



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**November 10, 2020**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM**

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

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

Absent: Rufus Veal

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

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

Mayor called for a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 agenda as presented. Councilmember Coley asked for Item # 6 to be removed. Councilmember Coley made the motion with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion to remove item # 6 form November 10, 2020 agenda. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda as changed with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

October 13, 2020 minutes.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 13, 2020. Councilmember Coley stated Item # 7 was not conveyed well and needed to be corrected. She stated the minutes read Councilmember Coley stated part time Police who are working full time hours to be included, she stated it should read all city employees who are part time working full time hours to be included. She stated the motion should read that way as well. Councilmember Coley made the motion to have item #7 corrected with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0 Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept 10/13/20 minutes as corrected with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion 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**

Employee of the Month - Willie Farrow, Public Works Director presented Johnny Raffield with the employee of the month. Johnny was presented with a certificate, \$100 check and a \$10 subway card.

Mayor Yeomans also recognized Leolla Fussell for her service with the Zoning board.

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

Second Reading of Mid State Gas Commission Charter Change. Mayor Yeomans read the charter changes for the second time as required. The Council is asked for the second time to consider an ordinance to approve an amendment to the City Charter that concerns changing the Jointly Owned Natural Gas partnership to Mid-State Energy Commission. Council approved the ordinance in the October 13, 2020 meeting. Mayor explained the ordinance was advertised three consecutive times in the Times Post Journal. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the ordinance to change the Charter that will change the name from Jointly Owned to Mid-State Energy Commission with Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Award of Contract for CDBG engineering. Mayor Yeomans stated the Council is asked to approve a recommendation from the CDBG review committee regarding an engineering firm to help prepare the City's upcoming CDBG application. The committee met and recommended Falcon Design be selected as the City's engineering firm for the CDBG application. Councilmember Jones made the motion to award the contract to whom the committee recommended, Falcon Design, with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Award of Contract on CHIP administrative preparation. Council is asked to approve a recommendation from CDBG review committee regarding a consultant to help with the preparation of the CDBG application and CHIP application. The committee recommended Gilbert and Associates to be awarded the contract for the grant preparation service. Councilmember Coley made the motion to award the contract and grant preparation services to Gilbert and Associates with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Water line tie-in requirement in the City. Council has inquired whether a "new" single family residence can be required to connect to the City's potable water system. According to the city attorney, the state law does not allow the city to require existing or new residential homeowner to tie into the City's water system. By adopting the ordinance, the City will be able to automatically require all non-residential and non-farm enterprises to tie into the City's water system. Councilmember Ates made the motion to adopt the ordinance to require all non-residential and non-farm to tie into the City's water system with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider amending sign ordinance **Removed from agenda**

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

Consider extending supplemental COVID-19 compensation benefit. Council is asked to extend the COVID-19 hazard pay benefits to full time Police, Fire, and Public Works employees. Governor Kemp extended the Public health state of emergency until December 9, 2020. Council is asked to extend the pay through the pay period November 22 – December 19. Councilmember Coley asked could the pay also be extended, as last time, to those part time employees who are working full time hours.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to extend the COVID 19 compensation to all City employees to include part time workers who are working full time hours with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

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

Consider purchasing a bulldozer from the GA DOAS State Contract. A representative from John Deere was present and answered any questioned the Council had. This purchase will be through the Georgia DOAS state contract and paid from SPLOST (\$75,611.23). Councilmember Ates made the motion to purchase a bulldozer for \$75, 611.23 with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

#### **City Manager Comments:**

- GICH meeting November 19, 2020 Updates on CHIP Grants
- Zoning Ordinance Updates/ Public Hearing December 3, 2020

#### **Council Discussion Items:**

- Anderson –Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving
- Ates – Inquired about a curfew. Stated he felt like the city needs a curfew.
- Coley – Start looking into the dumpster issues downtown
- Jones– Thanked Willie Farrow and Public Works for the work they did sidewalks
- Lemmon– Commended City Supervisors and how they work hard to clean up around the City.
- Veal - Absent

Councilmember Ates made the motion to go into executive session for personnel issues with Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Meeting adjourned to go into executive session @ 7:47pm

Mayor called Meeting back in session. 8:17PM

Councilmember Ates made the motion to adjourn with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

Adjourned @ 8:17PM.

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk