



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**June 9, 2020**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans Mayor Pro Tem Jones

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

Call to order by Mayor Billy Yeomans @ 7:00PM

The invocation was given by Councilmember Veal followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Anderson.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the June 9, 2020 Agenda as presented. Councilmember Coley asked for #9 to be added to the agenda to discuss reopening of City Hall and all Administrative Offices including the Police Department. Councilmember Coley made the motion to add item #9 to Agenda to discuss the reopening of City Hall and Police Department with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion.

Motion passed 4-2 (YES – Coley, Anderson, Jones, Lemmon) (NO- Ates, Veal).

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the one addition. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the agenda with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 6-0.

May 12, 2020 minutes.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from May 12, 2020 Regular Scheduled Meeting. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to accept 5/12/20 minutes as presented with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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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**

Employee of the Month – Willie Farrow, Public Works Director presented John Dauberman with a certificate, a \$100 check, and a subway gift card.

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

Fire Chief “Pin” Recognition. Fire Chief Brock Wilcher presented 4 fire fighters with a pin of recognition. The fire fighters received a call at Middle GA State University on 1/16/2020. Lt Cobb, Sargent Warren, Firefighter Garlington, and Firefighter Conner saved the life of an unresponsive student. Chief Wilcher thanked each fire fighter for their heroic efforts.

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

Proclamation- National Safety Month- Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation for National Safety Month.

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

Consider Resolution for funding for the Cochran Municipal Airport. City Manager explained that the Council is asked to adopt a Resolution for the recent \$30,000 federal CARES Act grant that the Cochran Airport recently applied for with GDOT. Jim Washburn spoke on the behalf of the Airport Authority spoke about the Resolution. Councilmember Jones made the motion to adopt the Resolution with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.6-0

**ITEM # 5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider adoption of the FY 2020-21 Budget for the City of Cochran. City Manager explained the ways to adopt the budget and the changes that would be made as the Council wishes. Councilmember Jones made the motion to adopt the ordinance for the Budget for the City of Cochran for the FY July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2021 with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. This vote was a cast by saying “I”. 6-0

**ITEM # 6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approval of Sewer Easement located on property owned by the Middle Georgia State University. The City Manager explained the easement which is located on the property owned by the Middle GA State University. The City will benefit because the easement prevents the college from blocking the City’s access to the sewer line and manholes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the Sewer Easement located on the property owned by the MGSU with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider appointing a voting delegate to the GMA virtual convention. City Manager explained to the Council the voting credentials of a Council member to participate in the GMA virtual business meeting that will be held during the virtual convention. The virtual convention will be held between Monday, June 29 and Thursday, July 2, 2020. Council member Ates made the motion to approve Mayor Yeomans and Mayor Pro Tem Jones to be the two voting delegates with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

### **ITEM # 8 – Presented by City Councilmember Ates**

Discussion of moving Code Enforcement under Public Work's Department. Councilmember Ates stated he would like to put the Code Enforcement under Public Works because the Police Department does not have time to supervise James. Councilmember Ates strongly feels the Ex-Code Enforcer, who is still certified, should be the one to be the supervisor over James. Several Councilmembers felt like Public Works Director would not have time to supervise Code Enforcement. Councilmember Coley gave her opinion about the way she felt about the Code Enforcement being moved to Public Works. She did research of some Cities throughout the state as similar to the City of Cochran. The Council had a brief discussion on the move of Code Enforcement. Councilmember Ates made the motion to move Code Enforcement to Public Works with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Mayor called for vote.

Yes – 3

No- 3

Mayor broke tie voting Yes 4-3

### **ITEM # 9 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Discussion of opening of City Hall/Police Department – Council had a brief discussion about the way City Hall should re-open to provide more efficient customer service. Motion was made by Councilmember Anderson for City Hall to return back to work full time Monday, June 15 and to reopen City Hall doors July 6, 2020 with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

### **ITEM # 10 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider removal of the first two rows of seats in the City auditorium. Councilmember Ates made the motion to allow the Chamber to remove two rows of seats in the auditorium with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 6-0.

#### **Council Discussion Items:**

- Lemmon –None.
- Jones – None
- Coley – None
- Anderson – Not take COVID lightly. Be safe.
- Veal – Mentioned to add the moving of the chairs in the Auditorium to the agenda.
- Ates – Everyone to stay safe during COVID

Councilmember Veal made a motion to add number 10 on the agenda to consider removal of the first two row of the auditorium seats and the back two rows with Council member Ates seconded the motion. Motion was passed 5-Approved (Veal, Anderson, Ates, Jones, Lemmon) with 1-Not Approving (Coley)

#### **Announcement of Upcoming Meeting and Events**

- ✓ **Work Session Prior to Council Meeting July 14, 2020 @ 5:30PM**
- ✓ **Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting –July 14, 2020 @ 7PM**

Councilmember Ates made a motion to adjourn with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion.

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:34PM**

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk