



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Stoy, Councilmembers Gary Ates, Jon Thrower, Charles Cranford, Andrew Lemmon, Regina Gooch and Fleming Gilman.

Call to order by the Mayor. The invocation was given by Councilmember Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Thrower.

Councilmember Gilman made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to amend the agenda to add reading of minutes as Item #4; approve May 10, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes and May 24, 2016 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Agenda Items

Item # 1 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Budget Presentation. City Manager Newbern commended Mayor, Council and the department heads on their input of the FY 2016-2017 budget. A power point presentation gave a breakdown of the four funds with budget distribution, expenses and revenues.

Item # 2 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Approve budget resolution. Councilmember Lemmon made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve the budget resolution. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 3 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Adopt proposed Management Agreement with Jointly Owned (JONG). Subject to attorney review. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to approve the agreement. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 4 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Reading of minutes. Councilmember Gilman made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion for the City Clerk to read the previous month's edited and approved minutes at the beginning of each regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates

City Manager Newbern is working with Attorney Jim Elliott on annexation. A public hearing will be announced and those affected by annexation will be notified.

Middle Georgia Signs will install the new city gateway signs that are being purchased from Sign Design & Fabrication.

Police Chief Chris Coley discussed the by-pass closure and the impact of detoured traffic to Second Street. DOT has approved the timed parking spots for downtown parking. The police department has converted an office into a conference room. The room will have a smart board, overhead projector, flat screen TV and a 12 ft. conference table. Chief Coley commended the officers that worked the murder case during his absence.

Fire Chief Kevin Noles reported on pipe line emergency training. Full-time and volunteer firefighters took part in the training.

Public Works Director Jacob Daniels reported on paving and pothole patching delays due to the asphalt plant being closed the last few weeks. Daniels also discussed some of the issues with limbs not getting picked up by Advanced Disposal. He and City Manager Newbern will discuss with Advanced.

Skip Layton, City Engineer, gave an update on Phase I of the GEFA project. Work includes repairing and lining sewer lines. Camera crews will finish their work within the next week. The water tank repairs will include painting the tanks inside and outside. Antennas on the tanks will need to be identified for relocation. All residential and commercial water meters will be replaced with new meters. Information on meter change outs will be noted on customers' utility bills. Change out is expected later in the fall.

Newbern informed Council that the fire services update would be addressed in Executive Session due to possible litigation. Council voted at the May 10th regular meeting for City Manager Newbern to send County Commissioner Brockman a letter addressing Option 1 of the County's proposal.

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Work Session Meeting–July 12, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – July 12, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Executive Session

- X **F.** Meeting to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee as provided in Georgia Code section 50-14-3(b)(2).
- X **H.** Pursuant to the attorney-client privilege and as provided by Georgia Code section 50-14-2(1), a meeting otherwise required to be open was closed to the public in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved and the matter discussed was Fire Services.

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to go back into regular session. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion that due to the County's failure to respond to the City's request for additional information regarding the County's offer to consolidate fire services, the City reaffirms its position to cease fire services to unincorporated Bleckley County, effective Friday, July 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM. Those voting in favor were Councilmembers Ates, Thrower, Gooch, Cranford and Lemmon. Councilmember Gilman voted against the motion. Motion passed 5 to 1.

Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to cancel the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement effective July 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM. Those voting in favor were Councilmembers Thrower, Ates, Gooch, Cranford and Lemmon. Councilmember Gilman voted against the motion. Motion passed 5 to 1.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to offer a Mutual Aid Agreement to Bleckley County for fire services between the City of Cochran and Bleckley County. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Gooch made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion for City Manager Newbern to send a memo to County Commissioner Brockman for Bleckley County to obtain a separate channel for county services; EMA and First Responders. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Councilmember Gilman presented a list of items to City Manager Newbern that he would like addressed concerning limbs and other debris around the city.

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Adjourned 11:40pm.

Lisa Chastain, City Clerk

(Seal)