



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans

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

City Attorney- Jim Elliott

Absent: Councilmember Carla Coley

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Anderson and the Pledge led by Mayor Yeomans.

Mayor asked for any corrections, additions or deletions to the July 11, 2023, agenda. City Manager stated Item #6 needed to be added to the agenda. #6 Subdivision Standards. Councilmember Ates made the motion to add Item #6 to the agenda with a second by Councilmember Jones.

Motion passed 5/0.

Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the agenda with the changes with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 5/0.

Mayor asked if there were any corrections or questions to the June 13, 2023, minutes. City Clerk, Tracy B Jones, stated she did make three changes to #5 on the minutes and provided Council with an updated copy. Councilmember Ates made the motion to accept the 6/13/23 minutes as corrected with a second by Councilmember Anderson. 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**

Consider recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding amendment to the Sign Ordinance to include a provision regulating signs at liquor store establishments. The City Manager and City Attorney spoke on this item and explained to the Council with this amendment, it will bring the Sign Ordinance into conformance with State Law. Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the amendment of the sign ordinance with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

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

Consider contracting with Symphona Consultants from Dublin, Ga. for accounting consultant services. The City Manager Richard Newbern commented on the qualifications of the firm and the urgency of completing an audit in a timely manner. An engagement letter was provided to the Council for their review. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve contracting with Symphona with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

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

Consider contracting with Nicholls-Cauley auditing firm from Dublin to prepare the City's audit. The City Manager Richard Newbern commented on the qualifications of Nicholls-Cauley firm. An engagement letter was provided to the Council. After Symphona completes the audit, they will then turn the books over to Nicholls Cauley to perform the city audit. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve contracting with Nicholls -Cauley with a second by Councilmember Jones. Motion passed. 5/0.

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

Consider applying for a \$15,000 RELEAF grant from Georgia Forestry Commission to plant trees in the public right -of-way. The City Manager, Richard Newbern, explained the area where the trees would be planted, the deadline for application, and the regulations for the grant by GADOT. Willie Farrow also had some input about the grant. Councilmember Ates made the motion to approve applying for the RELAF grant with a second by Councilmember Jones. Yes- Ates, Anderson, Jones, Lemmon – NO – Veal.  
Motion approved 4/1

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

Consider appointing Stephanie Mathis to replace Terry Ware to the Cochran Bleckley Recreation Department, recommendation by Recreation Department Board. Councilmember Jones made the motion to appoint Stephanie Mathis to CBRD board to replace Terry Ware with a second by Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed 5/0.

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

Consider approving subdivision standards. The City Manager, Richard Newbern, explains this will set forth minimal standards. City Engineer, Skip Layton, addressed the importance of the standard and how it will benefit the City. Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the subdivision standards as presented with a second by Councilmember Ates. Motion passed 5/0.

## **Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**City Manager** – None

**City Attorney** – None

**Council Discussion Items:**

**District 1**

**Anderson** Thanked all City Workers for the hard work and for everyone working outside, stay hydrated.

**Ates**: Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting in District 1. He suggested PW be awarded for length of days without an accident.

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**District 2**

**Coley** – Absent

**Veal** – Veterans concerns about the flags.

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**District 3**

**Jones** – Thank all City Departments for everything they do.

**Lemmon** – Congratulations to Debra Turner on her retirement from WRAFB.

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**Mayor Comments**

Thanked everyone for coming. Take care of your neighbor. Encouraged to stay hydrated. Explained why the flags were closer together down Dykes Street.

**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.)

Angela Glover – She thanked her Council in D1 for placing garbage can on her street and the cleaning the tree lines. Concerns about the trees being watered and maintained.

Executive Session – Potential litigation and evaluation

Councilmember Ates made the motion to go into executive session with a second by Council member Jones on potential litigation @ 7:41PM. Approved 5/0

Motion to go back into Regular session by Councilmember Ates second by Councilmember Lemmon @ 8:18

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Jones a second by Councilmember Ates. 8:19PM.

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk