



**MINUTES  
Cochran City Council  
April 10, 2018  
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Robert Anderson, Andrew Lemmon & Keith Anderson

Absent: Councilmember Jon Thrower

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Andrew Lemmon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Robert Anderson.

Councilmember Robert Anderson made the motion and Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconded the motion to approve the Agenda for Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Billy Yeomans asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the minutes for March 13, 2018. No corrections or additions were added. Mayor Yeomans stated is no corrections or additions were made, the minutes from Tuesday, March 13, 2018 meeting are approved as distributed.

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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**

Recognition of Police Sergeant Calvin Banks on his retirement from the City of Cochran police force. Chief Chris Coley stood and presented Sergeant Banks with a plaque and Congratulated him on his retirement. He thanked Sergeant. Banks for his service with the Cochran Police Department.

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

Proclamation for National Hospitals Week. Mayor Yeomans read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Green for National Hospitals Week.

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

Proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week. Mayor read proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week.

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

Consider Resolution to contract with Penn Credit to provide collection services for delinquent Police and Municipal Court Fine- Moved to May 8, 2018 Meeting.

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

Consider a Resolution authorizing a \$15 surcharge on all police fines to generate revenues of law enforcement computer automation. Chief Chris Coley proposed for the Council to approve a surcharge fee of \$15.00 to help off set the cost of important items needed by the Police Department. This surcharge will be added to most police fines. Mayor Fleming Gilman made the motion to approve the \$15.00 surcharge with Robert Anderson seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider adopting an updated Purchasing Ordinance. Richard explained the revised purchasing ordinance and highlighted the major important sections. He distributed the ordinance to Council for their review., Councilmember Keith Anderson made the motion to approve the Purchasing Ordinance with Councilmember Regina Gooch seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

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

Consider awarding a bid for purchase and installation of a new polymer sludge treatment system for the wastewater treatment plant. Item was deferred until May 8, 2018 meeting.

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

Report on Cochran GICH Housing Team activities. Richard Newbern gave an update on all the activities the GICH team has taken a part of in the past month and what they plan on doing in the future. He also stated the GICH team has a slogan “Cochran Cares”.

**ITEM # 9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Discuss and consider a proposal to credit employee’s military service toward their accumulated vesting in the retirement system. Councilman Robert Anderson explained the concept of the retirement for the service men or women who has served to have that time credited to their time with the city. He also stated there would be a cap of up to 5 years only. There is no charge for a cost analyst from GMA. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion to allow Richard Newbern do a cost analyst to see how much this service will cost the city. Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. 5-0.

**ITEM # 10- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider appointment of voting delegate to the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. Councilmember Regina Gooch made a motion to nominated Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to be the designated persons to vote with MGAG. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0.

**ITEM # 11 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Consider authorizing requests to the State of Georgia and to the Norfolk Southern Corporation for eligible funds related to expected rail crossing closures and improvements. Mr. Newbern revisited the benefits to the city of the railroad closures. Councilmember Andrew Lemmon made the motion to approve City manager to move forward to file all documents needed to continue the process with Norfolk Southern Railroad. Mayor Pro Tem Fleming Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 5-0

**Public Comments** (Please note that every individual who signs up to speak prior to the meeting will be given a total of five minutes to address the Mayor and Council.)

- Catherine Guyton – Mrs. Guyton expressed her concerns and opinions concerning the Coty Council eating a meal on the tax payers dime.
- Harold Peacock - Mr Peacock stated he was concerned about his water pressure. Mr. Newbern sated he would talk with the Public Works supervisor to see what needed to be done about the issue.

**VIII. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates**

- ❖ Clean Up day 4/21/18
- ❖ Bulk Waste and Scrap tire also
- ❖ Budget Sessions for the next several months
- ❖ GMA District 9 meeting 4/12/18 from 6-9pm

**IX. Mayor Updates**

- Mayor Yeomans thanked each Councilmember for doing a great job in getting work done at the Retreat in McRae.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Monthly report was provided in the packets that were handed out earlier in the week. Chief Coley asked if anyone had questions, he would be glad to answer. City of Cochran will host the GHS Reginal Meeting April 27, 2018. 50 to 75 extra Police Officers in town to conduct traffic road blocks. He stated the City Police Dept has a new Officer, Joshua Jordan. He was unable to attend meeting but will be at next meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Fire Chief Kevin Noles was not present due to training. Lt. Brock Wilcher stood in for Fire chief. He thanked the public for the purchase of spaghetti plates which bought the department 6 new radios. Lt. stated the monthly report was delivered to earlier in the week in the packets. He asked for any questions and stated he would be happy to answer.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:** None

**CITY CLERK UPDATES:** Mrs. Jones expressed she was interested in trying to implement a senior citizens discount to utility bills. She asked the Council to consider allowing her to research other areas to get solid information, so this discount could be implemented in Cochran.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE:**

Willie Farrow stated Cochran was approved for the Scrap tire project. This will be reimbursed by EPA and he gave brief summary of the project. Gave brief summary of the demolition taken place.

**SKIP LAYTON UPDATES:**

Skip Layton, City Engineer, provided Council with a monthly report on projects going on at this time. GEFA CWSRF 15-002, GEFA DWSRF 15-019, DWSRF 15-009, CDBG 2015, CDBG 2016, Cochran/Bleckley Recreation Complex, & Cochran Storm Drainage Improvements.

**There were no other department updates.**

**X. Council Discussion Items**

**XI. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Work Session May 8, 2018 @ 6:00 pm
- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – May 8, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Lemmon made the motion to adjourn and Councilmember Robert Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**Adjourn @ 8:07.**

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk