



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans
Councilmember Keith Anderson; Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Carla Coley, Rufus Veal
City Attorney- Jim Elliott
Absent: Councilmember Gary Ates
5 Councilmembers Present. One Councilmember Absent.

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Anderson and the Pledge led by Councilmember Jones.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the October 10, 2023, agenda.
Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to accept the agenda with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 5/0.

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the September 12, 2023, minutes
Councilmember Coley made the motion to accept the 9/12/23 minutes with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 5/0

- I. Call to Order by the Mayor**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Attendance**
- V. Adopt Agenda**

ITEM #1- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on Millage.

P H called to order at 7:04

Mayor called for any one who wanted to speak for or against the mileage rate.

Chris Coley – 135 Janet Drive – Asked the Council to consider a lower increase if an increase at all.

Closed at 7:11pm

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Public Hearing on Keith Arnold’s application to rezone 17.5-acres on North Ash Street from B-2 Business Commercial to R-3 Residential

P H open at 7:12pm

Mayor called for anyone who wanted to speak for or against the application to rezone the 17.5-acres on North Ash Street from B-2 Business Commercial to R-3 Residential.

Keith Arnold, son of the owner Earl Arnold, expressed his concerns to the Council.

Russell Odom – Planning Commission Chairman -Lakeshore Drive – addressed the rezoning petition.

P H closed at 7:23pm.

Mayor recognized Ray Knighton for serving as the Planning Commission. Mr. Knighton resigned due to health issues.

Councilmember Anderson made the motion to deny the request with a second by Councilmember Veal. 3- Yes to deny Jones, Anderson, Veal. 1- No – Coley 1- Did not vote – Lemmon. Motion passed 3-1-1

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider action on variance applications by Paul Cribbs and owners for developments on Village Circle. Attorney stated a motion needs to be made on an action. Mayor called one lot at the time for a vote.

Lot 53 & 54 – Councilmember Coley made a motion to deny, Councilmember Veal seconded, Motion passed 5/0.

Lot 57 - Councilmember Coley made a motion to deny, Councilmember Veal seconded, Motion passed 5/0.

Lot 59 - Councilmember Coley made a motion to deny, Councilmember Veal seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

Lot 59 set back - Councilmember Coley made a motion to deny, Councilmember Veal seconded. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern
Consider adopting Pay Scales and Pay Plan- Moved to November

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern
Consider awarding bid for Zero Turn mower for the Public Works Department.
Councilmember Veal made the motion to award the bid with a second by Councilmember Anderson.
Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern
Consider approval of updated ARPA budget. City Attorney recommended Council to adopt the updated ARPA budget. City Manager explained some confusion at last council meeting with a vote to allocate the \$125,000 for lighting to the pickleball courts. Procedural after effect of the vote and the vote amendment that needs to be cleared up. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the ARPA budget to include the \$125,000 for the lighting for the pickleball courts with a second by Councilmember Coley. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern
Consider amending the package sales license ordinance to include a time deadline for construction. City Manager explained the concern if someone was awarded, a provision will be added for construction to begin by a certain period of time. Council Coley made the motion to amend the current ordinance to include a 12 month deadline for business to be open with a second by Councilmember Anderson.
Yes - 4 – Lemmon, Anderson, Coley, Veal No -Jones Motion passed 4-1.

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

City Manager – GICH team in Athens at retreat. DCA conference in Augusta. GMA District 9 region meeting on November 1.

City Attorney – None

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson Thanked all who came out to the District 1 meeting to express their concerns about speed bumps.

Ates: Absent.

District 2

Coley – Gave information concerning a potential development for poultry houses. Spoke on mental health awareness and breast cancer awareness.

Veal – Letter from City Manager for MacThompson Rd. Concerns of meter ran over by city. Customer being charged after three months after being cut off. TAVT Tax, sent by county, in the budget.

District 3

Jones – Today is the first of the year that it takes six digits to write the date.

Lemmon – None

Mayor Comments

Thanked everyone for coming. Take care of your neighbor. Encouraged to stay hydrated. Update on the CDBG. Encouraged citizens to reach out to their Councilmember if there is an issue.

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.)

Kimbelry Reid – Asked to be added to the agenda next month for discussion by Council.

Daryl Smith – Fairfield Drive - Loves Cochran. Tracy, City Clerks does a great job and her staff does a great job. Willie farrow, great jobs. Concerns about the pot holes and conditions of roads around the neighborhood. Cochran is great and he loves to live in Cochran.

Ken Crough – Express his concerns about the unacceptable conditions of the fire department.

Ethel King- Upset her voice was on Facebook.

Executive Session –

Councilmember Coley made the motion to go into executive session with a second by Council member Veal for personnel regrading City Manager contract renewal @ 8:36pm . Approved 5/0

Motion to go back into Regular session by Councilmember Anderson second by Councilmember Lemmon.

Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to approve City Manager's contract with a second by Councilmember Jones.

Voice roll call vote. Anderson vote yes to renew. Coley voted not to renew. Jones voted yes to renew. Lemmon voted yes to renew. Veal voted not to renew. Motion passed to renew City Manager's contract.

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Jones a second by Councilmember Lemmon.

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk