

COCHRAN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

MAY 7, 2026

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MINUTES CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MAY 7, 2026

The Work Session of the Cochran City Council was held on May 7th, 6:00 PM in the City Auditorium, 102 N Second Street, Cochran, Georgia with the following present:

Carla Coley, Mayor	Shane Savant, Mayor Pro Tempore
Trecia Gardner, Councilmember	Rufus Veal, Councilmember
Lonnie Tedders, Councilmember	Dianne Lester, Councilmember
Angela Redding, Interim City Manager	Lisa Eisle, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager

Staff Present - Willie Farrow, Public Works Director

Absent – Tiffany Fowler, Interim City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Carla Coley at 6:04 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Prayer was led by Mayor Carla Coley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Present	Absent
Carla Coley	Mayor	√	
Shane Savant	Mayor Pro Tempore, District Three, Post Two	√	
Trecia Gardner	Councilwoman, District One, Post One	√	
Gary Ates	Councilman, District One, Post Two		√
Rufus Veal	Councilman, District Two, Post One	√	
Lonnie Tedders	Councilman, District Two, Post Two	√	
Dianne Lester	Councilwoman, District Three, Post One	√	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – May 7, 2026:

A motion and second was made to amend the agenda to add the discussion of a traffic calming device (speed hump) on Peach Street. Councilman Tedders moved to approve the amended

agenda; seconded by Councilman Veal. The Agenda for May 7, 2026, was approved by the City Council.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Proclamations

National Hospital Week - Mayor Coley provided a brief summary of proclamations that will be presented at the Regular Meeting on May 12, 2026. Mayor Coley asked the City Council if there were any objections to her presenting the proclamation at the Chamber of Commerce Hospital Week Celebration on May 13th at 11:00 AM, No objections noted.

International Firefighter's Day - Mayor Coley and Council discussed that date had already passed for International Firefighter's Day. It was noted to make plans to present the proclamation in April next year to recognize the day in advance and acknowledge the noon remembrance observance.

No objections were made to the remaining proclamations.

2. Discussion: Gray Rentals Resolution/Quit Claim Deed (Fire Station/Old Jail Property)

Mayor Coley reviewed the background of the parcel adjacent to the fire station (including the old jail/castle-like structure) that was acquired at public auction by Jeff Reagan.

Key points discussed:

- Boundary adjustments were needed due to the original property line running through an area near the fire station (including a lean-to and a former gas pump/tank area).
- The City currently pays land rent related to the fire department training trailer located on the adjoining property.
- Council emphasized the need to move from verbal agreements to written documentation and to locate any existing written agreement associated with rent payments.
- Authorization will be requested at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, to execute a Quit Claim deed to resolve the long-standing property matter; Jeff Reagan would execute a corresponding deed for his portion.

A request was made for staff to locate the written rent/land agreement between the parties.

3. Discussion: LRA Application

Paving limits and project sequencing was discussed including existing work already completed and proposed extensions based on available footage/funding. The following were discussed:

- **District 2 / Mac Thompson Bridge area:** Discussion about paving approximately 475 feet and potential extension; staff to reflect 475 feet in the application and price any further extension.
- **District 1 / Thompson Street:** LMIG work described as from North 2nd Street to Thompson Street; LRA to pick up from there and continue toward Johnson Street Lane (leaving a small remaining section to connect with already paved areas).
- **District 3:** Current suggestion referenced as “Lewis Street Lane” and additional options discussed (including 6th Street vs. 7th Street segments); staff to calculate footage and bring options back Tuesday.
- Broader resurfacing considerations were discussed (e.g., milling needs on Jackson Street and other areas due to repeated resurfacing raising road height and affecting mail delivery access).

Willie Farrow, Public Works Director, will measure and confirm footage, develop cost estimates, and provide recommendations at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

4. Discussion: Resolution (Chang v. City of Milton)

Mayor and Council discussed a request for Georgia municipalities to participate as *amicus* (friend of the court) in support of the City of Milton regarding issues related to sovereign immunity for cities. Amicus participation is not joining as a party to the lawsuit but supporting a position and providing perspective to the court.

5. Discussion: Gas Resolution – Customer Service Policy

Staff reported the Georgia Public Service Commission contacted the city regarding customer service policies for municipal gas systems. The City adopted a gas customer service policy in 2013 but did not revisit/refile it in 2020; the policy is to be reviewed approximately every seven years.

Council discussed policy compliance and potential updates, including:

- Deposit refunds: the 2013 policy provides for deposit refund after 24 consecutive months of timely payment; Council discussed making gas deposit refunds consistent with other utilities (refund upon account closeout/disconnection) to simplify tracking and administration.
- Billing/notice language: update to reflect both mailed bills and e-billing/email notices where applicable.
- Disconnection procedures: Council discussed weather-related restrictions and general notice practices; staff to confirm current operational practices against policy requirements.

6. Discussion: Traffic Calming (Speed Hump) Request for Peach Street

Council discussed a request for installation of a speed hump on Peach Street (location referenced near 172 Peach Street; additional location clarification requested).

Discussion included the current petition/signature process, including the 50% threshold, and the need to review/update the petition form to better define affected distance/area for signatures on longer streets. Council also discussed the difference between speed bumps and speed humps, noting that police and fire indicated speed humps are preferable for vehicle suspension impacts.

Action/Follow-up: Review and update the petition/process documentation (including distance parameters) for future requests.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (For Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate):

No executive session was held during this work session. It was noted that an executive session is anticipated for Tuesday's meeting for personnel and litigation matters.

CITY MANAGER DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Budget update: The Accounts Payable Specialist has started work; staff are catching up on entering expenses into the general ledger after a 7-month accounts payable vacancy. Once expenses are updated, meetings with department heads will be scheduled. Goal remains for adoption before July 1, potentially requiring Special Called meetings. Discussion also included outside agency presentations as part of the budget process.

Technology grant: Lisa reported urgency in confirming device selections (tablet/laptop) due to hardware availability. Grant requirements require devices with a processor to support cybersecurity objectives (e.g., Remarkable devices not eligible). Eligible accessories may include items such as mouse and keyboards. Councilmembers were asked to confirm selections so the order can be placed.

Agenda Items for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday: Coloring contest winners will be announced; District 9 ballot; selection of voting delegate and flag bearer for the Savannah convention. It was noted that a flagpole and stand would be ordered.

MAYOR/COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Councilwoman Dianne Lester inquired about potential tax relief/reductions for seniors on fixed income. Interim City Manager Angela Redding noted such guidelines are typically set by the Tax Commissioner and offered to follow up.

Employee recognition: Discussion occurred about recognizing employee service anniversaries (e.g., inviting employees to a council meeting, presenting a certificate and a card signed by Council). Matt Hancock's 10-year milestone was referenced as a potential first recognition at Tuesday's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tempore Savant moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:34 PM; seconded by Councilwoman Gardner; the City Council approved adjourning the meeting at 7:34 PM.