



Work Session Minutes
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, July 9, 2024
Work Session @ 6:00PM

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

City Council

City Staff

Billy Yeomans, Mayor	Richard Newbern, City Manager
Keith Anderson, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 1)</i>	Candace Summerall, City Clerk
Gary Ates, Council Member <i>(District 1, Post 2)</i>	Jim Elliott, City Attorney
Carla Coley, Council Member <i>(District 2 Post 1)</i>	
Lonnie Tedders, Council Member <i>(District 2, Post 2)</i>	
Andrew Lemmon, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 1)</i>	
Shane Savant, Council Member <i>(District 3, Post 2)</i>	

I. Call to Order

Mayor Yeomans called the work session to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Attendance

Present:

- Mayor Billy Yeomans
- Council Members: Keith Anderson, Gary Ates, Carla Coley, Lonnie Tedders, Andrew Lemmon, Shane Savant
- City Staff: Richard Newbern (City Manager), Candace Summerall (City Clerk), Jim Elliott (City Attorney)

III. Adopt Agenda/Minutes

The agenda was adopted as presented.

IV. Agenda Items

1. Discussion of Strategic Plan

City Manager Richard Newbern presented a draft strategic plan resulting from the June 29th planning session facilitated by Dr. Carrie Hamilton of the Georgia Institute of Government. The plan includes:

- Vision statement and core values
- Five strategic goals for 2024-2026
- Objectives under each goal

Newbern noted that department heads will develop work plans to align with the strategic goals. He intends to provide periodic updates to the Council on progress.

Council discussion:

- Councilmember Coley pointed out that timeframes were only included for the first goal, not goals 2-5.
- Councilmember Savant recalled they had set quarterly or semi-annual timeframes for all goals.

- Candace Summerall clarified the bullet points under goals were not meant to be in the final one-page version.
- Council requested adding timeframes to all goals before voting to adopt the plan.
- Minor wording edits were suggested for the core values and mission statement.

The Council agreed to postpone voting on the strategic plan until the next meeting to allow for requested revisions.

2. Discussion of Waste Management Residential Services

City staff provided an update on issues with Waste Management's residential pickup service:

- Tiffany Bryant reported 35 work orders for can swaps in June, not including those handled directly by Public Works.
- Ongoing communication issues with Waste Management, often notifying the city of problems after hours.
- Many residents were moved to the new Thursday pickup schedule without proper notification.
- An incident from June 6 involving damage to a contractor's materials has still not been resolved by Waste Management.

Council discussion:

- Councilmember Savant requested tracking all issues, including those handled by Public Works, to have accurate data for future contract negotiations.
- Councilmember Coley asked about options for compensating the contractor affected by the June 6 incident.
- City Attorney Jim Elliott advised against using city funds to compensate the contractor directly.
- The Council requested a review of the contract terms and potential options if Waste Management is in breach.

3. Department Head Reports

Police Chief Jeff Trawick:

- Announced new hire Police Captain Mat Leopard with 18 years of law enforcement experience
- Requested authorization to bid out for a new emergency communications system to improve reliability during outages

Fire Chief Brock Wilcher:

- Thanked the Council for the recent 9% raise for firefighters
- Reported positive feedback on the July 4th event
- Informed that the department did not receive the Jon Ossoff grant they applied for

Public Works Director Willie Farrow:

- Announced new hire Code Enforcer Samantha Burns, a Level II certified code enforcement officer
- Reported on ongoing hydrant flushing and efforts to address resulting water discoloration
- Discussed plans to coordinate future flushing with the fire department to complete the process more quickly

Finance Department:

- Reported positively on working with the new accounting group
- Candace Summerall noted they passed yearly payroll audit

V. Adjournment

Mayor Yeomans called for a 10-minute break before the start of the regular session.

Ajorned at 6:50 PM