



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
August 11, 2020
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans Mayor Pro Tem Jones
Councilmembers: Carla Coley, Gary Ates, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon

Absent: Councilmember Rufus Veal, Councilmember Keith Anderson

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

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

Mayor called for a motion to approve the August 11, 2020 agenda as presented. Councilmember Coley requested an addition and a deletion to the 8/8/20 Agenda. She asked for the consideration for Rusty to present the matching grant for the DDA. Mayor asked for the item she would like to delete. Councilmember Coley stated she would like to delete item #7 regarding watering the downtown plants. Mayor called for a motion to delete item #7. Councilmember Jones made the motion with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion to delete item #7. Motion passed 4-0. Mayor called for a motion to add to consider GA Council for the Arts matching allowance for DDA to the agenda. Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Ates to add the item to the agenda. Motion passed 4-0. Mayor called for a motion to accept the agenda as changed. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda as changed with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

June 9, 2020 minutes.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from July 14, 2020 Regular Scheduled Meeting. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept 7/14/20 minutes as presented with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

- 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. Fire Chief Brock Wilcher presented the Employee of the month to Student Firefighter Quang Nguyen. Chief presented Quang with a certificate, a Subway gift card and \$100 check. Chief gave a little background on his performance with the Cochran Fire Department and thanked him for a great job he is doing.

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting a Resolution for filing a Georgia Land & Water Conservation Fund grant application to Georgia DNR to finance improvements at Willie Basby Park at 142 Thompson Street. Council was asked to adopt the resolution that commence the City to match the grant 50%. The grant is in two phases. The pre- application is due October 31, 2020. If the pre app phase is approved, then a formal application will be filed in February 2021. The grant will be awarded next Spring. The grant will expand the use of the park which will consist of walking trails, playgrounds, and barbeque pit. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to adopt the resolution to move forward with the pre application process with Georgia Land and Water Conservation with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a contract with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to accept \$210,000 in federal funds to help finance four (4) generators to serve each of the four City water wells, and to provide matching funds for the grant contract. Richard explained the match for this grant is \$31,500.00. This project is for the four generators that will be stationed at the four wells in the City. During storms these wells are vulnerable, and the generators will assure the wells will keep functioning correctly. FEMA and GEMA awarded this contract to the City. Council is asked to approve the contract and we will execute the contract and forward it to GEMA. The \$31,500 could be paid for through the COVID CARES money. More information will be given Friday at the webinar for CARES Act money. Councilmember Ates made the motion to adopt the contract for the generators for the wells from FEMA and GEMA with Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting a Resolution to accept the terms and conditions of the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Agreement/CARES ACT & authorize the appropriate expenditures of the fund. Council is asked to adopt resolution so the city can proceed to seek the federal money. City has already drawn down 30% and it has been deposited. Full share in \$261,372 as the first phase of the City's funds. Mr. Newbern stated we need to identify the reimbursable expenses between March 1 and September 1 which are eligible. We are doing everything we can to justify every penny for those dollars, Mr. Newbern stated. Councilmember Ates made the motion to adopt the resolution to accept the terms and conditions of the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF/CARES ACT) and authorize appropriate expenditures of the funds with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0.

ITEM # 5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting a Development Agreement with Lowcountry Housing Communities LLC and Mr. Earl Arnold on the development of Havenwood Gardens and Havenwood Daisy Senior apartment developments and the financing/construction of a sewer line to serve the developments. The Council was asked to approve the Agreement between the City and Lowcountry housing communities and Earl Arnold regarding the development of two apartments complexes and the financing and construction of an 8 inch, 3000 linear foot sewer line that will extend across Earl Arnold's property to tie into the Havenwood Garden Apartments and the Havenwood Daisy Senior developments. The agreement sets forth the terms for each party to follow. The agreement also states that the 6.5-acre Havenwood Gardens site will be annexed into the City. Councilmember Coley asked a question concerning the annexation of the property. Mr. Newbern explained the reason for wordage in the agreement. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to adopt the Development Agreement with Lowcountry Housing Communities and Mr. Earl Arnold with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with three voting for and one voting against. 3(Coley, Lemmon, Jones) 1(Ates)

ITEM # 6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adoption of a Grant Fund budget that has been recommended by the City's accounting consultant and auditors. Mr. Newbern stated this will bring the grants that are not required to have their own accounts into one budget. This action is recommended that the City have a separate adopting Grant Budget. This budget effectively separates many of the City's grant funds into one fund that can be managed separately from the general fund. Councilmember Ates made the motion to adopt the Grant Fund budget with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.4-0

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider allowing DDA to apply for Georgia Council for the Arts vibrant communities Grant with a match no more than \$5,000. Rusty Lloyd presented to the Council the matching grant for the Georgia Council for the Arts. This will allow DDA to start the mural project downtown. This matching would come from the City of Cochran. This amount may not exceed \$5000.00. Councilmember Ates made the motion to allow DDA to apply for a grant from GA Council of the Arts to make the match and not exceed \$5000.00 with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

ITEM #8 – Presented by City manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of bid from T E C for Caterpillar bulldozer undercarriage upgrade in the amount \$15,102.40. Public Works Director, Willie Farrow, explained the issues with the bulldozer. The City solicited vendors to offered to fix the bulldozer. Only one bid was turned in from TEC from Macon. This project is eligible to be paid for from the 2013 SPOLST funds. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the bid from TEC for Caterpillar bulldozer upgrade seconded by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

Council Discussion Items:

- Lemmon –None
- Jones – Gave an update on the summarization of the midterm coaching session for city manager, Richard Newbern
- Coley – (1.) Tuesday's BCMS giving away produce 9-11 (2.) Ask Richard about Beautification Grant and the update. (3) Removal of weeds/overgrowth at Municipal buildings and other City buildings. Possible to hire Landscaping company to do a onetime maintenance then PW keep the maintenance up.

- Ates – None

Mayor Yeomans made the announcement the Council will go into executive session @8:05am.

Back in regular session@ 8:19.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 4-0

Announcement of Upcoming Meeting and Events

- ✓ **Work Session Prior to Council Meeting August 11, 2020 @ 5:30PM**
- ✓ **Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting –August 11, 2020 @ 7PM**

Meeting adjourned @ 8:20PM



Tracy B Jones
City Clerk

