



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, November 8, 2022**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:03 PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Carla Coley, Rufus Veal

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Keith Anderson and City Attorney: Jim Elliott

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Ates and the Pledge led by Mayor Yeomans.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the November 8, 2022, agenda. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the agenda with a second by Councilmember Lemmon.

Motion passed by voice vote. 5/0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the October 11, 2022 minutes. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the 10/11/22 minutes with Councilmember Ates seconding. Motion passed by voice vote. 5/0

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- 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 - Lieutenant Warren presented Colton Kleinfeld with the employee of the month.

**ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approving the submittal of a recreation facilities grant application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) for funds to assist in developing a City Park. Council was asked to authorize the filing of a grant application to the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget under the "Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities. The maximum grant application is up to \$2,000,000 and perhaps a match of 15-to-20% match Councilmember Ates made the motion to authorize the filing of the grant with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 5/0.

**ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

DDA Board vacancies- Four vacancies currently. The DDA does not have a quorum to conduct business meetings. Mayor Yeomans asked Councilmember Jones to fill in until February 28. He agreed. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve Councilmember Jones to fill in until February 28 with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 4/0. Jones did not vote.

**ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider amending a Resolution concerning the provision of natural gas services to the Industrial Park. The resolution allows the immediate connection of natural gas services to the IDS's' Industrial Park, provide the legislative annexation of a segment of GA HWY 87. The resolution will allow the IDA to proceed with the gas connection under the railroad to the industrial park, but no gas taps will be allowed until the N. Second St segment is annexed by state legislature. Councilmember Jones made the motion to amend the resolution concerning the provision of natural gas services to the Industrial Park with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 5/0.

**ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approval of a document allowing the rental of space at the Peyton Williams Building. The council was provided a draft rental agreement and cleaning policy. This will allow the Peyton Williams Building to be rented out to people wanting to sponsor events. The renter would work with the Police Chief to set the times and then they would be referred to City Hall to take payments. Public Works will be responsible for locking and unlocking the doors. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the contract as presented with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 5/0

**ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider approval to advertise for bids for the Police Department to install roof insulation in the Police Department portion of the Municipal Building. The estimated cost of this project will be \$7,531. The project can be paid for by SPLOST. This project could reduce energy usage at the Police Department. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve advertisement for bids to install insulation with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

**ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider choosing a time and place for the City Council 2023 Retreat. The council is asked to set a time and date for the 2023 Council retreat. Councilmember Ates suggested Lake Blackshear with other councilmembers agreeing to the same place. The dates were set for February 9,10,11. Councilmember Coley suggested reaching out to a facilitator from Carl Vinson Institute.

**ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Approve appointment of Sonja Rivers to Library Board effective 11/8/22 expiring 6/30/26. Mayor Yeomans asked the Council to approve the appointment of Sonja Rivers to the library board beginning 11/8/2022 and will expire 6/30/2026. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve Sonja Rivers to the library board with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 5/0.

**City Manager** – Attended CREATE economic development session in Rome.

GICH Retreat in Tifton.

Awarded RELEAF Landscaping Grant through GA Forestry Commission

Planning Commission meeting December 8, 2022

Safety Grant filed through GIRMA LGRMS

**City Attorney – NONE**

**Council Discussion Items:**

**District 1**

**Anderson** – NONE

**Ates** – Animal Control presence in D1 – Thank you for catching the stray animal. Thanked Willie for the placement of the light that was put up in a dark area.

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**District 2**

**Coley** – NONE

**Veal** – Thanked all the Veterans and all family and friends of veterans.

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**District 3**

**Jones** – NONE

**Lemmon** – NONE

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor announced the Veterans Day program at the Auditorium at 11AM. 11/11/22. Made the community aware of break-ins through the area. Happy Thanksgiving. Happy Veterans Day.

**Public Comments** (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of 3 minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

- Mary Pitts – 110 Palm Street – Addressed Coley/Veal – Please drive through or walk through Palm to Pine Street to see the amounts of trash and blight housing. Housing is not suitable for living. Requested Chamber to get a shoe store and clothing stores.

- Sandra Watkins – 182 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Stated she sent a request to have a meeting with the council and was ignored. She is constantly under scrutiny due to she being named the reason the City didn't receive a grant. Stressed that the Council needs to listen to concerns because they are legitimate concerns.

Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:PM  
Mayor Yeomans adjourned the meeting.

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk