



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
October 13, 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, Keith Anderson,

Absent: Rufus Veal

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 Anderson

Mayor called for a motion to approve the October 13, 2020 agenda as presented.

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

September 8, 2020 minutes.

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2020 Regular Scheduled Meeting. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept 9/8/20 minutes as presented 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 National Fire Safety Month Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation in regard to the Fire Safety Month.

ITEM #2 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on setting City Millage Rate at 10.383 mills.

Mayor Yeomans called the Public Hearing to order at 7:10PM

This public hearing is called to provide any interested parties to express their views or concerns in accordance O.C.G.A 48-5-32. The City of Cochran is proposing a roll back of the millage rate from the present milage rate of 11.267 to lower milage rate of 10.383. The City is in a position to consider a roll back due to the recent re-assessment of properties in the City. The city will receive the same amount of tax revenue as last year. The mayor asked asked for any public input. None

Public Hearing closed at 7:13PM

ITEM # 3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider adopting City Millage Rate for FY 2020-2021. Mayor explained the Council is asked to adopt the milage rate of 10.383 for the FY of 2020-2021. The mayor expressed that the taxes may go down or stay the same or it may increase. Mayor called for a motion. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the 10.383 mills with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 4 - Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider Charter amendment to recognize a change in Jointly Owned Natural Gas to a Commission. Mayor Yeomans stated the Council is asked to consider an amendment to the City Charter that concerns changing the Jointly Owned Natural Gas to Mid-State Energy Commission. Councilmember Ates made the motion to change the Charter to recognize a change from Jointly Owned Natural Gas to a Commission (Mid-State Energy) with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a Resolution approving a loan modification for the City's GEFA Loan No. CWSRF 15-009, to extend the City's GEFA Sewer Loan through March 31, 2021. Mayor Yeomans stated the Council was asked to adopt a Resolution to extend the City's GEFA sewer loan through August 1, 2021. This loan has funded the lift station project at Lake Linda and the slip lining of five miles. Mayor called for a motion to adopt the resolution to extend the loan. Councilmember Ates made the motion to adopt the resolution approving a loan modification for the GEFA loan No. CWSRF 15-009, with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0.

ITEM # 6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a Resolution approving a loan modification for the City's GEFA Loan No. DWSRF 15-019, to extend the City's GEFA drinking water loan through March 31, 2021. Mayor Yeomans stated the Council is asked to adopt a resolution to extend the City's GEFA water loan through August 1,2021. This loan has funded the electronic meters, water take upgrades and repainting, water line replacements and valve upgrades. Mayor asked for a motion to modify the loan DWSRF 15-019. Councilmember Jones made the motion

to approve the resolution modification for GEFA loan No DWSRF 15-019 with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a budget amendment to accommodate supplemental pay in salary line items. Mayor Yeomans stated the Council was asked to extend the supplemental pay to public safety and public works personnel due to their risk of exposure to the coronavirus. Councilmember Ates asked if the pay would come out of the CARES Act. City Manager, Richard Newbern stated it would. Councilmember Coley asked about Part Time employees who are working Full Time hours to also be included. Councilmember Ates made the motion to amend the budget to accommodate the supplemental pay for full time and part time employees who are working full time hours with Councilmember Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a Fireworks Display to be held after the Royals Homecoming Game on Friday, October 23, and approving a hold harmless letter regarding the shooting-off of fireworks. Mayor Yeomans called Fire Chief Brock Wilcher to answer any questions. This item was discussed during the work session. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the fireworks after the homecoming football game at the Royals stadium with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving "Trunk-or-Treat" behind the Police Department on Saturday, October 31. Mayor called Fire Chief Brock Wilcher to state the details of the drive through Trunk or Treat. This will be a drive through only. People in their vehicles will come off 2nd street and turn into the Police Department. Different entities will be lined up handing out bags of candy to children, Children are urged to dress up in their costumes. Exit will be on 3rd street. Mayor asked about trailers carrying children are they welcome? Yes, as long as the children do not get off the trailer and walk around. No walkers. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the Drive through Trunk or Treat on October 31, 2020 with stipulations that all people must stay inside vehicles and mask must be worn. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider a Christmas Parade for Friday, December 4, 2020. Mayor called City Clerk, Tracy Jones to answer questions. Councilmember Jones stated he could not in good faith vote for a Christmas Parade due to Covid. Councilmember Coley stated she agreed with Councilmember Jones. She stated the CDC discourages gatherings of large groups. She stated the amount of people who attend the Christmas parade, social distancing would not be possible. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to have Christmas Parade December 4, 2020 with Councilmember Ates seconding the motion. Discussion between the Council was brief. Mayor asked for a vote from the Council for or against the Christmas page on Friday December 4, 2020. Councilmembers Ates and Anderson voted Yes, Councilmembers Coley, Jones and Lemmon voted No.

ITEM # 11- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of a Resolution to request that the State Legislature increase the Hotel/Motel Tax in Cochran from 5% to 8%. This item was discussed at the Council Works Session on Tuesday, September 8. The Council can adopt a Resolution to request an increase in the local Hotel/Motel tax to 8%. This increase will increase the revenues in the city. Councilmember Ates made the motion to

approve a resolution to request the State Legislature to increase the Hotel/Motel tax to 8%. Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 5-0

ITEM # 12- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of a Resolution to amend the Water and Sewer Ordinance to require that non-residential or non-farm structures in the City that are on property located within 500 linear feet of a City water line must tap into a City water service line. This item was discussed at the September Council work session. The City attorney determined the state law prohibits cities from requiring residential structures or farms from tying into a municipal, water system. The City can require all customer other than residential structures or farms to connect to City water for both potable water and irrigation purposes. Councilmember Coley stated her thoughts and she stated she would like more information before she would be able to vote in favor. Mayor stated this item would be placed on hold until more information was obtained on this item.

ITEM # 13- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of traffic calming infrastructure on Sixth Street and also East Peter Street. Councilmember Lemmon. Mayor Yeomans asked for the discussion on this item. Councilmember Lemmon gave his evaluation of the two roads. He has monitored the two roads and he expressed his concerns about the speeders that are coming by. Councilmember Jones stated the speed breakers would be painted bright orange. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the calming infrastructure on Sixth Street and East Peter Street with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. 5-0

ITEM # 14- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider appointee to Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department. Mayor Yeomans stated Tonya Harris contacted him and was interested in serving on the Recreation Board at CBRD. Councilmember Ates made a motion for Tonya Harris to be placed on the Recreation Board to represent the City with Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

City Manager Comments:

- Working with Havenwood Gardens
- Earl Arnold regarding annexation
- GICH meeting October 22, 2020 Updates on CHIP Grants
- Zoning Ordinance Updates
- Public Service Commission
- Rural Tax Credit – City was not awarded by DCA
- LMIG updates
- CDBG Update

Council Discussion Items:

- Anderson –None
- Ates – None
- Coley – Questions about Employee of the month. Prayer Invitation. Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Jones– Thanked Willie Farrow and Public Works for the work they did on Oak Street
- Lemmon– Thanked Council for approval of speed bump
- Veal - Absent

Meeting adjourned to go into executive session @ 8:12

Mayor called Meeting back in session. 8:47PM

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

Adjourned @ 8:50PM.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk