



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Thursday, May 9, 2017**  
**Special Called Meeting @ 6:00 PM**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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Present: Mayor Gary Ates, Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon, Councilmembers Regina Gooch, Jon Thrower, Keith Anderson, Charles Cranford, and Fleming Gilman.

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

Mayor Gary Ates made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to approve the Agenda and the minutes. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

**Agenda Items**

**ITEM# 1 – Presented by City Manager, Richard Newbern**

Public Hearing on proposed rezoning of 134 Peach Street from R-1 to commercial designation of Funeral Home use only of Randy Paschal, Owner. Mr. Newbern explained this would be for commercial use only. The zoning committee approved this location. Mr. Newbern provided Zoning Committee Recommendation summary for all Councilmembers. Councilmember Cranford made the motion to accept the Zoning recommendation. Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with 5 votes yes (Councilmembers Gooch, Cranford, Lemmon, Anderson) and 1 vote No (Councilmember Thrower).

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

Public Hearing on proposed rezoning of 217 Beech Street from R-1 to Commercial- Day Care Use Only of James and Peggy Mathis, Owners of No motion was made due to this item was an update.

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

Consider approval of sewer line proposed for construction down East Dykes Street to the Cochran Bypass. Mr. Newbern presented a map to councilmembers showing where sewer lines would be run. Several citizens expressed concerns about the project and asked councilmembers not to vote until all options have been carefully examined. Councilmember Gilman stated the City would work closely with the IDA & Bob Brockman. Councilmember Cranford made the motion to go ahead with sewer project. Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion. Motion was not passed with 2 voting yes (Councilmembers Gilman & Cranford) and 4 voting No (Councilmembers Thrower, Gooch, Anderson, and Mayor Pro-Tem Andrew Lemmon).

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

Consider amending the Personnel Policy Handbook to increase the meal allowance for Council and employees on travel status to the per diem daily allowance provided by the State of Georgia. Mr. Newbern reminded council this consideration was tabled at last meeting. He stated that City Clerk, Tracy Jones, did research on the state meal per diem. The amount per day for meals is \$36.00. Councilmember Gooch made the motion to accept the state per diem of \$36.00. Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 voting yes (Councilmembers Thrower, Gooch, Anderson, Cranford & Mayor Pro Tem Lemmon) and 1 voting no (Councilmember Gilman).

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

Consider approving annexation of City-owned parcels located near Cochran City limits. Mr. Newbern asked Willie Farrow, Code Enforcement to explain. Mr. Farrow gave out annexation paperwork. Mr. Farrow asked council to consider passing a motion to allow him to move forward to do research on the ownership of these properties. Councilmember Gilman made the motion to allow Mr. Farrow to conduct research on the property. Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor 6 to 0.

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

Report on Clean Up Day May 20, 2017. Mr. Newbern provided paperwork announcing Clean Up Day and the details of it. He explained it would be announced in the paper and schools and other organizations would be contacted about this project. No action was needed due to this was an update.

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

Update on City's application to Georgia DCA on the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). Mr. Newbern gave an update. He expressed this was an update on the application on affordable housing discussed at the retreat in January. Mr. Newbern stated he would like for the council's involvement on this and to help to focus on The City's housing needs.

**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.)

- Mrs. Guyton thanked Jacob for striping Peacock street. She expressed how much easier it was to see and how much she appreciated it.
- Dr. Stoy expressed several issues he was concerned about pertaining to council meetings.
- Mr. Hall asked the Mayor and Council could he host a basketball tournament at the Willie Basby Recreation Park. Mayor Gary Ates stated the courts were not designed for tournaments and he was not wanting to do anything like that at the Park. Mr. Hall asked who he needed to contact about using the Peyton Williams building. He was instructed to contact OFTC.

Mayor thanked all the citizens for all comments and suggestions.

**VIII. Mayor Updates**

**IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates – Financial Report & Budget proposal**

- IDA Next Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8AM located at the Chamber.

- Chamber of Commerce Meeting ó May 17<sup>th</sup> @ Noon. This will be a luncheon at the President Dining room @ GA Hall at MGSU.
- Financial Reports and Budget Proposals. Mr. Newbern presented the proposed budget and explained each department and line item. Mr. Newbern & Councilmembers discussed concerns about budgets. Mr. Newbern expressed he would have a Budget Session Called Meeting the following week. Possibly May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Fire Chief Kevin Noles presented a slide show presentation on The Fire Fee. He explained and marketed the proposal to Council. He also asked council to consider approving The Fire Department to purchase an air compressor for the Department. This air compressor would be very beneficial to the Department. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to approve the SCBA Air Compressor to be purchased by the Fire Department and Councilmember Fleming Gilman seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor. 6 to 0

#### **Skip Layton:**

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**

- Councilmember Jon Thrower expressed some concerns from his constituents to City Manager. Mr. Newbern stated he was working on these concerns. Councilmember Thrower discussed a few items with budgets, the new software that the City purchased and the audit. Mr. Newbern assured Mr. Thrower that things would continue to improve.

No other Councilmember had any concerns or comments.

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

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting ó June 13, 2017 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Gilman made the motion to adjourn and Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

**Adjourn @ 9:41.**

(SEAL)

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Tracy B Jones  
City Clerk