



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2021**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting @ 7PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Billy Yeomans, Mayor Pro Tem Gary Ates  
Councilmembers: Keith Anderson, Carla Coley, Jimmy Jones, Andrew Lemmon, Rufus Veal

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Veal followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Coley.

Mayor called for a motion to add Fire Safety Proclamation to the agenda. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the addition with Mayor Pro Tem Ates seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the October 12, 2021; agenda as presented with additions. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to approve the agenda with Councilmember Lemmon seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

Mayor called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Ates made the motion to accept 9/14/21 minutes with Councilmember Jones seconding the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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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. Employee of the month was diverted to December 14, 2021 meeting.

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

Consider authorizing the bidding of a contracted sewer hook-up to a residence on Wood Oak Circle. Mayor Yeomans read the summary dealing with the extension of City sewer services to the Thursby property at 122 Wood Oak Circle. There was an original agreement made in 2008 with Mr. Thursby to allow his property to be added to city sewage upon his request. He has made this request. Mr. Newbern asked Skip Layton, City Engineer to address the Council. Mr. Layton Stated that the City had investigated adding all the houses in this section to city sewage in 2014/2015. There will be a 400 ft run to the Thursby property and 1,800 ft run to include all the houses. Mr. Layton estimated the 400 ft of gravity flow sewage pipe would cost \$70,000 to \$100,000. He requested cost information from 2 contractors. There will be additional cost for adding all houses for this. He recommended that we submit a 30-day bid period for this project. Plans have been prepared and he recommends a 3 month turn around for the bid submittal and selection. Councilmember Jones asked what the costs for the project are for adding all houses. Mr. Layton stated that he does not have that information at the time. Mayor asked if the City is bound to do this work? Yes, per Skip Layton. He noted that 6 homes could be served if the total project was completed. Mayor asked Council for their comments. Councilmember Jones stated the City has no choice but to complete the work. Councilmember Ates made a motion to do the proposed work requested in the 2008 contract. Councilmember Jones made a second. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6/0

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

Consider authorizing submittal of grant application to FEMA -USA Fire administration to finance purchase of new Fire truck

Mayor Yeomans read item summary and turned the presentation over the Fire Chief Brock Wilcher. This grant would be used for the purchase of a \$950,000 ladder truck. The City would need to supply some matching funds with a \$47,500 contribution. There is a 3% filing fee of \$28,200 which would only be charged if the grant was awarded. This application would be filed on our behalf by the Mayor of Allentown who has been successful in getting funds in the past. Currently, the City does not have a working ladder truck. The current ladder truck will not pass a safety inspection. The need for a ladder truck is three-fold. First for use at Middle GA. State University which has several 3 story buildings. Second for the new apartment complex, Havenwood Gardens, and lastly for elevated fire suppression for downtown Cochran. This would be crucial in containing a fire from building to building. The grant award amount is based on City population. There is no cost to the City if this grant is not awarded. In addition, there would be lower maintenance and testing fees with a new truck. Councilmember Coley asked about the Fire fees collected and where these fees are going. She made a reference to programs in place in the Macon/Bibb area and wanted to confirm that these funds are going to the right place. Could this be addressed at the Council Retreat? Councilmember Jones made motion to apply for the grant application to FEMA- USA Fire administration to finance purchase of a new fire truck with a second from Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider approval of Speed Bump Policy

Mayor Yeomans addressed this during the Work session. He announced that he would appoint a 3-member committee to research this new policy. Councilmember Coley asked if this would fall under the current safety committee? The Mayor wants a separate committee. Members will be District 1, Councilmember Ates, District 2, Councilmember Veal, District 3, Councilmember Jones. Please have draft for the retreat.

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

Consider approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Ga. DCA to implement PLANFIRST agenda  
Mayor Yeomans read summary of memorandum and asked Mr. Newbern to explain.

Mr. Newbern began by stating that this designation was presented to the City earlier in the day by Christopher Nunn the head of the GA DCA. Receiving this designation gives us advantages for the next 3 years with grant applications. The City must comply with the agreement, provide updated posts on our website, and provide progress information to keep designation. Councilmember Jones made a motion to accept the memorandum as presented with a second from Councilmember Ates. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

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

Consider applying for State ARPA funds for the program that provides \$1,000 stipend to full-time public safety personnel and \$300 to part-time public safety personnel Mayor Yeomans read the summary and asked Mr. Newbern to explain this program. Mr. Newbern began by stating that these funds would be in addition to the existing ARPA funds already on deposit. This is federal money given to the States to be distributed thru the Governor's office for Public Safety. We are requesting for Council to allow the staff the time it will take to apply for these funds. Councilmember Ates made a motion to apply for the State ARPA funds with a second from Councilmember Lemmon. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6-0

**City Manager Update:**

Mr. Newbern started by stating that several grants have been applied for and are pending including the Recreation Trails Grant for the multi-use path on bypass, and the SFRF Grant for sewage system improvements.

The Safety and Liability GMA program grant which includes setting up the safety program for the City and the Safety Coordinator position. Tracy Jones has been named the Safety Coordinator and will work with department heads on meetings and monitoring safety issues.

Veterans Day is this Thursday, 11-11-2021 and City offices will be closed.

Thanksgiving holidays will be Thursday 11-25-2021 and Friday 11-26-2021. City offices will be closed.

## **Council Discussion Items:**

### **District 1**

Councilmember Anderson: Wishes all Happy Thanksgiving, Tracy a speedy recovery, and keep the Police Chief and his family in our prayers.

Councilmember Ates: Also wishes all Happy Thanksgiving, Tracy a speedy recovery, and keep Chief Jeff and his family in our prayers. Also pray that the Council can get a lot done for our City.

### **District 2**

Councilmember Coley: Remember Lite Up Cochran for Wednesday, 12-1-2021 before the parade. Sponsored by State Bank. Thanks to the Beta Club for their clean up before Country Fest. Veterans Day program for all at 11 am in City Auditorium on Thursday.

Councilmember Veal: Thanks to all Veterans for their service. Very touching to see all the flags flying and thanked the families of those remembered with these flags. Recognized the Cochran Royals for their 10-0 season. The passing of Dr. Gibbs who donated a lot of her time for low-income families needing healthcare.

### **District 3**

Councilmember Jones: Nothing

Councilmember Lemmon: Wanted to thank the voters of district 3 for his reelection. He stated” I will do my best for Cochran. I was born and raised here, and I think that we are the top small city in Georgia. Again, thank you voters for 4 more years.” Also thank you to the Council and Mayor for your support.

## **Public Comments:**

Ed Peacock wanted to discuss the Cedar Hill Cemetery. The public workers are doing a wonderful job up there but there is a split tree that has been down for a while. Can it be cleaned up before Veterans Day? Flags look great and are very touching. Public Works Director, Willie Farrow responded to tree issue. He will check on clean up.

Mayor Yeomans asked if there was a need to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Veal said yes on a personnel issue. Mayor adjourned regular meeting at 7:43pm with a 5 minute break before Executive session.

Councilmember Ates made a motion to go into Executive session @ 7:49PM. with a second from Councilmember Veal. Motion passed with all voting in favor 6-0.

Councilmember Ates made a motion to adjourn @ 8:19PM with a second from Councilmember Jones.

Adjourn @ 8:19PM

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk