



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Gary Ates, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Keith Anderson, Charles Cranford, & Jon Thrower.

Absent: Fleming Gilman

Call to order by Mayor Gary Ates

The invocation was given by Mayor Gary Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion and seconded the motion to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor. 5-0

Mayor Gary Ates asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2017 meeting. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to approve August 8, 2017 minutes and mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 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

Public Hearing to consider Resolution to adopt the 2017 Millage Rate for the City of Cochran. Mr. Newbern passed out the information on the mileage rate. The hearing was advertised in the Cochran Journal as required by law. The proposal is for the City Council to adopt the same mileage rate has been in effect for The City of Cochran since 2015. At 11.276 mills. Mr. Newbern asked for the hearing to be continued and The Council consider the adoption of the mileage ordinance. Mayor asked if anyone in audience had any questions or remarks due to Public Hearing. No one had any comments. Mr. Newbern read the Mileage ordinance. Councilmember Charles Cranford made the motion to adopt the ordinance for mileage rate to stay the same with Councilmember Regina Gooch seconded. Motion was passed 5-0 with all voting in favor.

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Bill DeFoor – Consider amending contract between the City and Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. Mr. DeFoor gave a brief summary of the MGAG Amendment on the contract. He also gave a little background on MGAG. He answered any questions the Council had. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to approve to amend the contract between The City and the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia with Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider awarding bid to JEC Contractor for Electrical Work at City Hall. Mr. Newbern gave each Councilmember the bid that was submitted by Mr. Eric Jerrell. He stated the price of the upgrade will be \$39,000.00. He told the Council if approved he would also like for Council to approve to move \$4,000.00 from contingency fund due to budgeted only \$35,000.00 for the project. Councilmember Cranford asked how many bids were turned in. Mr. Newbern told him only one was submitted and no one else submitted a bid for this project. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to award JEC the bid to complete electrical work at City Hall and to move \$4,000.00 from contingency to make up the difference between the amount and the cost of the project. Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with all voting in favor.

ITEM # 4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider purchasing two (2) actuators for the Waste Treatment Plant. Mr. Newbern asked Public Works Director, Jacob Daniels to come and address Council with information pertaining to the actuators for the treatment plant. Mr. Daniels explained the need for the actuators and the repairs of the dump truck. Mr. Newbern passed out information about he actuators. Mr. Daniels explained the actuators that are there now were there when the plant was built and they need to be replaced. Councilmember Thrower asked if the purchase was SPLOST eligible and Mr. Daniels stated it was. Mr. Daniels also mentioned the dump truck. He stated to fix it, money may have to be pulled from contingency money, He

explained what happened to the truck and what it will take to fix it. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to purchase the actuators and to fix dump truck with Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with all voting in favor.

ITEM # 5 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting a 911 addressing system for all residences and commercial establishments to have identification numbers on or above door ways. Mr. Newbern stated he included information concerning the 911 signs in the packet that was sent out. City Attorney prepared an ordinance and Chief Coley did some research on other ordinances which was used as frame work for the City Attorney's draft. The ordinance was read by Mr. Newbern. Councilmember Thrower made the motion to accept the ordinance for the 911 addressing system with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion was passed 5-0 with all voting in favor.

ITEM # 6 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider applying to Georgia DNR/EPD to obtain a reimbursement grant for a Scrap Tire Amnesty Day in the City of Cochran. Mr. Newbern stated the city has an opportunity to obtain a reimbursement grant from the Georgia EPD for Scrap Tire Amnesty Day in the City of Cochran. Asking today for your approval to move ahead with an application. Basically, it allows us to investigate this further. This has worked well in other Cities. The City sets up a roll off through Advanced Disposal and it will give residents the opportunity to dispose of scrape or spare tires for free. Would be careful to restrict this to residence and possibly have an application process or notification process. The City would pay for the disposal and get reimbursed by GA EPD. No date has been set at this time. If approved to investigate and move forward with this process, more information will be brought back to you at the next scheduled Council Meeting. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to authorize more information to be gathered on the Scrape Tire Amnesty Day in Cochran with Councilmember Charles Cranford seconded. Motion passed 5-0 with all voting in favor.

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

- Mrs. Diane Lassiter stated she had several issues in her neighborhood. She was concerned about different roads not being paved and pot holes. Mr. Daniels explained the process of paving roads. He went on to explain the state has some roads to pave and The City has not timeline on State projects. Her other concern was grass not being kept cut in her neighborhood. She is afraid by it not being clean, snakes and other rodents would become infested. Mrs. Lassiter wants to be proud of her neighbor and the way it looks. Mr. Newbern stated he would get with Code Enforcement and discuss these issues with him.

VIII. Mayor Updates

- ❖ Mayor Ates stated he would like to see the Elected Official to concentrate on his/her District and the needs of their Districts. He commended the Council for all the hard work and being good stewards of their districts. He stated he was very proud of the way the City workers, Fire, Police and Public Works handled the issues when Hurricane Irma came through. He addressed the audience and Council by stated he will not run for reelection but he has had a great time serving on the City of Cochran Council for the past 12 years.

IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates –

- **Finance Report**-Tracey Hudson presented Council with financial documentation and briefly explained report for the previous month. Mr. Newbern reported The City spent recreation SPLOST in the amount of \$3900.00 for the CBRD to purchase two large box fans for the Recreation Complex. They complied with The City ordinance and received at least two bids and The City approved the purchase.
- **Purchasing Requirements** – Mr. Newbern gave a summary of the purchasing requirements.
- **GICH Housing Selection** – Mr. Newbern explained The City was awarded the Grant for the GICH the first time around. He stated an orientation will be given from GICH late October or early November. He thanked the GICH housing Team and The Mayor and Council for all the hard work and dedication to this project. Purpose of this process is to help the Comprehensive House plan for The City of Cochran. Wednesday, October 4, 2017 will be an awards bouquet in Savannah GA if anyone would like to attend.
- **Chamber Meeting Wednesday, 27, 2017 at Noon @ Sugarberries**
- **Business after Hours, Thursday September 28, 2017 @ 5:30 at H & R Block**
- **Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 6:30pm at The Community House is Zoning Committee Meeting**
- **Irma Report** – Thanked the City Staff for all the hard work that was endured during the Hurricane.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Chief Noles stated the Fire Department had 52 calls during the hurricane and we are putting together a packet of all the damage the hurricane brought through soon.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Chief Coley gave an update on the Hurricane.

- National Night Out October 3, 2017 from 5pm to 8pm. Behind Police department. FOOD and FUN.
- Country Fest October 21, 2017
- Trick or Treat October 31, 2017 5pm to 8pm

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:

Gave an update on the cleanup from Irma. He stated everything was going good. Moving as fast as they can to clean up and a week behind schedule but working hard to catch up. Business as usual.

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATES:

None at this time.

CITY CLERK UPDATES:

Tracy Jones stated the 4 touch screen voting machines have been ordered and shipped. She will have to go to Kennesaw State and pick them up personally. She explained the SOS would come to City Hall and program the machines for her. She reported The City will conduct the Early Voting and the absent voting at City Hall.

SKIP LAYTON UPDATE:

GEFA Project, in process of closing out three contracts, the radio read water meter, water tank and Lake Linda lift station. All are completed. Final change order to close out projects will be presented to Council at next meeting.

There were no other department update.

X. Council Discussion Items

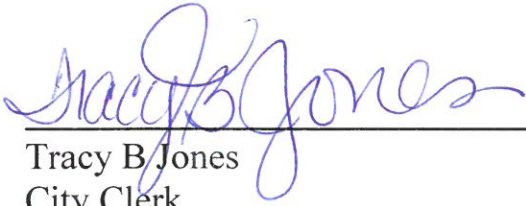
- Councilmember Jon Thrower stated he was approached about CBRD coming over to the City and have the City take care of everything for CBRD. Members of CBRD would like to come and talk to the Council at the next meeting. He stated he wanted to extend an invitation to the Mayor to be to the retreat in January and to all meetings. Councilmember Thrower stated he spoke to each of the department heads about the things they needed. We need to look into these things.
- Councilmembers Regina Gooch did not have nothing at this time.
- Councilmember Keith Anderson asked about keeping the ditches clean. Jacob Daniels stated it is against the law for Public Work to dig out any state ditches. He stated it will take more than man power to clean ditches. Public Works is lacking equipment to maintain all the problems.
- Councilmember Cranford asked about the two street lights he asked about. Richard Newbern stated he sent in the order to GA Power.
- Mayor Pro Tem – Nothing at this time.

XI. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – October 10, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Thrower made the motion to adjourn and Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with all voting in favor.

Adjourn @ 8:56pm.



Tracy B. Jones
City Clerk

