to stay at this location. He said that once the residents left, he would ask for the property to go back to R-1.

City Manager Gibson then allowed for those opposed to come and speak. Mrs. Pearl Kriendler, Ms. Donis Fowler and Mr. Lonnie Barlow, attorney for Mrs. Kriendler, all spoke in opposition.

Councilmember Basby asked for comments from Councilmember Cranford and Bisher since this is in their district. Both supported the Planning and Zoning Committee's decision to deny the rezoning.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to support the Planning and Zoning Committee and give the Angels in Flight 60 days to vacate. Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 3 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 06-14:** Request to approve the City's Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to approve the City's Strategic Plan. Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 4 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 07-14:** Request to approve revised job descriptions for the Administration Department of the City.

Councilmember Basby made a motion to approve the three revised job descriptions for the Administration Department. Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 5 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 08-14:** Request to approve change order number 2 for the Vernon Road resurfacing project to include the resurfacing of Lewis Street from Fourth Street to Sixth Street.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to approve the change order for the Vernon Road resurfacing project to include the resurfacing of Lewis Street. The amount of \$26,765 was added. Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 6 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Ordinance 03-14:** Request to approve a budget amendment for the year ended June 30, 2013 to include the Hotel/Motel budget amendment.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to approve the budget amendment to include the Hotel/Motel budget amendment. Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 7 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Ordinance 04-14:** Request to approve the settlement of interfund receivables and payables by transfers from various funds for the year ended June 30, 2013.

Councilmember Basby made a motion to approve the settlement of interfund receivables and payables. Councilmember Guyton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 8 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 11-14:** Request to approve a natural gas utility consulting agreement with Bruce Bagnasco from AMEC.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to approve the contract with AMEC. Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 9 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Resolution 12-14:** Request to approve Bob Roberson as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrator and G. Ben Turnipseed as the CDBG Engineering Consultant.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant. Councilmember Bisher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 10 - Presented by Mayor Stoy**

**Resolution 13-14:** Request to approve natural gas utility firm contract changes for the City of Cochran to provide sufficient firm services to meet the City's firm service requirements plus providing additional capacity for interruptible demand. The reserve is going away and without it we would pay a penalty for going over our supply.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to approve the contract with Councilmember Basby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 12 - Presented by Ray Gibson, City Manager**

**Ordinance 01-14** – An ordinance to amend the code of ordinances, City of Cochran, Georgia, to repeal Division 1, Sections 2-117 through 2-127, regarding personnel policies; to create a new Division 1., Sections 2-117 through 2-150, Entitled “City of Cochran Personnel Policy Handbook”; to provide for penalties; to provide for codification; to provide for severability; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide an effective date; and, for other purposes.

City Attorney Leo Phillips has prepared an agreement.

**City Manager Updates**

The city is putting in water lines at the Arts Alliance Building. Walmart will utilize this building for approximately three months to conduct interviews.

The City's Website has been launched. The site will give residents updates, etc. Some of the site is still under construction.

Interim Police Chief Chris Coley gave an update concerning the police department. He thanked the council for approving the License Plate Recognition System which has been installed in two patrol cars. Coley also reported that there are some delays in setting up an impound lot due to the repairs that are required. There have been complaints about the noise coming from Club Flavors. This is being addressed. The City Marshall is also addressing dilapidated buildings in the city. A couple of court cases are coming up with three cases pending to address this issue. The City Marshall will also begin collecting ad valorem taxes on trailers. A county employee will partner with the City Marshall to help collect. City Manager Gibson asked Coley about the collection of old taxes getting applied to the incorrect year. Moving forward, this should not be an issue. Councilmember Basby asked Coley if the police was utilizing the Learning Center. Coley stated no but he did have some ideas for usage. The city will have an auction soon for seized items. Also, Coley stated that free 911 telephones were now available at the police department for anyone that doesn't have a cell phone.

Classic Main Street Update – Beth Harding announced the arrival of the Cushmen. This is their 25<sup>th</sup> year coming to Cochran.

Several citizens asked to speak concerning the need for lights in the alley behind the R & B building and the need for resurfacing Ash Street. City Manager Gibson is making a list for those in need of paving. TSPLOST funds will be used and the city will contract for potholes. Jackson Street is also a concerning due to the flooding onto personal property. One local resident reported issues at 141 Thompson Street. There have been loud arguments and shooting in recent months. Coley asked for help in calling 911 to report these incidents.

Officers Trawick and Williams asked to make comments for the support of Interim Police Chief Coley. Both spoke highly of Coley and indicated that the morale of the department is at its highest.

### **Council Discussion Items**

City Manager Gibson inquired with council on options for viewing council minutes. Copying minutes is wasting paper and time. Reports and other items can be downloaded faster on a PC or tablet.

City Charter discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Basby and seconded by Councilmember Guyton to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion to come out of Executive Session with Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept the hold harmless agreement with Ms. Leola Sheneth Jones. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Basby made the motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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Lisa Chastain, City Clerk  
City of Cochran

(CITY SEAL)