



**MINUTES
Cochran City Council
March 13, 2018
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Robert Anderson, Andrew Lemmon & Jon Thrower

Absent: Councilmember Keith Anderson

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Andrew Lemmon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower.

Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion and Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion to approve the Agenda for Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Billy Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the minutes for February 13, 2018. No corrections or additions were added. Mayor Yeomans stated if no corrections or additions were made, the minutes from Tuesday, February 13, 2018 meeting are approved as distributed.

- 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

Consider adopting Resolution of support for the application of Affordable Equity Partners to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Mr. Newbern introduced Mrs. Mandy Young to address the Council about adopting a resolution supporting the construction of Evergreen Crossing as an affordable Housing Residential Family Community. Mrs. Young told Council the name of the development would be Evergreen Crossing. An application will be submitted at the end of May 2018. The community will consist of 50 units. Mrs. Young passed out a flyer of what the facility will look like. Mr. Newbern asked when would we hear from the application. Mrs. Young answered in November 2018. Annexation into the City will be one of the major priorities when application is approved. Mayor Pro Tem asked if she could go ahead and run sewage out to the bypass and Mrs. Young stated the application will have to be approved before any construction could be started. Councilmember Lemmon asked would the units face the bypass? She said no, the back would be to the bypass. Natural buffers would also be placed between the units and the highway. Mayor Yeomans asked for a motion to adopt the resolution of support for the application of affordable equity partners to the GA Dept. of Community Affairs for Low income housing tax credits? Councilmember Gooch made the motion with Mayor Pro Tem Gilman second the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Yeomans stated at this time we will go into a Public Hearing: This Public Hearing is called to order at 7:07pm. To provide any interested parties the opportunity to express their views or concerns in accordance with the P.C.G.A. Section 36-67A-3(c).

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on Norfolk Southern Railroad's plan to close railroad crossings at Mendel Lane and Coal Chute Road, and add safety gates, lights and bells at the rail crossings at Lewis Street and Railroad Avenue. This Public Hearing was advertised for public input on the stated changes. Norfolk has agreed to compensate the City with \$50,000.00 in funds and facilitate funding from GA DOT in the amount of \$15,000.00. The Railroad also indicated that they can provide additional discretionary funds up to \$5,000.00. Mayor Yeomans asked if there was any public input for or opposed to this resolution. No comments were made.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Resolution regarding Norfolk Southern Railroad's plan to close railroad crossings at Mendel Lane and Coal Chute Road, and add safety gates, lights and bells at the rail crossings at Lewis Street and Railroad Avenue, in exchange for considerations from Norfolk Southern Railroad. Mayor Yeomans asked for a motion. Councilmember Thrower

made the motion to adopt the resolution with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on zoning ordinance amendment for rezoning of 115 West Cherry Street (Parcel No. A14 and vacant lot facing First Street and Post Office Lane (A14 059) from R1 to C1 Central Business District- Owner is Senior Advantage Group, Inc. represented by Michael Bryant. At the Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2018 held at 6:30PM located at the Community House, they voted unanimously to recommend rezoning the two lots from R-1 to C-1 central business district. A staff report was included in Councilmember's packet for review. Mayor asked for any public comments. Mayor Yeomans asked if there were any public input for or opposed to the ordinance amendment? Public asked what was the purpose for the rezoning? Michael Bryant responded he would have his Insurance office there.

ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider zoning ordinance amendment for rezoning of 115 West Cherry Street (Parcel No. A14 058) and vacant lot facing First Street and Post Office Lane (A14 059) from R1 to C1 Central Business District- Owner is Senior Advantage Group, Inc. represented by Michael Bryant. Mayor asked for motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to approve the ordinance for rezoning with Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconding the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on zoning ordinance amendment for rezoning a 5-acre tract located at the corner of Peter Street and Sixth Street from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Multi-family, Glenn Sawyer, Owner. At the Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 6:30pm meeting at the Community House the committee voted unanimously to recommend rezoning the five (5) acre tract from R-1 single family residential to R-2 multi-family. A staff report was included in Councilmember's packet for review. Mayor Yeomans asked for any public input either for or opposed to the ordinance amendment?

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider zoning ordinance amendment for rezoning a 5-acre tract located at the corner of Peter Street and Sixth Street from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Multi-family, Glenn Sawyer, Owner. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the ordinance amendment. Mayor Pro Tem made a motion with Councilmember Jon Thrower seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Yeomans stated let the record show the public hearing was closed at 7:13pm.

ITEM # 8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Discuss and consider requirements regarding members of the public who wish to address the City Council during Council meetings. Councilman Gilman presented an ordinance to change the way we operate in Council meetings hoping everything will operate smoother. A change will be made to the sign in sheet; sign in and put name, street address and the concern that needs to be addressed. During the meeting the public can only talk about what is on the agenda. When public is speaking, they only can speak to Chairperson instead of Councilmembers. A time limit of 3 minutes will also be added with the maximum of 10 people to speak under public comments. Councilmember Robert Anderson spoke up, he stated he did not agree with this ordinance Councilmember Gilman stated they would if the Chairman allowed them to because the Chairman runs the meeting. Councilmen stated the Council meetings are business meetings for the City of Cochran not for someone to get up and bash the Council. A citizen from the audience asked if they could give their opinion first before the motion was made. At the Mayor's discretion, he listened to a few citizens. Mr. Glenn Sawyer stated his opinion along with Mr. Tommy Guyton, Mrs. Catherin Guyton, Renne Cannon and Mike Stoy. Councilmember Jon Thrower was concerned if someone had a real issue and came to the meeting wanting to talk about it, then the Council could not hear it if this ordinance was passed. Mayor asked for all in favor as stated to raise their right hands. Councilmember Lemmon stated he wanted to make an amendment to change it from 3 to 5 minutes. Mayor explained there was more to the ordinance than just the time frame. He asked again who was in favor of the ordinance as it stands show of hands. One raised hand for (Mayor Pro Tem Gilman) and all others against. Motion failed.

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of a bid from Precise Digital from Wesley Chapel, Florida in the amount of \$5,116.65 for Computer upgrade, software and accessories for Police Detective Interview Room. Funds are budgeted under Police Small Equipment. Mr. Newbern stated the Precise Digital was the lowest bidder for this project. He then turned the meeting over to the Police Chief for further explanation. Chief Coley stated the police department was in need to replace the computer system and camera's in the interview room and four bids were submitted. Chief asked for the approval of the bid to replace equipment that is needed. Mayor asked if anyone had questions for the Chief. Councilman Anderson discussed some concerns of his with Chief Coley. Mayor asked for a motion to be made. Councilmember Lemmon made a motion with Mayor Pro Tem Gilman seconded the motion. All in favor raised right hand. Four was in favor (Councilmembers Thrower, Gooch, Lemmon & Mayor Pro Tem Gilman) One opposed (Councilmember Anderson)

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Report from Cochran Housing Team on the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program and Cochran Cares logo. Mr. Newbern gave a presentation on GICH training and retreat. He gave an update on Clean-up day and scrap tire pick up day. This will take place on Saturday, April 21, 2018. The GICH Team will be a big part in this day.

ITEM # 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a speed breaker/speed bump on Seventh Street near the Seventh Street and Ann Street intersection. Mr. Newbern deferred the meeting to Councilmember Lemmon who had a concern about placing the speed bump at the location. Councilmember Lemmon stated the residents are concerned about fast drivers on that road. Mayor asked for a motion. Councilman Lemmon made the motion to approve the speed bump to be placed at designated location with Mayor Pro Tem Gilman seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

ITEM # 12- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of adding a full-time position to the Public Works Department, and approve budget amendment for such position. The new position will be Mechanic I Laborer, who will operate a zero-turn mower and perform other duties in the Street Division. Mr. Newbern gave his input on this position. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the positions. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion with Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconding. Motion was passed with all voting in favor.

ITEM # 13 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of resolution for 2 grants with the GEMA for the purchase & installation of a mass alert notification system and purchase of a siren to provide emergency notifications. Mr. Newbern gave his explanation of the resolution and asked Chief Coley to give the update on this project. Mayor asked for a motion to approve this resolution. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion and Councilwomen Regina Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

ITEM # 14 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of proposed financing Resolution for new gas line construction to serve additional customers by Jointly Owned Natural Gas. Mr. Newbern explained the original resolution was signed at the Retreat in January but just a few items have changed. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Councilwomen Gooch made the motion with Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

Public Comments (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of five minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

- Mary Pitts – Mrs. Pitts questioned about jobs coming to Cochran and restaurants for the college kids and the community. Mayor Yeomans stated the jobs were in the works but cannot be discussed at this time.
- Mike Stoy- Mr. Stoy approached the podium and read a letter. After reading the letter, he gave a copy to the City Clerk, Tracy Jones to distribute to Council.
- Tommy Guyton – Mr. Guyton spoke to the Council about the Freedom Information Act.

VIII. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates

- ❖ City Manager distributed LMIG projects
- ❖ CBRD Opening Day Saturday 3/24/18 @4pm
- ❖ GICH Housing Meeting 3/29/18 at Chamber

- ❖ GMA District 9 meeting 4/12/18 from 6-9pm
- ❖ Clean Up day 4/21/18

IX. Mayor Updates

- Mayor Yeomans thanked each Councilmember for doing a great job in getting work done at the Retreat in McRae.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Monthly report was provided in the packets that were handed out earlier in the week. Chief Coley asked if anyone had questions, he would be glad to answer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Fire Chief Kevin Noles stated the monthly report was delivered to earlier in the week in the packets. He asked for any questions and stated he would be happy to answer. Chief Noles thanked all who bought plates from the CFD.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: None

CITY CLERK UPDATES: Mrs. Jones stated she registered all Councilmembers going to Savannah in June for the GMA Conference.

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE:

Willie Farrow stated Cochran was approved for the Scrap tire project. This will be reimbursed by EPA and he gave brief summary of the project. Gave brief summary of the demolition taken place.

SKIP LAYTON UPDATES:

Skip Layton, City Engineer, provided Council with a monthly report on projects going on at this time. GEFA CWSRF 15-002, GEFA DWSRF 15-019, DWSRF 15-009, CDBG 2015, CDBG 2016, Cochran/Bleckley Recreation Complex, & Cochran Storm Drainage Improvements.

There were no other department updates.

X. Council Discussion Items

XI. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- GICH Meeting Tuesday March 29, 2018 @ 10 AM City Hall
- Work Session April 10, 2018 @ 5:30 pm
- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – April 10, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Thrower made the motion to adjourn and Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

Adjourn @ 9:25.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk