



**MINUTES**  
**Cochran City Council**  
**Tuesday, August 8, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM**

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

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

Absent: Charles Cranford

Call to order by Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon

The invocation was given by Mayor Gary Ates followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jon Thrower. made a motion and Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion to approve the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Gary Ates asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July 18, 2017 meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon made a motion to approve July 18, 2017 minutes and Councilmember Jon Thrower seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all voting in favor.

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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 Bid for Dykes Grassing for resurfacing of City streets. Mr. Newbern explained the bid from Dykes Grassing was the only bid that was submitted for this project. Dykes Grassing bid 305,022.14 which is in the City's budget for this anticipated project. SPLOST and TSPLOST will fund this project. Dykes Grassing will coordinate this project with the state contract going on at the end of East/West Dykes Street. Will anticipate doing the City's work within 60 to 90 days. Mr. Newbern asked Council to award the bid and contract to Dykes Grassing Company for this resurfacing project. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to accept the bid from Dykes Grassing to complete the resurfacing project with Councilmember Keith Anderson seconded. Motion was passed 5 to 0 with all voting in favor.

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

Consider change order for AITC (America Infrastructure Technology Company) under GEFA loan 15-002 for sewer infrastructure. Mr. Newbern presented the Council with paperwork to review for the change order for sewer line repairs and man hole improvements. Their contract will actually be adjusted to 1,356,398.47. This is anticipated to be the final change order. City Engineer, Skip Layton, elaborated on the change order and this would complete this project. Councilmember Jon Thrower made the motion to accept the change order with AITC and Councilmember Fleming Gilman seconding the motion. Motion was passed 5 to 0 with all voting in favor.

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

Consider approval of agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services with Norfolk Southern Railroad for Railroad Avenue, CDBG project. The City has a Grant to remake Railroad Ave, the project also includes upgrading the water and sewer line along with drainage in the area. Upgrading road beds on Locomotive, Caboose and the other roads in that area. The City was able to work out an agreement with Norfolk, so they can conduct a review on our plans. There is cost associated with this of \$15,000.00 and can be paid out of the sewer SPOLST. A copy of the agreement was distributed to the Councilmembers. Skip Layton explained further on this project. Councilmember Jon Thrower made a motion to approve the agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services and Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 to 0 with all voting in favor.

**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.)

- Mr. Earl Peacock commended how good the grass looked at Cedar Hill Commentary. He inquired about the city wanting to obtain the county side of Crest Drive. Mr. Newbern explained The City was looking at depleting the 10<sup>th</sup> street lift station and extend the sewer line into crest drive and this would be a sewer project. He further explained Crest Drive was on the list last year for partial annexation. Mr. Peacock asked about paving Crest Drive. Public Works Director, Jacob Daniels

explained that The City does own Crest Drive and it involves The City's TSP/LOST project to pave Crest Drive.

- Mary Pitts expressed her concerns about jobs coming into Cochran. Mayor Ates stated IDA was working on this at this time. Mr. Newbern explained there was some prospects but don't know when any would be coming to this area.

#### **VIII. Mayor Updates**

- ❖ Mayor Ates commended the city for doing a great job as whole. Keep up the good work, Police/Public Works/Firefighters.

#### **IX. City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates –**

- Mr. Newbern presented financial report paperwork for council to review followed by a power point presentation.
- Tax Digest, The City did get a consolidation from the county in the past several days. The City tax digest shrunk a little and went down less than a percentage point. Scheduled to publish in the newspaper

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

JJ Speer attended the meeting in Chief Noles absence. HE stated CFD interviewed last week. Narrowed it down to three participants. Second interview will take place tomorrow August 9, 2017.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

##### **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