



MINUTES
Cochran City Council
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 PM

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

Present: Mayor Stoy, Councilmembers Gary Ates, Jon Thrower, Regina Gooch, Charles Cranford, Fleming Gilman and Andrew Lemmon.

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

Mayor Stoy requested to modify the agenda to add Chan Jones from the Recreation Department. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Lemmon seconded the motion to modify the agenda by adding Mr. Jones. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve the January 12, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Agenda Items

Mayor Stoy invited Chan Jones to give an update on the Recreation Department. Mr. Jones stated that Soccer enrollment increased 20% from last year. The Rec Dept. has also exited from the current concessions contract and will manage the concessions in-house. Mr. Jones also stated that they had recently bid and secured a tournament to be held at the recreation. Pork chop plates will be sold during the tournament. Councilmember Ates stated that more adult supervision was needed at the gym. Mr. Jones said that two people have been hired to help on weekends.

Item # 1 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Reading of the GCCMA 60th Anniversary Proclamation.

City Manager Newbern is a member of GCCMA (Georgia City/County Management Association). After reading the proclamation Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to pass the proclamation. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 2 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Contract with the Altamaha Regional Commission to prepare the upcoming Cochran-Bleckley Comprehensive Plan, and to authorize payment of the City's portion.

The Cochran-Bleckley Comprehensive Plan is due for an update. Four to five community meetings will be held to work on the update. The end product will show future land use, economic priorities, future housing, etc. The cost for this update is \$22,500. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve payment of \$8550, the City's part, to the Regional Commission. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 3 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Resolution 02-16; City of Cochran has determined to borrow but not exceed \$2,500,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, administered by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. This is a 20-year note at 1.03%. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion to approve Resolution 02-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 4 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Resolution 03-16; City of Cochran has determined to borrow but not exceed \$2,572,500 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, administered by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. This is a 20-year note at 1.13%. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Ates seconded the motion to approve Resolution 03-16. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Item # 5 – Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

The City of Cochran will file for a Community Development Block Grant application and commit the required financial match for grant financing in the event the grant application is funded. A public hearing was held at 6:45pm, February 9, 2016 for public comments. Council will review and act on the resolution at the March 8th council meeting.

Item # 6 - Presented by City Manager Richard Newbern

Request to approve the Customer Service Clerk and the Code Enforcement position for full-time status. Funds are available for these two positions. Councilmember Gooch made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to approve these position for full-time. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.

Mayor Updates

The task force for the City Park did not meet in February and will not meet in March. The earliest meeting will be April or May. Councilmember Gilman made a motion and Councilmember Thrower seconded the motion to discontinue the task force. Councilmember Gilman stated that the committee should be disbanded because the city cannot afford the park. Councilmember Thrower stated that the public does not want the park. Councilmember Ates asked City Manager Newbern if grant money was available for the park. City Manager Newbern stated that grant money is available but the city would be required to match it and the city would also have to compete for the grant. Mayor Stoy asked Council to consider waiting for the report from the engineer before disbanding the park idea. Several community members asked to speak on behalf of moving forward with the park. Several other community members spoke against the park idea. It was suggested that the task force continue and report its findings since this is not costing the city. The study can possibly be used for a later time if it is determined that the funding is not available. Councilmember Thrower withdrew his motion. Councilmember Gilman withdrew his motion.

Mayor Stoy stated that correspondence and information concerning the city and county's service delivery strategy would be posted to the city web site. A draft letter addressed to County Commissioner Bob Brockman was presented to each councilmember. The letter stated that the city would no longer provide regular fire services to unincorporated county residents after June 30, 2016. Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gooch seconded the motion to proceed with sending the letter to Commissioner Bob Brockman. Councilmembers Lemmon and Thrower voted in favor with Councilmembers Gilman and Cranford opposing. Motion passed 4 to 2 in favor of sending the letter.

City Manager Discussion/Items/Updates

- Annexation – The process of annexation will be discussed in the upcoming months.

- Department updates – New trash cans have been distributed. New cans will be replaced if the customer reports it stolen. A police report will be required or a charge of \$60 will be placed on customer’s utility bill; with council approval, the city is considering a private contractor to repair pot holes. Dykes Grassing is the contractor for paving Dykes Street.
- Chief Coley reported on the availability of cameras (ALPR Systems) for two police cars. The purchase and installation is a lease program through Public Finance Solutions. PFS will deliver the system for no upfront cost to the City of Cochran. PFS will receive 50% of the city’s net ticket revenue for four years. At the end of the four years, both cameras will become property of the city at a price of \$1.00 per camera. Councilmember Thrower made a motion and Councilmember Cranford seconded the motion to move forward with the two cameras. Motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.
- Chief Noles reported that the fire department has been awarded a \$3500 Foundation Grant to build a training tower. He also stated that smoke detectors are still available for residents that do not have a detector.
- Budget update – Financial statements were provided to each councilmember.

Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Regularly Scheduled City Council Work Session Meeting–March 8, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
- Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting – March 8, 2016 @ 7:00 pm

Councilmember Ates made a motion and Councilmember Gilman seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously with all voting in favor.

Adjourn at 8:55 pm

Lisa Chastain
City Clerk

(Seal)