



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

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

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

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Yeomans followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmembers.

Mayor Yeomans asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Richard Newbern stated the conversation came up in the work session to add the item to the agenda concerning the 15 road segments that would be sent to the state delegation and also to be advertised. This will be the legislative annexation. Mayor asked for a motion to add this item # 11 to the agenda for February 11, 2020. Councilmember Coley made the motion to add #11 Item to the agenda with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. Mayor asked for a motion to accept the agenda for February 11, 2020. Councilmember Jones made the motion with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Yeomans asked for any additions or corrections to the January 14, 2020 minutes. City Clerk Tracy B Jones stated she needed make a correction to Item# 12 and she will reissue the corrected minutes to the Council. Mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes from January 14, 2020. Councilmember Coley made the motion to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes with Councilmember Jones 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

Proclamation for Black History Month. Mayor Yeomans called three ladies from the audience to come to the front and stand with him. He read the Proclamation to the audience aloud.

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Employee of the Month – Administration. Mr. Newbern stated Tracy Jones, City Clerk, supervises city hall staff. He asked Mrs. Jones to present her item. Mrs. Jones ask for this item to be moved to the March 10, 2020 agenda due to sickness of the individual in which was to receive this award.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of Cochran-Bleckley Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Newbern stated he was pleased to have EMA Director Matt Kelley. Mr. Kelley asked the City Council to approve a resolution to adopt the Bleckley County Hazard Mitigation Plan. After the resolution is approved by Council, it has to also be approved through GEMA and FEMA as well as the Heart of GA Regional Commission. This identifies any risk hazards whether it is natural or manmade. By adopting this plan, it opens opportunities for Counties and City to receive Federal assistance through FEMA. Mayor called for a motion to adopt the Cochran – Bleckley Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the plan with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving Police Department Mutual Aid Agreement with the Bleckley County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Newbern explained the mutual aid agreement between the city and county. He introduced Sheriff Coody along with Interim Chief Trawick to explain the agreement. Sheriff Coody explained the mutual aid agreement (if city calls county, they will come to assist if needed and same if county needed city). Councilmember Coley questioned Sheriff Coody as to why the agreement had to be signed again since it was signed not long ago. Sheriff Coody stated since a new Interim Chief was in the position it needed to be signed again. Mr. Newbern also stated since the Mayor and Council have to sign this agreement and new members are sworn in, a new agreement must be signed. Mayor asked for a motion approve the Mutual Aid agreement between the City and County. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Council member Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider amendment to City Charter. Mayor Yeomans stated the amendment is to get a legislative change to make the Mayor an official member of the City Council. This does not change anything else to the Charter or give the Mayor special voting powers, he explained. Mayor asked the Council to show a vote of support either yes or no. Mayor called for a voice vote of each Councilmember. Anderson – Yes, Coley – Yes, Jones – Yes, Lemmon – Yes, Veal – Yes. 5-0.

ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider award of contract to Hammer Nail Roofing to replace the roof on the Community House. Mr. Newbern stated in the 2019-2020 budget, a line item was added (\$10,000) for community House repairs. Mr. Newbern asked Willie Farrow, Public Works Director to explain the contract which was bid out for replacement of the roof at Community House. Willie explained the bid is for the roof to be shingled, repair any damages to the roof and to close the chimney off. Hammer Nail Roofing is under contract now to replace the shingles on City Hall and the Municipal Building. Mayor called for a motion to award contract to Hammer Nail Roofing to replace roof on the Community House. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to award contract to Hammer Nail roofing with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider awarding a bid to Dykes Grassing Co. from Cary, Ga. for the paving & drainage work in the Railroad Avenue CDBG target area, with conditions. Mr. Newbern stated two conditions on awarding the bid to Dykes Grassing1. City and Dykes Grassing can negotiate an acceptable dollar amount for pavement and drainage project. 2.Ga DCA approves Dykes Grassing as a sole source bidder. (Federal requirement). Mayor called for motion. Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to award the bid to Dykes Grassing for paving and drainage project with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider closing State Bank Lane from South Second Street to John Conner Memorial Lane. This closure is a DDA recommendation. DDA's intentions are to beautify that segment from north second Street to John Conner Memorial lane. Mr. Newbern deferred the conversation to the Chair of DDA, Councilmember Coley. Mrs. Coley explained the reason of why the DDA wants to close that certain area. Decorative bollards and planters and benches in that area which will consist of one block. DDA have spoken to all the owners of the business downtown to get their feedback. This will help enhance downtown and walkability downtown. Mayor called for a motion to close the portion of

the State Bank Lane and the John Conner Memorial Lane. Councilmember Jones made the motion to close the segment with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider setting Saturday, April 25, 2020 as Clean-up Day in Cochran. Mr. Newbern stated the Council was asked to designate April 25, 2020 as clean up day. Civic groups and individuals are invited to help clean up the City. Advance will have the 30-yard roll offs in four (4) different locations. This allows people to throw away their household items. Mayor called for a motion to designate April 25 as clean up day. Councilmember Coley made the motion to designate April 25 as clean up day with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider applying for a Scrap Tire Grant from Georgia EPD to help finance Scrap Tire Amnesty during Clean-up Day. Mr. Newbern asked Willie Farrow to explain the process. He stated the scrape tire cleanup will start Monday, April 20. Any money the City spends on this project will be 100% reimbursed. Mayor called for a motion to apply for the Scrap tire grant. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to apply for the Scrap Tire grant with Councilmember Veal seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

ITEM # 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving requested street segments for Annexation Legislative session. Mr. Newbern stated this would be marketed so the community would know the City's intent regarding the 15 road segments for annexation and then it will be submitted to state legislation for action. Mayor asked for a motion to approve street segments. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the road segments with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates:

- ❖ Renewal with Anthem Health Insurance
- ❖ GICH Planning Retreat February 26/27
- ❖ Census Committee Meeting
- ❖ Annual Chamber Banquet February 7, 2020

Council Discussion Items:

- Lemmon – Thanked Public Works for installing trash receptacles in his area
- Jones – None
- Coley – Announced the DDA Director Rusty Lloyd
- Anderson – Thanked Public Works for trash receptacles in his neighborhood
- Veal – None

Announcement of Upcoming Meeting and Events

- ✓ **Work Session Prior to Council Meeting March 10, 2020 @ 5:30PM**
- ✓ **Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – March 10, 2020 @ 7PM**

Public Comments

- Diana Itson – She expressed her appreciation to the citizens of Cochran when her daughter went through brain surgery
- Edwin Peacock – 244 Crest Drive – Talked to Council about increasing Police pay
- Ricky Mathis 107 11th Street – expressed his concerns of the ditch overflowing in his yard

Adjourned @ 8:35PM (Motion made by Anderson 2nd by Jones) (5-0)

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk