

**CITY OF COCHRAN**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Cochran, Georgia**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

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The regular meeting of Council was held this date at 7:00 P.M. in the Cochran Community House. The invocation was given by Councilmember Eric Bisher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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PRESENT:	Mayor Michael Stoy	ABSENT:	Councilmember Willie Basby
	Councilmember Tommy Guyton		Councilmember Charles Cranford
	Councilmember Andrew Lemmon		
	Councilmember Eric Bisher		
	Councilmember Gary Ates		
	Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson		

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Stoy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lemmon and seconded by Councilmember Guyton to adopt the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lemmon and seconded by Councilmember Guyton to approve the August 12, 2014 Work Session Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 25, 2014 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 1 – Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson**

**Ordinance 08-14;** Amendment of Ordinance setting forth budget for the City of Cochran because of a change from a calendar year to a fiscal year.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 08-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 2 - Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson**

**Ordinance 09-14;** July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 budget.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to accept Ordinance 09-14. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Item # 3 - Presented by Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson**

Notification to Council that the City is opening a non-interest bearing checking account designated for ACH credits only for the new CDBG grant. Two signatures will be required for each check

written. Permission to sign will be Jerry Murkerson, Interim City Manager, Lisa Chastain, City Clerk, Jill Cooper, Financial Administrator and Mike Stoy, Mayor.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Guyton seconded the motion to accept this notice. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

### **Mayor Updates**

Mayor Stoy is requesting a review of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the fire services. He would like suggestions from Council on restructuring the services. A committee with representatives from the city, county and the Perry Fire Chief will be charged with investigating.

### **City Updates**

Interim City Manager Jerry Murkerson introduced Chris Bambrough, Director of Classic Mainstreet. Mr. Bambrough spoke on getting college students to visit downtown Cochran. He will also be working with the Chamber of Commerce on the Country Fest.

Mr. Murkerson presented Council with handouts of each city department and their updates. He also gave Council a handout from Falcon Designs. Falcon has drafted a Sign Ordinance for the city. Each Councilmember will review and discuss at the next regular council meeting.

### **Council Discussions**

Councilmember Bisher appreciates Mr. Murkerson bringing the Falcon sign guidelines to their attention. This is important as Cochran begins to grow. He also discussed the sewer at Middle Georgia State College. Mayor Stoy informed Council that he is forming a committee and will also ask Falcon to participate. Citizens are concerned that the college is not paying their fair share of sewage. The college owns their own well and therefore the city has been unable to properly measure the volume of sewer entering the sewer system.

Councilmember Bisher asked for the city to address the weed control in the alleys and to check on the schedule for street sweeping. He also stated that the stripping of the lines looked good.

Mr. Murkerson was asked to follow up on tax collecting and the amount outstanding.

Councilmember Lemmon asked Police Chief Chris Coley for an update on Neighborhood Watch. Chief Coley said that it is very slow at this time. He is encouraging areas of the city to get involved and to consider Neighborhood Watch if they do not have one in their community.

## Public Comments

Eve Wilson inquired about the city checking on the flooding of Johnson Street. Mr. Murkerson will check on this.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to enter Executive Session at 7:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Bisher made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to leave Executive Session at 7:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wiley Hobes entered the meeting and asked to address Council about the increasing water and sewer rates. Mayor Stoy informed Mr. Hobes that the rates have not been raised for some time and that due to the sewer problems the city has limited options. If the city does not fix the sewer system, the EPD will shut us down and start fining the city. The city is applying for grants, loans, etc. The Mayor is confident that every option has been explored. The city needs more businesses and industry to help off-set these costs.

Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to re-enter Executive Session at 7:45 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to exit Executive Session at 8:05 pm.

Councilmember Guyton asked Mr. Murkerson to look into an ordinance to sell beer and wine on Sundays.

Councilmember Guyton made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Lisa Chastain  
City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)