



**Cochran City Council
Tuesday, January 13, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

Present: Mayor Stoy, Councilmembers Willie Basby, Gary Ates, Eric Bisher, Charles Cranford, Tommy Guyton and Andrew Lemmon.

Call to order by the Mayor. The invocation was given by Councilmember Willie Basby followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Eric Bisher.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to adopt the modified agenda. Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to approve the December 9, 2014 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously with all in favor.

Item # 1 – David Harrell, Director of Cochran-Bleckley Recreation, update status of the Recreation Department.

Mr. Harrell gave a power point presentation on the Recreation Department. Policies and procedures are now in place concerning the handling of money, purchasing of equipment, registration process, etc. Mr. Harrell has been the director since September 2014. He has also implemented a Zero Tolerance Policy. Mayor Stoy asked Mr. Harrell about his next challenge. Mr. Harrell stated that he would be working on a Strategic Plan.

Item # 2 – Item # 2 – Presented by Police Chief Chris Coley

Recognition of Employee of the Year and recognition of Charles Ledbetter's retirement.

Chief Coley presented Lora Kight with the Employee of the Year plaque. Chief Coley also recognized the retirement of Charles Ledbetter and his thirteen years of service.

Item # 3 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

Ordinance 15-14; Second reading of an amendment of the Charter of the City. Section 2.22 of the Cochran City Charter is amended so Ordinances can be considered and adopted or rejected by the city council in accordance with the rules which it shall establish.

Mayor Stoy read Ordinance 15-14. Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 15-14. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 4 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

Resolution 01-15; – Purchase of 7.62 acres adjoining Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to approve Resolution 01-15. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 5 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Ordinance 01-15; Amend budget for General Fund and non-major governmental funds – Special Revenue – Hotel/Motel Tax for the year ending June 30, 2014.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Guyton seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 01-15. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 6 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Adopt the Fleet Management Plan and the New Street Light Installation Policy.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to adopt the Fleet Management Plan and the New Street Light Installation Policy. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 7 – Presented by Mayor Stoy

Approve Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to approve the updated Strategic Plan. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Updates

Mayor Stoy read the deadline to publish qualifying fees. A required notice will be placed in the Cochran Journal.

City Council is investigating updating the entrance signs to the city. We have requested a sign company to prepare a model for our review and editing. Also, updates are needed for all Mayor Committees.

Mayor Stoy gave an update on the Municipal Building. According to Kornegay Engineering Inc., the report is based on a visual observation only and is made solely to provide an opinion of the structural problems addressed. The entire facility appeared to be in good condition and structurally sound. The concerns addressed were mainly cosmetic and non-structural in nature. Therefore, the City will need to determine how to maximize for the good of the City.

City Manager Updates

Handouts with department updates were presented to Council.

Chief Coley reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.

Skip Layton gave an update on the mapping for the water and sewer system. He estimated that 30% of the sewer is complete. Skip also gave an update on the Wilson/Milton flooding issues. He said that less than 10% is from the city. The property is in need of dirt in order to fill in the low spots.

A letter from First Baptist Church was sent to City Hall. They are appreciative of the sidewalk work completed on their corner.

City Manager Newbern received a letter from Carol Denmark. After an evaluation and review, the request for a refund of her garbage costs was denied.

Title searches were completed on six dilapidated houses. The City will be working with the property owners to move toward demolition. Scott Jackson is assisting with the mapping of all dilapidated homes in the city.

Council Comments

Councilmember Bisher inquired about a delinquent tax list. He also asked for an update on the Fire Committee. According to Mayor Stoy, the committee has met and will look at the possibility of consolidation.

Public Comments

Donnie Dixon was impressed with the Municipal Building report. He would like to see it maintained. He also welcomed the update on dilapidated houses.

Pauline Dykes inquired about a refund check she received. City Manager Newbern will meet with Mrs. Dykes tomorrow.

Bobby Pettis inquired about the budget.

Carol Denmark asked Council to consider refunding her and removing her from receiving monthly garbage fees.

Mary Pitts stated that the youth needed more city parks and activities in the city.

Mayor Stoy asked City Manager Richard Newbern to stand and introduce himself. Mr. Newbern began working with the City on December 15, 2014.

Councilmember Basby made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to enter Executive Session. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Cranford made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to exit Executive Session. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to remove Mike Dobe from the Public Safety Committee. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to approve the nomination of Marla Thompson as the City representative on the Cochran-Bleckley Library Board. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Cochran and Bleckley County regarding Building Inspection Services.

Councilmember Cranford made a motion and Councilmember Basby seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn 9:27 pm.

Lisa Chastain
City Clerk