



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
August 17, 2021
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates
Councilmembers: Carla Coley, Keith Anderson, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal
Absent: Councilmember Jimmy Jones

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

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

Mayor called for a motion to approve the August 17, 2021; agenda as presented.

Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to accept the agenda as presented with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from July 13, 2021. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to accept 7/13/21 minutes with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

- 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. Employee of the month was awarded to Kyle Dykes, Fire Fighter. Fire Chief Brock Wilcher presented Mr. Dykes with a plaque and a check for \$100.00.

ITEM #2 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on close-out of 2016 Railroad Avenue CDBG.

Mayor Yeomans read the following: A total of 37 low- to – moderate income households with 89 residents benefited from this project. The project included reconstruction of Railroad Ave, resurfacing of Caboose & Locomotive Lanes and North Railroad Street, area drainage improvements and upgraded water/sewer line and service connections.

Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 7:06PM.

This Public hearing is called to provide any interested parties with an opportunity to express their views or concerns in the accordance with the appropriate section of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The City of Cochran has completed CDBG project # 16P-X-012-2-5842. The purpose of this hearing is to provide citizens with the availability of the final quarterly report to review project accomplishments and to receive citizen's comments. All citizens were invited to this hearing to discuss this project. The notice of this hearing was published in the Times Journal Pos on August 5, 2021, informing citizens of this Public Hearing. Mayor called for any public input for or against this CDBG project.

No public input was given.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:08PM.

ITEM #3 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Contract proposal for Women prison work crew- Pulaski State and amendment to budget. Mayor Yeomans stated the cost of this contact per year is \$49,318.00. If approved this will go into effect on September 1, 2021. Remaining cost for this year will be \$41,096.69. The general fund must be amended to add this amount as a line item to the general funds budget. This expenditure will be covered by amending the budget transfer from the gas fund to the general fund in the amount of \$339,100 to \$380,196.69. If the prison work crew does not work, they do not get paid. This crew will help the Public Works Department with the public building and so the city part time workers can focus on the cemetery. Mr. Newbern stated the City Attorney provided a resolution and contract for the Mayor and Council to approve the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract. The city provides the transportation, and the prison provided the personnel to perform maintenance around town. A brief discussion was between the Council and Richard about the contract amount and of the scope of work in the contract. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the contract proposal for the women prison work crew with Council being provided a list of cost and a plan scope of work that the workers will do with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider authorizing the filing of a grant for State infrastructure funds. Council was asked to authorize to file a grant application with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting. The City can apply for water and sewer improvements in the amount of approximately \$900,000 with a match of \$300,000 to be funded by ARPA funds. Richard stated the time was of the essence and action needed to be taken to move forward. Councilmember Coley made the motion to authorize the filing of a grant for state infrastructure find with Mayor Pro Tem Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider expanding 2021 CHIP Grant Funds to Census tract 7902. The Council was asked to consider expanding 2021 CHIP Grant find eligibility to census tract 7902. This Census Tract includes all of District One in the city. The current \$400,00 award can only be spent in the Census tract of 7903, which is located entirely south of east and west Dykes Streets tract. Mayor Pro Tem Ates asked if the work has been completed and if the residents were satisfied with the work. Richard stated all but one was completed. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to expand the CHIP Grant Funds to Census tract 7902 with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider applying for a \$7,700 Safety & Liability Grant through the GMA GIRMA Program. Council was asked to apply for a grant through GMA in the amount of \$7,700 to provide safety equipment and training for employees. Safety policies will be updated, and a Training Coordinator will be on staff. Councilmember Coley made the motion to apply for the Safety and Liability Grant trough GMA in the mount of \$7,700 with Mayor Pro Tem Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #7- Presented by Mayor, Billy Yeomans

Airport Grant Contract for physical layout project Council was asked to approve the contract with GA DOT for the development of the Airport Layout Plan and survey. The City of Cochran is the owner of the Cochran Airport, and the layout plan must be updated every ten years. This contract will be with Holt Consulting Co. of Duluth, GA. Grant total is for \$183,733.75. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to approve the contract with GA DOT for the development with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

ITEM #8 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider conveying the 2007 Chevrolet Impala to the Airport Authority for their use as a courtesy car. Council was asked to consider conveying the City's Impala to the Airport Authority. Mr. Washburn stated this vehicle would be a very nice thing to have. This will be used as a courtesy car for individuals who fly in to have a reliable means of transportation if needed while on Cochran. Mayor Pro Tem Ates questioned about the Tahoe and if it was able to be fixed. Mr. Washburn answered yes, and he explained the cost would not be feasible. Richard and Council discussed the possible use of the Tahoe and the option of it being a surplus item. Councilmember Coley made the motion to convey the Impala to the Cochran Airport Authority to use as a courtesy car and in return the City will receive the title and will surplus the SUV with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #9 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adding speed bump at 199 MLK Jr. Drive in front of Sproutland Learning Center. Councilmember Anderson stated Mrs. Lawson, owner of Sproutland Learning Center, called and asked Mr. Anderson if Council would consider placing a speed bump on MLK close to her daycare due to the amount of traffic that comes through everyday speeding. Councilmember Anderson went to the location and observed where the speed bump would be most beneficial. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to place the speed bump on MLK where requested with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #10 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Bond Resolution for water and sewer refinancing bonds. Bond Resolution was to establish financial parameter for the Refunding Bonds so the city can begin the mandatory bond validation process in the Bleckley County Superior Court. Supplemental Bond Resolution will be late September. Possibly a called meeting will be needed September 28, 2021. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the resolution for water and sewer refinancing bonds with Mayor Pro Tem Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

City Manager Update:

1. Recreation Trails Application Filed
2. Rental Assistance – Renters and Landlords for Rental Assistance
3. DDA Directors Position – Close out August 20
4. Code Enforcement Close out August 26

Council Discussion Items:

District 1 (Anderson- None

Ates- Thanked, City Clerk for the packet for the convention. District one, try to get with people to come up with a concept on what the citizens want to talk about. Encouraged all Council members to help each other out as much as possible.

District 2 (Veal/Coley)-Coley Ribbon Cut for the MGSU Mural Thursday 8/19/21 @ 5:00PM. This will be at Robinson Barber Shop. COVID numbers are increasing. Protect yourself and others.

Veal - None

District 3 (Jones-None)

Lemmon-None)-.

Public Comments:

Edwin Peacock: 244 Crest Drive-

Brag on Cochran and Cochran Police Department in Laurens County and Larry Walker. Mr. Peacock read information he wanted to share with Council concerning rendering first aid on any human that is shot or wounded.

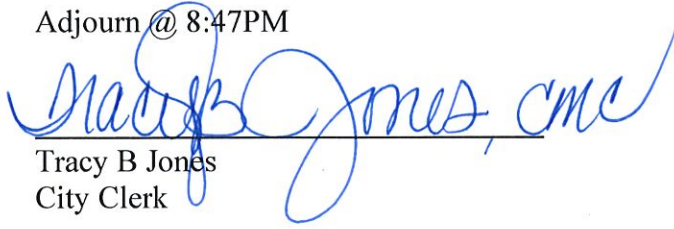
Mayor stated Council will pause for 5 minutes and then go into executive session.

Mayor Yeomans entertained a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Ates to go into executive session with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ates to go into regular session with Councilmember Coley seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Motion was made to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Ates with Councilmember Veal seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0

Adjourn @ 8:47PM


Tracy B Jones
City Clerk

