



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

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

Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

Councilmembers: Gary Ates, Keith Anderson, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal,

City Attorney: Jim Elliott

Absent: Carla Coley

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Veal and the Pledge led by Councilmember Ates.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the January 11, 2023, agenda. Councilmember Ates made the motion to add Item #10 to the agenda, #10 Consider amending the City Council rules of procedures and order of business with a second by Councilmember Jones.

Motion passed 5/0.

Mayor called for a motion to accept the January 10 agenda with changes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the January 10 agenda with changes and a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed 5/0

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the December 13, 2022, minutes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the 12/13/22 minutes with Councilmember Lemmon seconding. Motion passed 5/0

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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

Employee of the Month – Public Works Director, Willie Farrow, presented the employee of the month to Stacey Owens who is on the street department crew.

ITEM #2- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Election of Mayor Pro Tem. The Mayor stated the nominations were in order for Mayor Pro Tem for the 2023 calendar year. Mayor called for nominations. Councilmember Keith Anderson nominated Councilmember Gary Ates. Mayor asked for any further nomination. Mayor then declared nominations closed. Councilmember Anderson made the motion to close nominations with a second by Councilmember Veal. Councilmember Gary Ates was nominated the 2023 Mayor Pro Tem with a vote of 5/0. Motion passed.

ITEM #3- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approval of rules for the conduct of Council Meetings. According to the City Charter, it is mandatory that the time and place of the Council meeting be advertised and placed at the meeting venue. Rules of Business must be consistent with the Charter. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve the rules of order procedures and order of business shall be consistent with the City Charter and latest edition of Roberts rules of order. Also requested the City Clerk order the Roberts Rules of order newest edition book for all council with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed. 5/0

Mayor stated with accordance with 2.33(6) Powers and duties of the mayor, he will veto item #8 from the December 13 Council Meeting, the passing of failure to approve amending section 10-105 of the code of ordinances the regulation of architectural stamped plans be a requirement for building permit application for single family residence in the city. At the December 13 regular schedule meeting, the vote was 3 against and 2 in favor. Motion was to approve but the Council voted not to approve 3/2. Mayor vetoed the motion. The council has two meetings to override the mayor's veto. 5 members of the Council will have to vote to override the veto.

ITEM #4- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider recognizing Georgia Arbor Day in Cochran on Friday, February 17, 2023. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve February 17 as Arbor Day with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #5- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Re-appoint Sam Barrs and Ethel King to the City Ethics Committee. Mayor called for a motion to approve Sam Barrs and Ethel King to the City Ethics Committee. Councilmember Jones made the motion to reappoint Sam Barrs and Ethel King to the Ethics Committee with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #6- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider selecting a Facilitator for the annual Council Retreat. A brief discussion was held regarding the city retreat concerning the location of the retreat and facilitator for the event. Councilmember Ates made the motion to have the retreat at Little Ocmulgee State Park in McRae, GA and approving Brooke Miller as facilitator with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #7- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider approving a Budget Calendar for preparation of the FY 2023/24 budget document. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the 2023/2024 Budget calendar with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #8- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider road resurfacing list for Ga. DOT LMIG grant application. Willie Farrow, Public Works director requested permission to apply for the 2023 LMIG. He also requested the road segment list from District 2. Councilmember Jones made the motion for the approval with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #9- Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern

Consider seeking local engineering authority from Ga. DOT for the City’s T-SPLOST projects. Councilmember Ates made the motion to seek local engineering authority from GDOT for the city’s TSPOLST with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 5/0.

ITEM #9 -Presented by City Mayor, Billy Yeomans

Consider changing the travel per diem to coincide with the State of Georgia rates changes and future changes. Councilmember Ates made the motion to change the meal reimbursement per diem rates to coincide with the State of Georgia rates with a second by Councilmember Anderson. Motion passed 5/0.

City Manager – Absent

City Attorney – NONE

Council Discussion Items:

District 1

Anderson – Keep Richard in your prayers and Happy New Year.

Ates – Keep Richard in your prayers and a meeting with Councilmembers in District one and residence will take place soon to work together to make D1 a better place to live.

District 2

Coley – Absent

Veal – Keep Richard in your prayers and stay safe.

District 3

Jones – Mentioned the win of the GA Bulldogs National Championship and a citizen of Cochran is a member of the team

Lemmon – None

Mayor Comments

Mayor asked the Council to stand by him and his decisions regarding the LOST negotiations and how the money will be distributed. A lot of tough decisions will have to be made. Will place the fact sheets from the county and city that was presented to the arbitrator so the citizens will understand what the One (1) penny means.

Mayor also said a called meeting will be held soon to inquire about the resignation of the 4 DDA board members

Mayor Yeomans adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

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.)

(SEAL)

Tracy B Jones
City Clerk